

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group	21 st November 2012
Subject: Play Area Refurbishment Update - Queen's Park	Public
Report of: Superintendent Hampstead Heath	For Information
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report provides an update on the Play Area Refurbishment in Queen's Park.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>That the members of Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group note this report.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. Queen's Park play area continues to be a highly used and popular facility within the park. October 2011 – September 2012 saw 197,022 visits to the play area.
2. Planning approval was granted in June 2011 enabling the City Corporation to proceed with the redevelopment of the play area.
3. Three items of play equipment were purchased in the financial years 2010/11 and 2011/12. These were; a Timberwood Tangle, Cable Runway and a Pyramid Tower and Slide.



Photograph of Timberwood Tangle

Current Position

4. The three items of play equipment have been well used and have attracted a lot of positive feedback from users.
5. There is still some work to be carried out in phase one of the development, this includes the installation of grass reinforcement mesh on the cable runway mounds. This work will be carried out over the coming winter months.
6. Volunteers from the Queen's Park Area Residents Association (QPARA) have supported park staff with road shows promoting the redevelopment project and producing a mailing list and contact details of a group of interested parties who are able to assist in kind with volunteer working or support fundraising activities.
7. In June 2012 a small group met and developed a 'Terms of Reference' (see appendices). These terms have been shared amongst those individuals who have expressed an interest in updates on progress of the redevelopment. No objections were received to these 'Terms of Reference'.
8. A meeting is planned to take place in the second half of November 2012, the purpose of this meeting will be to discuss a number of points including the development of an action plan, develop a fund raising strategy, development of a communications strategy to maintain and promote interest and enthusiasm in the redevelopment project.
9. Kensal to Kilburn Transition Towns (KKTT) have already pledged support with the planting of whips in the play area against the fenceline to soften the perimeter. These whips have been supplied free of charge to KKTT by the Woodlands Trust.
10. Councillor James Denselow has been supportive in the park receiving a Ward Working Fund donation of £10,000 from the London Borough of Brent. It has been agreed that this will be matched funded by the City of London Corporation from the Queen's Park, local risk budget. This £20,000 will be used to purchase play equipment in the second phase of the project.
11. Other donations have been already been received from QPARA and a member of the local community.
12. Volunteers staffed a stall at the Queen's Park Day event in September and a number of pledges of support and donations were received. The stall was there to promote interest and gain further support and provide updates on the project.

13. It is evident that there is still some work to be done in order to raise much needed funding to continue with this development and the support of the community is key in progressing this project further forward. Table one below shows the implementation costs of the second phase.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. The management and provision of Queen's Park provides a vital retreat, enabling people to escape the daily pressures of living and working in London. The park fulfils many of the themes within the City's Community Strategy, but specifically providing "A World Class City which protects, promotes and enhances our environment". "A World Class City which is vibrant and culturally rich". "A World Class City which supports our communities".
15. It will also help fulfil the Department's Strategic Goals and Objectives 1 (Provide safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces and services for the benefit of London and the Nation) and 2 (Involve communities and partners in developing a sense of place through the care and management of our sites).

Implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from this report, the operational requirements highlighted in the report will be met from the Superintendents' local risk budget. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
17. Estimated costs for implementing the Master-plan (2011) have been prepared by Land Use Consultants; a summary of the main figures for phase two is shown below.

Table 1: Implementation costs of Playground Master-Plan (2011) - Phase 2

Yr 2	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST (£)
1.00	Excavating and Filling, Removal	
	Preparatory Works (allowance for demolition / site clearance)	£ 23,239.00
2.00	External Works	
	Play Bark, Metal edging, tarmac, gravel path, willow walls, Cornish hedge wall, shrub planting, hedge planting, supply and install of boulders	£ 53,512.00
3.00	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	
	supply and install of large cradle nest swing, hexagonal swing with 6 tyres and rotating disc	£ 20,696.00
	Sub-Total	£ 97,447.00
4.00	Preliminaries and Overheads	£ 16,565.99
	Contingency @ 15%	£ 17,101.95
	Inflation @5%	£ 6,555.75
	Prices Exclude VAT.	
	TOTAL PHASE TWO	£ 137,670.69

Conclusion

18. Further funding applications will need to be made in order to raise income to implement the remaining two phases of the design.

Background Papers:

Update on proposals for refurbishment of Queen's Park Play Area - June 2011

Appendices

Queen's Park Play Area Redevelopment Terms of Reference

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Appendices:

Queen's Park – City of London Playground Redevelopment Committee (QPPRC) Terms of Reference – June 2012

In attendance:

The aim of the committee is to provide a focus to drive the playground redevelopment. The projected full cost of the project is £370K.

This is a three phase project with phase one already underway. So far the funding for the first phase has been supported by The City of London with funding and staff, Queen's Park Area Residents Association (QPARA) and a very generous local resident.

Within the group there is a need to identify interested parties who are willing to lead a working group on the following three areas;

1. Fundraising ideas and initiatives
2. Volunteering labour
3. Promoting local support

The legacy of the redevelopment will be far reaching, not only will there be a fantastic new play space for all children, the group will develop a resource of local people willing to support the park through times of austerity.

Goals

- To raise funds for the redevelopment and purchase of new play equipment
- Maintain a high profile of the project
- Develop an 'Action Plan' to promote the group to local stakeholders
- Develop local partnerships with schools, business and user groups
- To support the redevelopment of the Queen's Park Play Area
- City of London Corporation (CoLC) to repair existing equipment until new installation
- Supply DDA equipment suitable for use by disabled of all ages
- Review gating of the play area if necessary
- To recommend a plan of action to the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group
- Co-ordinate the local community in volunteering

Resources/ Budget

- Funds will be raised by grant applications and fund raising activities
- The budget for the redevelopment of the play area will be managed by CoLC
- Some funding from City of London Local Risk Budget may be available for expenditure on the project
- Develop online donations through CoLC website
- Applications to organisations and financing bodies to be made by the committee and CoLC

- All finance to be made known to the Chair. All funds will be held by CoLC and will be audited as with other Council finances
- Enthusiastic and self-nominating committee from the community with CoLC support
- Support from the Local Community and interested parties
- Support from organisations that care for children in the community
- Support from local disability organisations
- Attend community events e.g. Open Gardens, Book Festival, Queen's Park Day

Scope

Bounds of responsibility

- This committee will report quarterly to local residents groups and interested parties and twice a year to the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group
- Committee meetings will be held quarterly to comment on and plan future stages
- Safety organisations (e.g. ROSPA) will ensure equipment is safe for use after installation
- Local householders' interests and concerns will be taken into account

Timeline

- 2012/13, an application for the completion of Phase 1. to the majority funder to be submitted within three months
- Phase 2. the majority of the fundraising applications will be completed during 2012/13. In the event that sufficient funds are not forthcoming the committee will review the timelines and agree revised terms of reference
- Each phase of the project should be completed within 12 months from the granting of the majority of the funding or as specified as part of the granting of funding
- There may be small items which may be added after the main refurbishment as and when finances become available

Communication

- The CoLC is integral to the project and will have a regular update on the progress of the project
- Regular updates will be provided to local media and via social media (newsletters, websites, press, blog sites etc.)