

 Brent	Barham Park Trust Committee 3 September 2019
	Report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment
General Update Report	

Wards Affected:	Sudbury
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Chris Whyte, Operational Director, Environmental Services; chris.whyte@brent.gov.uk Leslie Williams, Project Officer, Parks Service, Environmental Services, Regeneration and Environment. E-mail: Leslie.Williams@Brent.gov.uk Tel: 0208 937 5628

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on operational issues at Barham Park and on current progress on projects.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

For the Barham Park Trust Committee:

- 2.1 To note the issues set out in this report.
- 2.2 To note and agree to the proposal to provide a replacement Oak tree for the one felled towards the west of Barham Park.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Project Officer: The Project Officer is now within the Parks Service

team within the Environmental Services unit of Regeneration & Environment. That is a remit covering also other parks in the Borough. The post includes a continuing role for Barham Park given the special situation of Barham Park being managed by the Barham Park Trust. This role is currently funded by the Council and is not funded by the Trust.

3.2 Security: Recent security, anti-social behaviour and related issues are summarised in the table below:

Date:	Issue	Action	Outcome
April 2019	Rough sleeper reported	Referred to St Mungos for outreach support.	Outreach support completed and given advice/guidance.
April 2019	Reports of young people of school age congregating. Smoking, littering from 3pm onwards and causing some criminal damage to the QEII bench.	Referred to Police SNT for monitoring and patrols.	SNT patrols conducted, area monitored.
May 2019	Reports of beer cans by a bench indicating street drinking at the location.	Referred to WDP for outreach support of the area.	WDP updated they do outreach this location but would now also check all the bench sites.
June 2019	Reports of young people congregating again and littering.	Veoila were instructed to clean up the location.	SNT made aware of problem still occurring and to conduct patrols. If SNT can identify schools, they can make them aware of ASB by their students.
June 2019	Report of young people identified as specific school students congregating at the location.	Information passed to the SNT to contact the schools officer connected.	Information was shared, further monitoring by schools officers.
June 2019	Request to have the bench removed by Friends of Barham Park.	Referred to Neighbourhood Management (NHM).	NHM said there was no immediate need to remove the bench however would monitor ongoing need.
July 2019	SNT reported to St Mungos a rough sleeper.	SNT requested to conduct joint visit to the location with St Mungos on 12 July.	Joint Visit occurred. No further reports of ASB or rough sleeping at the location.

- There was also a break-in to the Barham Park buildings.
 - Fire security system. At the half-yearly Occupier's Meeting, tenant representatives were re-briefed in the operation of the fire-security system for Barham Park.
- 3.3 Works: Operational grounds maintenance at Barham Park continue to be undertaken by Veolia. Additional works have been made to reopen the former greenhouse path.
 - 3.4 The Parks Service have amended the areas of grass left to grow longer during the spring and summer. As compared with 2018, the change involves a larger area of maintenance grassland (to 10cm) in the east of Barham Park. Areas of meadow have been sown in the higher ground in the north-east of Barham Park.
 - 3.5 Projects to restore the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Garden and the pond within the Walled Garden are in preparation, following Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy funding.
 - 3.6 A group of individuals from the community, some associated with Barham Park tenant and local resident associations, have researched aspects of the history of the gardens and are investigating whether one or more projects could be a focus for a grant application. At this stage the team are collecting information to identify suitable projects and grant sources.
 - 3.7 Barham Park repairs: The Property team have completed urgent repairs to an area of the Barham Park buildings including the ground-floor Unit 7 and part of the first-floor above that is part of a unit occupied by ACAVA. This expenditure was from the Trust's unrestricted funds and is included in the accounts for the year 2018/19.
 - 3.8 Barham Park building Unit 7: Negotiations with the lead tender applicant the Friends of Barham Library and their proposed partner organisation the Memory Lounge for a Dementia Centre at Unit 7 are moving forward. The property comprises of two distinct areas the Mess Room and a Store Room. The condition of the Store Room is poor as it was a former stable block. Both areas require a large investment the details of which are under discussion. The outcome will be reported back to the Trust Committee at a later date.
 - 3.9 Trees: Sonograph tests on two mature Oak trees at the western end of Barham Park, indicated that one of the two trees is in reasonable condition. The other Oak tree of the pair required felling and that work was completed recently. A Weeping Willow in the Events Field that required major surgery was pollarded, to enable regeneration in 2020. A longer list of trees in Barham Park that require works is to be checked and costed, with those works to be undertaken during the autumn and winter of 2019/2020. Those works are being funded from the agreed expenditure from the restricted funds of the Trust.
 - 3.10 The Oak tree that was felled was in a prominent landscape position on the west side of Barham Park and near to Sudbury Town. It was probably a tree on a former hedgerow boundary of the field / Barham Park and the Harrow Road. Officers recommend that this tree be replaced with a large nursery

grown specimen, also of the same Oak species (*Quercus robur*). Officers have costed the supply and installation of a 25cm girth, root-balled, Oak (*Quercus robur*) and watering to establishment at an estimated cost of £1,500. It is suggested that this cost be met from the operational budget of the Trust.

- 3.11 Financial accounts and matters relating to needs for capital works are contained in separate reports to the Barham Park Trust Committee at this meeting of the Trust Committee.
- 3.12 The Charity Commission has written to the Trust about two matters regarding concerns that have been raised with them about the way in which the Trust charity is being managed specifically relating to the letting of a card room at an undervalue under the Trustee's Community Asset Transfer Scheme and the accountability of the trustees to the local community. The Charity Commission has not given any further information or detail about the concerns that have been raised. Officers have responded to complaints in 2019 about the letting of the card room after the leaseholder of the card room applied for a licence to sell alcohol at those premises. As for the number of meetings of the Trust Committee, the Committee must meet at least once a year and has discretion to have further ad hoc meetings as and when necessary. The Trust Committee held two meetings in the 2018/19 financial year in September 2018 and January 2019. The Charity Commission advised that the Trust did not need to reply to their correspondence as it was sent under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011 to provide the Trust with information and advice to manage potential risks in the charity. The Charity Commission has also confirmed that it is not taking any further action at this time and it stated that the Trust should consider the two of the Charity Commission guidance documents entitled "It's your decision: charity trustees and decision making (CC27)" and "Sales leases transfers or mortgages: what trustees need to know about disposing of charity land (CC28)". Without further evidence or information of the concerns that have been raised with the Charity Commission and as the Charity Commission has advised that it will not take further action in this regard, officers are not in a position to comment further other than that which is set out in this paragraph. The content of the correspondence from the Charity Commission has been brought to the attention to the Chair of the Trust Committee.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Financial implications have been highlighted in the report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 In relation to paragraph 3.12 above, under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Commission may, in connection with its second general function (i.e. encouraging and facilitating the better administration of charities), give such advice or guidance with respect to the administration of charities as it considers appropriate. There are no further specific legal implications arising from the issues raised in this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The proposed projects mentioned in this report will be subject to a screening for equalities impacts and where the potential for adverse impacts is identified, a full equalities impact assessment will be carried out and any requisite mitigating action taken.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Officers meet regularly with Ward Members.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 Nothing specific other than noted in this report.

<p>AMAR DAVE Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment</p>
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