

Report Title: **Park Update**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 That the Joint Committee

- Note the progress on the Go Ape project
- Note the progress on the Park Vision exercise
- Note the outcome of discussions with Thames Water in relation to the boundary fencing

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the committee notes the contents of the report.

Report Authorised by: **Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive, Alexandra Palace & Park**



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3. Executive Summary

3.1 A planning application for the Go Ape project is imminent. Initial discussions about the Park Vision have taken place and a session with the Advisory and Consultative Committee is next. Thames Water have agreed to install bird watching platforms to replace the existing rotten ones, but they have not agreed to remove their new section of boundary fence.

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. Background - Go Ape high ropes course

6.1 Members will recall that changes were made to the course layout following comments from the Advisory and Consultative Committees. Representatives from Go Ape recently met with Haringey Council for pre-application advice and no major issues were raised. The Council's Nature Conservation Officer requested that an ecological survey of the site be carried out prior to submission of the planning application. An initial ecological survey and five-year follow-up were already obligations in the draft Lease. This request brings that requirement forward, it is likely the survey will be undertaken in March, with a report to follow soon after.

6.2 A planning application will be submitted once the survey and report are complete. Due to the uncertainties of the planning process no firm arrangements have been made for the timing of the construction phase. Details will of course be reported at a future meeting.

6.3 Park Vision Update

Further to previous reports, landscape architects *Exterior Architecture* have produced a discussion document in relation to the physical landscape and features of the Park. The physical landscape is one of four themes which will be discussed as this project progresses.

The other themes are:

- Park Tenants
- Outdoor Events & Commercial Activities
- Policies and Byelaws.

The Park Manager held initial discussions on these topics with the Grounds Maintenance Team, the Committee of the Friends of Alexandra Park and Alexandra Palace Staff.

The next step is a discussion with the members of the Advisory and Consultative Committees, current plans are for session in mid-May.

The output from these sessions will be a series of targets and actions which can be presented to the Board as the framework of a new Strategy and Vision for managing the Park.

6.4 This aim is to provide a long term framework against which individual projects and proposals can be assessed and progressed.

6.5 Thames Water – reservoir fencing

Members will recall that Thames Water (TW) installed a large, unsightly fence on the Park boundary. After much effort TW have now opened a dialogue and the Park Manager met with TW representatives in March. TW are concerned by trespassers accessing the reservoir from the Park and the new fence was installed in response to several incidents of trespass and vandalism. Thames Water would not agree to remove the new fence at that meeting, but they have admitted responsibility for

removing an internal Park fence and in addition they have agreed to replace two of the bird-watching platforms at their own cost.

The Park Manager will continue to press for the fence to be removed and, now the Park Manager has made contact with the site managers, it is hoped similar issues will be avoided in future.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The Council's Assistant Director Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments.

8. Financial Implication

8.1 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no financial concerns to raise.

9. Appendices

9.1 There are none.