



MINUTES OF THE BARHAM PARK TRUST COMMITTEE **Held on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 6.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor McLennan (Chair), Hirani (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Miller and Southwood

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Farah.

2. **Declarations of interests**

None declared.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 be agreed as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising (if any)**

None.

5. **General Update**

Chris Whyte (Operational Director Environment Services) introduced the report updating members on the operational issues relating to Barham Park. The committee heard that the Safer Neighbourhoods Team had no significant concerns regarding the park but street drinking remained a prevalent issue. There continued to be a number of homeless males sleeping in the park and there had also been an incident of a fire being started in a doorway of one of the buildings. The recruitment of a Project Officer for the park was progressing; permission was required from the Charity Commission to fund the position via the Trust and it was anticipated that subject to this approval, recruitment would be completed by mid-November.

Gareth Robinson (Head of Finance) drew members' attention to the financial summary set out in the report, highlighting that the Trust was on track to achieve income of £80k. A comparative breakdown of spend on Brent's parks had been provided revealing that spend on Barham Park was on par with other Brent Parks, allowing for differences in size and circumstance.

Commenting on the comparative analysis of spend on Brent's parks, Members were pleased to see that Barham Park was well invested in and adequately resourced.

In response to a query from the committee, Amanda Haines (Resources Manager) outlined options for the repair of the Rose Garden Wall and highlighted the need for a tree survey to address a number of tree-related issues in the park.

RESOLVED:

- i) that the report from the Operational Director, Environmental Services summarising the latest issues relating to Barham Park be noted;
- ii) that having noted the update at paragraph 3.4 of the report, the Operational Director, Environmental Services, was requested to undertake the repair of the Rose Garden wall without delay;
- iii) that having noted the verbal update provided by officers regarding a number of tree issues identified in the park, the Operational Director, Environmental Services, was requested to undertake a tree survey, subject to consultation with Trustees regarding cost.

6. **Implementation of Public Space Protection Orders**

Chris Whyte (Operational Director, Environmental Services) presented a briefing report detailing proposals to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) across Brent's parks to curb anti-social behaviour. PSPOs imposed conditions on the use of the area so that the law-abiding majority could use and enjoy public spaces, safe from antisocial behaviour. PSPOs were intended to specifically counter littering, drinking, urinating, graffiti, vandalism, illegal encampments, dog fouling, bird feeding, using powered vehicles without express consent and threatening or behaving in a way likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress. A maximum fine for breach of Brent's current park byelaws was £20 and there had been no enforcement undertaken since it was enacted. In contrast, a maximum fine for breach of a PSPO was £100 and there was flexibility under the legislation to prosecute persistent offenders at court where they could be fined a maximum of £1000. The final decision on making any PSPO would be made by the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment.

Members welcomed the proposals but emphasised the importance of enforcement action being proportionate to the offence.

RESOLVED: that the report detailing proposals to introduce Public Space Protection Orders across Brent's parks to curb anti-social behaviour be noted.

7. **Any other urgent business**

Query from member of the public

The Chair advised that the Trustees had received correspondence from a member of the public setting out a number of queries and these would be responded to by officers.

Update on ACAVA

Duncan Smith (Artistic Director ACAVA) and Alison Baptiste (Site Manager ACAVA) were welcomed to the meeting and invited to provide an update on ACAVA's activities at Barham Park.

Duncan Smith advised that ACAVA supported 28 artists and undertook a variety of public engagement activities, including workshops for young people, families and adults. A regular weekly event, 'Action Space' was held for people with mental health difficulties. Discussing ACAVA's experience of some of the anti-social behaviour issues at the Park, Alison Baptiste welcomed the appointment of a Project Officer as a single point of contact for the tenants of the Barham Park buildings complex. Duncan Smith expressed a concern for the welfare of a homeless person at the park and outlined difficulties caused by youths being abusive, vandalising the buildings and starting small fires.

Responding to the concerns raised, Chris Whyte (Operational Director, Environmental Services) advised that Mr Smith would be put in direct contact with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and an update would be provided to ACAVA later in the week.

The committee emphasised the important role that members could play in helping to raise awareness of the services offered by ACAVA and invited Mr Smith to submit any promotional material to councillors.

The Chair thanked Duncan Smith and Alison Baptiste for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 6.28 pm

COUNCILLOR MARGARET MCLENNAN
Chair