

ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE
JOINT MEETING OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES
30th June 2016

Agenda Item: 7

Report Title: 2016 Fireworks Proposal

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Purpose:

This report presents a proposal to expand the Firework Festival from a 1 day event to a 2 day event in 2016/17.

Consideration is given to the impact on Alexandra Park following lessons learned from the poor weather conditions in 2015, and to the impact on local residents and visitors in order to deliver a well-managed and safe event. In both cases mitigations are presented to reassure stakeholders that operational plans will be put in place to address these concerns.

The SAC/CC are asked to consider this report to enable the Advisory Committee to advise the Trust Board in accordance with its powers and duties.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

1. Introduction/ background

- 1.1 In 2013 the Fireworks Festival returned, after a 4 year absence, as a ticketed event. Capacity and ticket numbers were set at 30,000 in 2013, 40,000 in 2014 and 50,000 in 2015. The past 3 events have demonstrated year on year growth and have made a significant contribution to the overall gift aid total towards the charitable purposes of repairing and maintaining the Park and Palace.
- 1.2 Feedback from the statutory authorities and other key stakeholders has been supportive and positive since the reinstatement of the event in 2013. Previous years have reported zero crime statistics and very low medical incidents or other safety issues.
- 1.3 Customer demand for the event is high and the 50,000 capacity sells out in advance. Feedback on social media and directly proves that there is additional demand for this event which the Palace is failing to meet.
- 1.4 The events team is confident in the efficient and effective operational delivery of the Firework Festival and have assessed ways in which this flagship event can meet this demand and contribute further to the purposes of the Trust, whilst delivering a positive customer experience and minimising potential negative impacts.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider the proposal to increase the Firework Festival from a 1 day event to a 2 day event and provide comments to the Board for consideration at its next meeting on 19th July;
- 2.2 To note and support the planned mitigations to minimise the impact to Alexandra Park;
- 2.3 To note and support the planned parking restrictions and road closures necessary for the safe and efficient delivery of the event.

3. Assessment of options

An options analysis has been undertaken which looked at increasing capacity, duration, ticket prices and increasing additional paid for entertainments inside the festival, it was concluded that an increase in duration presented the best option to grow the event and manage the impacts.

4. Managing the impacts of a two day event

RISKS OF A 2 DAY EVENT	MITIGATION
Impact on Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· A dedicated site management plan will be in place· Trackway used across soft ground· Minimal differences between 1 & 2 days
Impact on Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Alexandra Park access available at agreed times in set locations for ordinary recreational use· Traffic management plan in place to limit increase in traffic to key areas and minimising length of overall impact i.e. limiting road closures· Crowd management plan in place to limit egress impact· Noise –as with previous years noise impact will be focused on the display period· Free tickets will be made available to those deemed by the Trust to potentially be most affected.

5. Managing impact on the Parkland

5.1 Managing Vehicle Movement

5.1.1 There was a considerable period of wet weather in the lead up to the 2015 event which softened most of the Park ground and, in some places, saw water running across grass land. However, despite this the only areas that showed any sustained damage post event were those affected by vehicle movement across the site.

5.1.2 Footfall had a minimal impact as a large amount of the available space for viewing the firework display was on hard standing. Furthermore the areas with considerable drainage issues were kept on the peripheries of the site avoiding significant footfall and consequential damage to the ground

5.1.3 The impact to the Park can be mitigated by putting in place processes and procedures that minimise the effects of vehicle movement. As such the following have been built into the 2016 operational plans:

a) Area Managers

Area Managers will be responsible for ensuring contractors, suppliers and caterers adhere to site policies regarding driving on paths and designated trackway.

b) Site Induction

All contractors and caterers will be given a full site induction including clear instruction on where to drive and litter management. All contractors will be required to sign an agreement indicating that they have understood the site induction and proportionate action will be taken against anyone found breaching these rules

c) Temporary Trackway

The 2015 event identified vulnerable areas and areas of soft ground. On these areas temporary trackway will be used to allow for vehicle access

5.2 Litter Collection

- 5.2.1 An extensive litter collection will take place on the morning after each event day from first light until either the site opens to Park users at 07:00 (day 1) or until the site is fully clear (day 2).
- 5.2.2 After the final event day a detailed site clean will take place to ensure that where reasonably achievable all event related litter will be cleared within 24 hours.
- 5.2.3 An external litter collection will take place outside all event entrances and on the route to Alexandra Palace station along Bedford Avenue immediately following the event on both days.

5.3 Managing access to the Parkland between hours of event opening and operation

- 5.3.1 With the exception of the Grove, the Park will need to remain closed from 13:00 – 23:00 on each event day. Park users will be able to access the Campsborne and Redstone fields, and the children’s playground between 07:00 – 13:00.
 - 5.3.2 On the morning following day 2 of the event the Park will remain closed for a full detailed litter collection. Some areas, such as the south slope firing zone, will remain closed for a full day post event.
- 5.4 The following road closures and parking and access restrictions are required to deliver a safe event:

a) Alexandra Park Way

Alexandra Park Way will need to close 24hrs prior to the first day of the event until 07:00 post event

b) Parking Restrictions

As in previous years parking restrictions will be in place along Bedford Road, Buckingham Road and the North section of Station Road on both event days.

c) Road Closures

Bedford Road will be closed on both event days. Temporary road closures will also be in place to support the safe egress of crowds for 45 minutes after the fireworks display. These closures will run from the Bedford road junction of Palace Gates road and Park Avenue.

d) Resident Access

Restrictions will be in place at the south of Alexandra Palace adjoining Prior road to ensure that no event traffic parks on residential roads. Resident passes will be issues so that access is granted to accredited vehicles only during this time.

6. Minimising impact on residential areas

6.1 The following road closures and parking and access restrictions are required to deliver a safe event:

a) Alexandra Park Way

Alexandra Park Way will need to close 24hrs prior to the first day of the event until 07:00 post event

b) Parking Restrictions

As in previous years parking restrictions will be in place along Bedford Road, Buckingham Road and the North section of Station Road on both event days.

c) Road Closures

Bedford Road will be closed on both event days. Temporary road closures will also be in place to support the safe egress of crowds for 45 minutes after the fireworks display. These closures will run from the Bedford road junction of Palace Gates road and Park Avenue.

d) Resident Access

Restrictions will be in place at the south of Alexandra Palace adjoining Prior road to ensure that no event traffic parks on residential roads. Resident passes will be issues so that access is granted to accredited vehicles only during this time.

6.2 A litter pick will take place on all approach roads and paths after each event day

6.3 Background music will be in place on both event days with levels increased for the actual display.

The beer festival levels are engineered to have no external impact

6.4 The crowd management team will be deployed to all exit points after the display to manage crowds as they leave the site. This team will work closely on Bedford Road to manage the most congested egress route.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 In order to deliver this event and in response to other park lead events APTL will apply for a premises license within Alexandra Park. This will supersede the process of submitting Temporary Event Notices and temporary licenses that are submitted prior other park events

7.2 The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments, save to say that the licensing regime which governs premises licences does contain extensive conditions which could, where appropriate, be applied to any licence granted in order to regulate / minimise the impact of the event.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Increasing the event to a 2 day event will improve revenue generation.
- 8.2 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and has no comments.

9. Use of Appendices

None