

From: david loudfoot [mailto:david.loudfoot@alexandrapalace.com]
Sent: 05 January 2007 11:12
To: Harry Aspden
Subject: Re: Alexandra Park - HLF Progress Audit.

Harry,

My apologies for taking so long to reply to your comprehensive email, as I am sure you will realise I am quite busy these days and this slipped off my radar.

I have spoken to the consultants about the various items raised and obviously things have moved on quite considerably.

I have made some small notes in bold on the below email. I would hope we can discuss any remaining items after the next advisory meeting.

Kind Regards,

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----- Original Message -----

From: [Harry Aspden](#)
To: 'David Loudfoot'
Cc: 'Hart Clifford'
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 6:57 PM
Subject: Alexandra Park - HLF Progress Audit.

David, following last evening's Advisory Committee meeting this is the promised email summarising the various points of omission and comment. I have compared the audit by Dominic Cole with the Landscape Restoration Plan which I understand dates from September 2003.

1. The Grove

If the New Interpretation Board referred to is the new board consisting of a map, a sketch showing areas where dogs can either run free or have to be kept on a lead and a list of bye-laws then, frankly, this is inadequate. **Before his departure Matt was working on the 'interpretation materials' most of which consist of information leaflets which would be distributed via the visitor centre, I have 'parked' this until the new parks manager comes on-board.(please forgive the pun)**

3. West Slope

No reference is made to the investigation of creation of a pedestrian link around north side of Palace. I **understand this idea was dropped due to difficulties of land ownership,level changes and conflict between road and pedestrian users.**

11. Bedford Road Entrance

The comment about the wing wall to the lodge probably belongs in 20 below.
The removal of the gantry has not taken place. It is not clear to me whether this will include the removal of the very substantial pillars as well as the horizontal gantry itself. For what it is worth I would welcome at least some of the structure being kept to identify the entrance to the Park for drivers. **This has been actioned and the new anti-slip and 'cobble' delineate the park road from the LBH highway, road signage is to follow and further changes to the highways are proposed but we are in the hands of LBH Highways for these to be actioned**

13. Paddock and Fairground Car Parks

The promised replacement of the bus shelter has not taken place. **The consultants comment that Matt was dealing with this item, I cannot say at this stage what Matt intended but if funds are available I will pick this up.**

The last point under the Fairground sub-heading – plant a group of high stem specimen tree(s) to the west (should read **east** as confirmed with Matt) – has not taken place. **Tree planting in general has been held back until this month.**

14. Muswell Hill Entrance

Same comments regarding the gantry as under 11 above.

It would be appreciated if you could give me on behalf of WERA the opportunity to comment on what Haringey Highways plan for the area adjacent to this entrance, including the four-way traffic intersection, since WERA has discussed this at some length and could be helpful. **Not wanting to be difficult but getting Highways on board has been somewhat difficult, I will happily show you the plans but the opportunity for amendment has been lost.**

16, 17. Racecourse and Newlands Fields

I remain a little unconvinced that the drainage improvements needed can be considered complete. **The constraint on the amount of drainage installed has been primarily budget...It is accepted that this is low lying ground with heavy clay base and it is expected that the installed drains and the planned tree planting (as they mature) will suffice to eliminate water logging.**

18. Redston Road Playing Fields

To my eyes the two items “Dredge pond...” and “Open up pond site...” have been almost if not totally ignored. **This aspect was deleted from the project on the basis of the wildlife habitat being valuable** The area remains completely neglected and run down, with bits of old fencing falling or fallen and items of rubbish dumped. **This will be attended to by the regular parks team** I am also concerned whether the pond, if allowed to degenerate further, will come to constitute a hazard to the Redston Road houses downstream of it, since water continues to flow into it and it is not clear whether it has a proper outflow. **I suggest we both monitor this, I am not aware of any impending problems but your comment is a welcome 'heads up'**

The trees to be relocated are those planted to the **east** boundary, not west.

20. Conservation Area

The Visitor Centre has not been refurbished and there are no “facilities”. I believe the Centre used to be staffed: are there plans to do so again? **A new visitor centre is in the parks yard, it will be staffed by the volunteers once they are recruited. Currently there are no plans for the building at the wood green gate.**

Very recently there has been some rather drastic action taken to cut back some of the vegetation around the pond, though it is not clear whether the pond itself has been dredged. **It has not.** The (new) interpretation boards have not been installed – the old ones are illegible – **This was an item being dealt with by Matt, I will need to look further in to what he had planned.** and I see no “plot marker” (whatever that is).

In summary, has the conservation project been abandoned? **NO**

21. Alexandra Park Way

The Plan only makes sense if some of the directions are reversed:

The **downhill** lane is sectioned off.

The mini roundabout is for the **East** of Palace parking.

The bus drop out/parking is **west** of the Palace.

If these amendments are what is intended, then fine.

Civils works are now complete except for some road marking which is underway this week.

Signage

This is omitted from the audit, though it is a section on its own in the Plan. Except for the new so-called Interpretation Boards (see comment in 1 above) it also seems to have been omitted from any form of action. **We have not yet completed the signage aspect, LUC had left the signage upto APCT to finalise. I have decided to await the new parks manager (if possible to wait) so that they have an input into the signage.**

Further Omissions

The Plan makes no mention of the second animal enclosure, though this has been well designed and created.

The Plan also makes no mention of the pedestrian entrances. Most have been improved; however, those from the top of Muswell Hill and from Springfield Avenue have not and need attention. **If there are available funds we may be able to undertake this as a variation of the grant, if not then we will include some works year on year in the maintenance schedule**

Please be reassured that these comments are sent in the hope that they will prove helpful to those involved and that any criticism is perceived as constructive. **Comments were very welcome (and of some assistance in me picking this up !) sorry for the delay in response.**

Good luck, and I hope to hear from you in due course.

Best regards

Harry Aspden