

Report Title: **Park Update**

Report of: **Mark Evison, Park Manager, Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust**

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Board with regard to the council's proposals for Dog Control Orders, large scale resurfacing of Alexandra Palace Way and a proposed tree sculpture event.

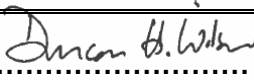
2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board considers the proposals for Dog Control Orders and authorise officers to respond formally to the council and

2.2 That the Board request the Advisory and Consultative Committees consider the proposals for Dog Control Orders and respond to the council accordingly.

2.3 That the Board notes the progress of the work to resurface Alexandra Palace Way

2.4 That the Board notes the plans for a trail of sporting tree sculptures to be carved during the Olympic Games.

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive**.....

Contact Officer: **Mark Evison, Park Manager, Alexandra Palace & Park,
Alexandra Palace Way, Wood Green N22 7AY Tel No. 020 8365 2121**

3. Executive Summary

3.1 The report sets out a number of proposals for Dog Control Orders including areas where dogs are excluded or must be kept on a lead.

3.2 There is an update on the work to resurface Alexandra Palace Way. Due to report deadlines there will be a verbal update on progress at the meeting.

3.3 Six tree sculptures are planned for the Park, these will be carved over six days during the Olympic Games and will have sporting themes.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

4.1 N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 N/A

6. Dog Control Orders

- 6.1 Haringey Council is undertaking consultation on Dog Control Orders in response to residents, Friends of Parks, Police and dog walkers who have told the council they are concerned about the growing number of dogs causing problems in public places. The perceived problems involve dogs fouling, being out of control or off-the-lead and causing a nuisance. One solution is to introduce Dog Control Orders, and proposals have been made following an informal consultation exercise.
- 6.2 The consultation notice explains that “for the past two years the council has worked with the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs Home, Wood Green Animal Shelter, Police, Homes for Haringey, Friends of Parks and residents to promote responsible dog ownership. Most dog owners in the borough behave responsibly but there are those who don’t.”
- 6.3 These proposals involve designating parks, or part of them, as areas where dogs can be either walked freely without a lead, excluded, walked with a lead or placed on a lead when instructed. A borough-wide order making it an offence to fail to clean up after your dog is also proposed. Appendix 1 is a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which set out the council’s position for the borough in general. The Dog Control Orders can be applied to Alexandra Park and Palace. If so, initial costs would be incurred to erect new signs, these costs will be met within the existing Park budget.
- 6.4 Table 1.1 overleaf and the plan attached as Appendix 2 show how the Park Manager proposes the Dog Control Orders be applied to Alexandra Park. The areas marked are believed to offer the best compromise between dog walkers and other Park users. This proposal was informed by the Park Manager’s own experience, reports from the Park maintenance team and nine respondents to an article placed on the website of the Friends of Alexandra Park.
- 6.5 The basic principles applied are:
- That dogs be excluded from service yards. This is for the safety of the dogs and their owners.
 - That dogs be excluded from children’s facilities, animal enclosures and sporting areas, this is for the safety of the children, and animals and to prevent fouling and disruption of sporting areas. Most of these areas are already fenced off.
 - That dogs be walked on the lead in the Grove, on the Terrace and around the boating lake and children’s play area, this acknowledges that families should be able to visit certain areas of the park safe in the knowledge that dogs will not be running loose. These areas amount to about 10 hectares of the 79 hectare site (approximately 12.5%).
 - That failing to clean up after your dog anywhere in site becomes an offence.
 - That dogs must be placed on a lead anywhere on the site when instructed.

- 6.6 The council is asking:
- Are we choosing the right kind of restrictions for certain parks and open spaces?
 - Are we being fair to all those responsible dog owners who need somewhere to exercise their dogs?
 - Will these restrictions improve the experience of going out to the park for most people or are they too restrictive?
- 6.7 The Board is asked to consider the proposals in this report and authorise Officers to make a formal response to the council's consultation.
- 6.8 It is also suggested that the Board request the Members of the Advisory and Consultative Committees to consider these proposals and respond directly to the council through their Chair and also through their own organisation's membership. The Trust Solicitor has advised that this matter is clearly within the Advisory Committee's remit.

Table 1.1

DESCRIPTION	NO DOGS hatched red	DOGS ON LEADS shaded blue	SITE AREA
Islands - 345 preschool	0.12		
Actual Workshop - Little Dinosaurs	0.20		
The Grove Cafe	0.03		
Park Yard	0.24		
North Service Yard	0.44		
Play area	0.38		
Skate park	0.04		
Deer enclosures	1.54		
Pitch & Putt	3.33		
Cricket Ground	5.78		
Conservation Pond	0.15		
Redston Pond	0.09		
TOTAL	12.35 (15.7%)		
The Grove		4.92	
Terrace		1.02	
Boating Lake		1.54	
TOTAL		7.48 (9.5%)	
Palace & North Service Yard combined			4.70
The Grove (total)			5.52
Boating lake + skate park + play area			3.25
TOTAL			13.47 (17.1%)
Whole of Park incl Palace			78.7ha (100%)

7. Alexandra Palace Way resurfacing works

- 7.1 By the time of this Board Meeting the full-scale resurfacing of Alexandra Palace Way should be complete. At the time of writing, the granite setts on the mini-roundabout and in the Palm Court bus stop and half of the repairs on the footway are complete. Haringey Highways have provided the majority of the budget and 12% was funded from the hard surface budget for the Park.
- 7.2 The contribution from the Park budget upgraded the work from large areas of patch repairs and crack-sealing to full-width resurfacing which should provide a longer-lasting surface.
- 7.3 With the road fully resurfaced there will be a reduction in the amount spent on reactive repairs to potholes, especially throughout the winter months. The hard surfaces budget can therefore be proactively targeted to key repairs and resurfacing of footpaths around the park. A survey by highways engineers will be commissioned to ensure the best value from any works.
- 7.4 It is anticipated that the road closures will have caused a certain amount of disruption to Park and Palace visitors and those using Alexandra Palace Way as a through route. The schedule of closures was managed as far as possible to avoid an adverse impact on any large events and the Highways team ensured appropriate signage and a traffic diversion was in place. The Park Manager kept staff, leaseholders and other groups informed as far as possible.

8. Park Events

- 8.1 **A chainsaw-carving sculpture trail** is taking place across London during the period of the Olympic Games. Alexandra Park is hosting the sculptor for six of the carvings. This event will be subject to the same risk assessment and checks for insurance as all Park events.
- 8.2 The sculptures will all be carved from existing felled or dead tree stems and will be carried out over two weekends, July 27th - 29th and August 3rd - 5th. The carving will take place across two locations, the Grove and adjacent to the play area. The sculptor will bring all the required equipment including small marquee, safety barriers and netting to protect spectators.
- 8.3 Each sculpture is of a sporting event and they will be carved while that event is taking place. The sports selected are discus, cycling, shooting, diving, triathlon and hockey.
- 8.4 After completion, the carvings will be installed around the Park to form a sculpture trail. The cost of installing the carvings will be funded from the Park budget, no ongoing revenue costs are forecast. Regular inspections of the structures will be carried out as part of the Park Team's duties and no fencing or signage is planned.
- 8.5 A new interpretive leaflet is intended to encourage Park users to explore and discover more of the site. For example, the sculpture representing shooting will be installed near the site of the former rifle range.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Board considers the proposals for Dog Control Orders and authorise officers to respond formally to the council and,
- 9.2 That the Board request the Advisory and Consultative Committees consider the proposals for Dog Control Orders and respond to the council accordingly.
- 9.3 That the Board note the progress of the work to resurface Alexandra Palace Way
- 9.4 That the Board notes the plans for a trail of sporting tree sculptures to be carved during the Olympic Games.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Council's Acting Head of Legal Services has been sent a copy of this report.
- 10.2 The Trust Solicitor has no comments on this report.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 The LBH Chief Financial Officer's comments have been incorporated into this report.
- 11.2 The costs for resurfacing Alexandra Palace Way are largely being met directly by Haringey's Highways Department, with a small contribution from the hard surface budget for the Park. Any other costs described in the report above will be met by the existing Park budget.

12. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

- 12.1 **Appendix 1:** The council's consultation notice for Dog Control Orders.
- 12.2 **Appendix 2:** Park plan showing proposed areas for Dog Control Orders.