


Report Title: **Park Management Update**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Board on a number of issues regarding management of the Park.



2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes the contents of the report.

2.2 That the Board notes the advice of the Advisory and Consultative Committees and approves the proposal for Officers to conclude the Local Nature Reserve Declaration.

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

Contact Officer: **Mark Evison, Park Manager, Alexandra Palace & Park,
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3. Executive Summary

3.1 The report provides updates on various Park issues including awards, legacy projects following the BMX event, the proposed closure of two entrance gates, a funding package for the south-eastern corner of the Park and the cricket club improvement project.

3.2 The Advisory and Consultative Committees considered the Local Nature Reserve proposal and responded favourably. A Board resolution is required if the declaration is to go ahead.

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. Park Awards 2012

6.1 The Park was successful in a number of areas this year, namely:

- The Green Flag Award standard was achieved for the fifth year running
- The Green Heritage Award was achieved for the third consecutive year
- The Park received a silver-gilt award in the *large park* category of the London in Bloom competition.

7. BMX Event - legacy projects

7.1 The Red Bull BMX event in May 2012 was approved with the proviso that some of the income from that event would be spent directly on Park improvements. The funding has been provided in the form of extra gift-aid from the Trading Company.

7.2 Three key areas of work were identified which have otherwise been beyond the revenue budget for the Park:

- Repair and maintenance of the street lighting on the South Front, fifteen lamps have been re-cabled and re-energised. These lamps have been inoperable for around the last six years.
- Replacement of the street lighting in the Grove (southern side): The cables are faulty and columns are too widely spaced. The proposal is at the tender stage and is due to be completed before Christmas.
- Tree works to improve the views of London from the terrace. Detailed plans for this were based on the comments of the Friends of the Park and the Conservation Area Advisory Committee combined with the recommendations from a tree safety survey: there are four key objectives:
 - To remove a number of large evergreen fir trees
 - To reduce the holly bushes to a manageable size for future maintenance
 - To prune trees with structural defects
 - To remove over-grown weed trees

The council has approved the tree work notice and the work is due to be completed before Christmas.

8. Closure of Entrances

8.1 The proposed overnight closure of two gates was discussed at the meeting of the Advisory and Consultative Committee on 16th October. The committee settled on a general acceptance of a trial period with adequate notices and promotion with messages on the website.

8.2 The Muswell Hill entrance requires a new gate to be manufactured and installed. This is currently at the tender stage. It is envisaged that the scheme will commence in the New Year.

9. South-Eastern Corner of the Park

- 9.1 Haringey Council's Planning & Regeneration Service has allocated a 'section 106' funding package of £220,000 to improve the access around the Campsbourne estate and New River Village. The primary purpose of the funding is to improve east-west pedestrian and cycle linkages across the Great Northern Railway.
- 9.2 The Landscape Architect who created the landscape development plan for the 2002-07 Lottery Project has been involved in the preliminary ideas based on some of the items from the 2002 wish-list that were not implemented.
- 9.3 The principle areas of work proposed are:
- To improve the surface of the path linking Newland Road with Bedford Road
 - To upgrade the Park boundary along Newland Road, including installation of new railings and planting a hedgerow
 - To create a wildflower meadow along the periphery of Newland Field
 - To improve the boundary and linkage with the Campsbourne Play Centre
 - To address drainage issues
 - To consider the signage and street furniture
- 9.4 The main benefits to the Park and its users are:
- To improve access and visual amenity
 - To increase biodiversity by introducing new hedging and wild-flower meadows
 - To improve the connection between the Park and the Campsbourne Play Centre, as part of a longer term aspiration to open the play centre to the public as a café and outdoor play area facility.
- 9.5 These proposals were well received at the joint meeting of the Advisory and Consultative Committees on 16th October.
- 9.6 Due to the large scale of the project the intention is to engage a Project Manager to deliver the works on the Trust's behalf.

10. Cricket club and grounds improvement project

- 10.1 The Board will recall previous discussions about this project, the most recent was at the meeting on 24th July 2012. At the time of writing the planning application for the irrigation tank had not been determined. The project will commence on 5th November 2012, with works which are not subject to planning approval, and is expected to last approximately three months, weather depending. This project is now being delivered by the Council's Capital Programmes Team and is funded from the borough's *Strategic Sports Pitch Improvements Programme*.
- 10.2 The Alexandra Park Club (APC) and London Borough of Haringey will enter a Service Level Agreement to set targets for APC's sports development programme. This will ensure the funding invested will deliver benefits for the borough through increased sporting activity.

11. Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

- 11.1 Following discussions at the Board meeting on 29th June 2010 it was **RESOLVED** that the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee, and Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee be requested to consider the proposal for a Local Nature Reserve and advise the Board accordingly of each of their respective views.

- 11.2 The Advisory Committee met on 7th September that year and **RESOLVED** that the proposal to designate Alexandra Park as a Local Nature Reserve be noted and supported by the Advisory Committee.
- 11.3 The Consultative Committee met the following week on 14th September and **RESOLVED** the following:
- (i) That the proposals to designate sections of Alexandra Park as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) be supported.
 - (ii) That the Alexandra Palace and Park Board be asked to note the comments of the Consultative Committee particularly in relation to inappropriate designation of LNR status for the entire park, which could affect events being held in the Park.
- 11.4 The Board should note that the existing designations of the Park (including Conservation Area, Metropolitan Open Land and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)) have been made in light of the use of the Palace and Park as a venue for events. The LNR declaration does not bring new restrictions to the Park beyond those that already exist.
- 11.5 Council officers are intending to declare a number of sites as LNRs concurrently. The delay since 2010 is due to the on-going negotiations with the other land owners. All the other sites are now ready to be declared so a resolution from the Board is needed.

12. Recommendations

- 12.1 That the Board noted the contents of the report.
- 12.2 That the Board notes the advice of the Advisory and Consultative Committees and approves the proposal for Officers to conclude the Local Nature Reserve Declaration.

13. Legal Implications

- 13.1 The Council's Head of Legal Services has no comments on this report.

14. Financial Implications

- 14.1 The Red Bull legacy work and s106 funding package are welcome extra funding for the Park.
- 14.2 The LBH Chief Financial Officer's comments have been incorporated into this report.

15. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

- 15.1 N/A