

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 plans for the 150th Anniversary of the Park.

2.2 That the Board notes the position of the Borough's Dog Control Orders and agrees a way forward.

2.3 That the Board notes the other updates in the report.

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 provides updates on various Park issues including the 150th Anniversary, the gate closures and projects in the south east of the Park.

3.2 The new Dog Control Orders implemented by the Council are explained and a decision is required on the way forward.

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. 150th Anniversary of Alexandra Park

6.1 The 150th anniversary of the Park is being celebrated in three ways this year:

- Putting the 150th anniversary badge on our existing programme of events (for example the farmers' market, the funfair, and the friends activities). This is primarily to increase exposure of the anniversary.
- Holding a 'birthday bash' event on Sunday 21st July, this will be a community event open to all, but with a number of paid attractions. Our aim is that most activities will be self-funding, but we will fund some overheads from within existing budgets.
- Rejuvenating some shrub beds and the fountain in the Rose Garden as a legacy project. This project will be funded from within the Park Maintenance Budget.

6.2 The celebrations throughout the year will rely to a certain extent from support and input from our partners and community groups. The Friends of the Park have set out a programme of activities and event for the year and will support the birthday event with displays and guided walks.

7. Dog Control Orders: Update

7.1 The Board will recall discussions on Dog Control Orders (DCOs) during the summer of 2012. On 7th June 2012 officers were instructed to reply to the consultation carried out by London Borough of Haringey. The officer's response was a proposal for various dog control orders in Alexandra Park to reflect the large size and varied usage of different compartments of the Park. The response was made and acknowledged in June 2012, the deadline for representations was October 2012.

7.2 The proposal was also presented to the Advisory and Consultative Committee in July 2012 and the members were encouraged to respond to the Council directly through their individual groups.

7.3 The council enacted a set of DCOs which came into force in January 2013. The DCOs applicable to Alexandra Park are as follows:

Dog Control Order	Area	notes
Dog kept on lead when instructed	Whole borough	Includes Alexandra Park
Dog fouling restriction	Whole borough	Includes Alexandra Park
Walk dogs without a lead	Parks over half a hectare	Excludes play areas
Dog kept on a lead	Whole borough	Except exclusions (Alexandra Park excluded)

7.4 Unfortunately, these Orders do not reflect the detailed proposal by the Park Manager. No response or reason has been received from the Council.

7.5 There are a number of options that the Board can now consider.

- Work with the Borough's enforcement team within these new DCOs as they stand
- Use the existing Bye-law powers to erect signs and designate the areas as proposed, but with little enforcement action
- Address the issue with the Borough with the aim to obtain specific DCOs for the Park to reflect the June 2012 proposal

7.6 The Park is very popular for dog walking. Dog walkers are important regular users of the Park, they report incidents such as fly-tipping and vandalism, and they are a presence in all weathers. There has not been a notable incident involving a dog reported for some time, but in the last 12 months there has been roughly one complaint a fortnight by a person who felt intimidated or threatened by a dog or group of dogs.

8. Closure of Entrances

8.1 The trial overnight closure of two gates commenced on 21 January. There will be a verbal update at the meeting.

9. Cricket club and grounds improvement project

9.1 This project commenced in November with the installation of the underground water tank. The contractors then worked through the very wet conditions to install the foul sewer pipe across the Park to Newland Road. The connection to the main sewer will be carried out by Thames Water, this is planned to take place in February 2013.

9.2 The boundary ditch has been cleared and new drainage connections made into the conservation area ditch system. The construction of the series of small, flow-attenuating weirs has begun.

9.3 Unfortunately, the ground is currently far too wet to start the installation of the drainage and irrigation systems. The project team are monitoring the conditions before restarting so the work does not damage the ground.

10. South-Eastern Corner of the Park

10.1 Board members will recall that 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 project funding is linked to other s106 projects in the area and has not been progressed whilst the other projects are being finalised.

10.2 The planning officer in the case has made contact with a children's play charity, *London Play*, in relation to improving the grounds of the Campsbourne Play Centre. It is hoped this organisation will provide some design skills and labour in kind towards the project costs.

10.3 A draft brief for the main aspects project has been written and should go out to tender by the end of February.

11. Campsbourne Play Centre

11.1 This matter was raised with Council officers last November, the only progress since then is a condition survey of the building received via the planning officer dealing with the s106 project above. The survey reports that nearly £40,000 is required over two years to update the building.

11.2 The options for the future management of the building are still unknown as there has been no update from Corporate Property Services.

12. Recommendations

- 12.1 That the Board notes the plans for the 150th Anniversary of the Park.
- 12.2 That the Board notes the position of the Borough's Dog Control Orders and agrees a way forward.
- 12.3 That the Board notes the other updates in the report.

13. Legal Implications

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

14. Financial Implications

- 14.1 The celebrations for the 150th Anniversary will be funded from existing budgets.
- 14.2 The LBH Chief Financial Officer's notes that there are no specific financial implications arising from this update report. It is noted that the Trust is awaiting a response from the Council over the future status of the Campsbourne Play Centre.

15. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

- 15.1 N/A