

Report Title: **HERITAGE LOTTERY LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

Report of: **Mark Evison, Park Manager**

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform the Board of the progress of the park project.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board note the report.

Report Authorised by: **Mark Evison, Park Manager**.....

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 With the exception of the Approach roads, the contractor led portion of the project is complete. Some direct expenditure items remain to be completed and this will be achieved before the end on the project in December 2007.

3.2 The new Park Manager, Mark Evison started on 8th May 2007.

3.3 The lease negotiations for the park facilities are complete and they are now in the process of opening for the summer season.

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 No specific background papers were used in compiling this report.

6. Description

6.1 Park Manager, Mark Evison commenced employment in May 2007.

6.2 Under the contract conditions there is a period of warranty and the following works have been identified as remedial works which will be undertaken between now and the end of the project:

- anti-skid coating at the Bedford Road entrance; replacement is due to be carried out during July and, weather permitting, should be completed within 10 days;
- weeding and mulching of holly hedge facing the Avenue;
- planting up empty area of Lakeside shrub beds;
- replacing tar spray and chip coating at Dukes Avenue entrance;
- replacement of failed tree planting.

6.3 The tendering of the Pitch and Putt, Lakeside Café and Grove Kiosk has been completed and the negotiations on the lease terms of all three facilities are now complete.

The Grove Kiosk opened for drinks and snacks on 17th June. The operator is considering use of the band stand area for weekend music events to compliment his service.

The Lakeside Café opened on 23rd June with a snack and drink service accompanied by some light Jazz music. Once construction of the kitchen is complete the operator intends to offer an enhanced range of hot food, snacks and drinks. The jazz was very popular on the opening weekend and consideration is being given to the band performing every Saturday throughout the summer.

Both café operators are considering further development their facility in the future. The Grove Kiosk operator is considering expansion of the seating area and addition of a conservatory to the building to provide year round accommodation. The Lakeside Café operator is considering enclosing the covered section between the two buildings.

6.4 The Pitch and Putt course has been laid out and the new greens have been seeded with high quality grass seed formulated for golf greens. It is hoped that the operation can commence in late July once the new grass has become sturdy enough to support regular play.

6.5 The new flower beds on the South Front were planted up at the end of May, our first floral display consists of various seasonal summer bedding with some hardy planting being planned for a winter display later in the year. This project involved providing new soil in the beds and over 6000 plants.

In the future, parts of the beds may be planted permanently. The species will be chosen with an emphasis on drought tolerance to make the displays more sustainable.

6.6 Further works shortly being implemented are:

- coir roll planting for the lake – reeds, and lilies to aerate the water and improve the habitat for fish;
- footpath repairs in the Grove;
- interpretative signage – including directional finger posts and information boards;
- replacement bus shelter – at the Paddocks Car Park;
- additional closed top litter bins – these have a larger capacity and reduce the spilling of waste caused by wildlife;
- installation of new self closing gates to the children's play area.

- 6.7 LBH Highways are currently preparing detailed costing for the engineering works at the park approach roads. The latest draft scheme for the Muswell Hill entrance will be displayed at the meeting.
- 6.8 The project remains within budget and the amount claimed from the Heritage Lottery Fund is £2,476,800.00. This figure represents 90% of the total grant. A further claim in December 2007 will be the final claim to conclude the project.
- 6.9 The Information Centre in the Grove is now open, initially for a trial period on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12.00pm to 2.00pm. There are on average five visitors per session, despite the recent wet weather. It is hoped that in the future the Friends of Alexandra Park will assist in increasing the opening hours.
- Visitors are being asked to complete a questionnaire to provide feedback on the management of the park. This feedback will be incorporated into the revision of the Park Management Plan.
- 6.10 City & Country Farmers' Markets Limited have renewed their contract for regular markets up until the end of March 2008. These markets provide a source of additional income for the charity and are a popular local event. Some comments regarding the noise from generators have been received from local residents and the provision of electrical pillars is under investigation which would eliminate the need for generators.
- 6.11 The Section 106 payment from Thames Water has been received by London Borough Haringey. This payment of £2,000 is to fund the planting of 33 trees to screen the new water treatment works on the Hornsey Reservoir. The planting is scheduled for November 2007.
- The trees to be included in the scheme are as follows:
- 12x *Populus nigra* 'Italica', black Italian poplar;
 - 5x *Populus nigra*, black poplar;
 - 15x *Salix Britzensis*, coral bark willow;
 - 1x *Salix Babylonica*, Chinese weeping willow.
- 6.12 Transport for London are planning to update some of the older bus shelters on Alexandra Palace Way during the summer.
- 6.13 Tours of the park for residents associations and committee members have recently taken place. Land Use Consultants, the principal consultants on the project, led the tours and detailed the changes made to the park as part of the project.
- 7. Summary and Conclusions**
- 7.1 n/a
- 8. Recommendations**
- 8.1 That the committee note the report.
- 9. Legal and Financial Implications**
- 9.1 The Acting Director of Finance and the Trust's Solicitor have been sent copies of this report.
- 10. Equalities Implications**
- 10.1 n/a
- 11. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs**
- 11.1 Sketch showing proposal for the layout of the Muswell Hill entrance will be displayed at the meeting.