

Report Title: **Park Security Arrangements**

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

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform the Board of the Security arrangements in place in the park.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes the report

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

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3. Executive Summary

3.1 High profile coverage in the local press has cause concern over the safety of park users.

3.2 The various agencies responsible for safety and enforcement in the park work together and proactively to reduce crime and improve perceptions of safety.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

In compiling this report, reference was made to local press articles and confidential police reports were used to provide the information in the summaries.

Further details may be obtained from Mark Evison APPCT park manager

6. Description

6.1 The Hornsey Journal reported concerns about public safety in the skate park on its front page on 3 April 2008. This report is written to explain how the various agencies involved work to maintain security in the park.

- 6.2 Park security can be divided into four aspects:
- Alexandra Palace Security Contract
 - Haringey Council Parks Constabulary
 - Alexandra Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)
 - Police 999 response

Alexandra Palace Security Department

6.3 A 24-hour security service for the palace and park is provided by Mitie Security (London) Ltd. This on-site presence includes 24-hour CCTV monitoring, security guards, and vehicle. The guards lock/unlock the lakeside and play area toilets and patrol the lakeside area on a regular basis. The security vehicle regularly patrols around the remainder of the park at various hours of the day.

6.4 The mobile patrol and palace guards also attend incidents responsively – either observed on CCTV, reported by staff or reported by the public. If it is deemed necessary, the emergency services are called.

6.5 In summary, 119 incidents were recorded in the last year. These incidents include extinguishing of barbeques, advice to unruly youths, removal of abandoned vehicles and attendance at road traffic accidents.

Haringey Council Parks Constabulary

6.6 The Parks Police usually patrol the park in pairs for a total of approximately four hours a day, Thursday to Sunday, and spend at least one hour a day patrolling Monday – Wednesday. However their duties bring them through the park whilst travelling around the borough and they attend on a responsive basis. They also provide additional patrols outside normal hours when need has arisen.

6.7 In summary they dealt with over forty incidents in the park. These ranged from fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and littering to returning truants to school and words of advice to unruly youths.

6.8 We are aware of proposed changes to the parks patrol service being considered and the trust intends to increase the use of other on-site security staff to compensate for this if and when it is necessary, it is expected that this alternate site presence will not be significantly different in cost to that already being incurred.

Alexandra Ward SNT

6.9 The whole area of the park lies within the Alexandra Ward and is now second on the priority list for the SNT. The Team consists of one Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and four Police Community Support Officers.

6.10 The officers patrol part of the park at least once on every shift, and it should be noted that this is not a 24 hour service. Their focus is to engage with the public

and officers are regularly seen in the park and in attendance at events. Patrols were focussed on the skate park and lakeside area following recent incidents.

- 6.11 The crime statistics for the park gathered by the Metropolitan Police amount to:

Thefts	3	Weapons	3
Robbery	6	Motor vehicle	18
Drug related	54	Assaults	2
Sexual Offences	3	Other	2

Police 999 Response

- 6.12 In the event of an emergency, park users should call 999 as they would at home or in the High Street.

Partnership and Improvement

- 6.13 Following a recent incident between a group of youths and the grounds maintenance staff a **Park Security Meeting** was called between all parties involved. This meeting identified the target areas for the two police services to patrol and safer working practices for the park staff. The youths have not been seen on site and the high visibility patrols seem to have helped move the youths off site.
- 6.14 Further to the above, the Park Manager and grounds maintenance staff proactively inspect the park and carry out works to improve the perception of safety. Recent examples include the reduction of overgrown laurel hedge by the Muswell Hill pedestrian entrance. This work created an open aspect so pedestrians emerging from the tunnel could see the area clearly.
- 6.15 The Park Manger will also consider representations on safety from the public directly or through residents associations.
- 6.16 The Charity supports the concept of the Park-force model and encourages all its staff, leaseholders and contractors to work together to improve the reporting of incidents and security of our visitors. The park Manager is liaising on further implementation of this initiative for Alexandra Palace and Park.
- ## **7. Summary and Conclusions**
- 7.1 Although incidents in the palace and park can make sensational headlines, the park management, staff and security services are working proactively and in partnership to improve park safety.
- ## **8. Recommendations**
- 8.1 That the Board notes the report.
- ## **9. Legal and Financial Implications**
- 9.1 The Director of Finance and the Trust's Solicitor have been sent copies of this report.
- ## **10. Equalities Implications**
- 10.1 The park is open to everyone. A well used park visited by all members of the community can help improve safety by 'crowding out crime'.

11. Use of Appendices/Tables/Photographs

The summary information above was taken from confidential reports by Alexandra Palace Security Dept, Haringey Parks Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police.