

Committee(s): Queen's Park Consultative Group	Dated: 06/10/2021
Subject: Draft Mid Term Report – Queen's Park Charity (No. 232986)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 5, 10, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Richard Gentry, Acting Superintendent	

Summary

At the meeting of the Queen's Park Consultative Group on 7 October 2020, members agreed to the proposal to use the Trustees Annual Report on Activities at Queen's Park as the basis for updating members on the achievements and progress in the Park.

Member last received an update, covering the period April 2020 to March 2021 at their virtual meeting held on the 21 April 2021. Presented at Appendix 1 for information and discussion is the draft 6-month report on activities at the Park in 2021/22 with information on activities from April 2021 – August 2022.

An update on the Parks Divisional Plan Projects in 2021/22 is presented at Appendix 2.

Members are asked to note the impact that the COVID - 19 Pandemic continues to have on services and programmes being delivered.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members:

- Provide feedback in relation to the 6-month Review of the Plans for Future Periods and Key Performance Measures for 2021-22 as set out in appendix 1

Main Report

Background

1. Queen's Park is a registered charity (No. 232986).
2. As a registered charity it is required to submit an annual report and financial statement, detailing its activities and to ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011.

Current Position

3. The draft report included at Appendix 1 forms the basis of the report for 2021/22, with activities for April to August 2021.
4. From 19 July 2021, in-line with the Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown, COVID-19 signage has been removed from the Park.
5. To aid recovery following ground compaction and erosion, the Woodland Walk has remained closed since March 2021. The Superintendent will continue to engage with the local community, seeking their views on the way forward as consideration is given to either keeping this area closed to public access or re-opening with infrastructure in place to reduce future impacts to the ecology of this area.
6. The Queen's Park Divisonal Plan 2021-24 sets out the current position in relation to project work being undertaken at the Park and is attached for Members feedback (appendix 2).

Events

7. A number of events have taken place within the Park since April 2021.
8. For 10 days in May and 10 days in August 2021 the park facilitated a Children's Fairground. The fair was situated at the southern end of the Park on the main field. It was well attended in May, with good weather seen whilst the fair was open. The August period suffered inclement wet weather at the beginning of the week. Both events were well attended.
9. On the weekend of the 18 - 19 September 2021, NW6 Arts ran the annual Book Festival in the Park. With over 80 authors in attendance, from ex footballers to 80's pop icons, the event was well attended. The event organisers hope to continue to build upon their success with an event in 2022 already being planned.
10. Two Weddings took place in May 2021 on the bandstand. Due to the restriction in place, numbers were restricted to no more than 30 attendees.
11. Sunday afternoon Brass Band performances took place at the Bandstand during July and August 2021. These events were run following a donation from a local Estate Agent, who funded the performances and their promotion.
12. On the 10 August the Park facilitated a Northamptonshire Youth Brass Band (Youth Brass 2000) performance on the Bandstand. The band generated a lot of interest with members of the public hoping that they would return to the Park in the future.

13. A Children's entertainment programme took place in August, again these events were run in partnership with a local Estate Agent who funded the events and promotion.
14. A decision was made by the Queen's Park Area Residents Association (QPARA) in April 2021 not to run the Queen's Park Day event in 2021. The Residents' Association organised an electric organ to perform in the Park on the 12 September 2021. QPARA have put forward a requested to hold a Queen's Park Day on 11 September 2022.
15. Following a hiatus of 18 months, Junior ParkRun returned to the park from 12 September 2021. The first event saw 42 runners finishing, with subsequent weeks seeing 73 and 69 finishers. At its peak the run has seen 152 finishers.

Upcoming Works

16. Tennis courts – repairs to court 6 will be undertake in the winter/spring 2021/22 to address cracking which developed following their resurfacing. A temporary repair has been carried out and the court remains in use. The repair will be carried out at no cost to the Park.
17. Toilets – Internal and external redecoration of the toilet block and replacement of white goods will commence in winter 2021. The café toilets will remain open for Park visitors to use whilst the works are undertaken.

Planning

18. The London Borough of Brent refused a submission to install a 5G mast and ancillary equipment on Chevington Road, adjacent to the Park perimeter fence.

Fees & Charges

19. Members will be consulted on the 2021-22 draft sports fees & charges and 2022-23 Wedding and Civil Ceremony fees & charges for Queen's Park via email in Spring 2022.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

20. The activities and projects included within this report contribute to the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2020-21:
 - (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible,
 - (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and
 - (c) Business *practices are responsible and sustainable.*
21. These activities and projects also contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporation Corporate Plan 2018-23. We have direct impact on *Outcome 2 - People enjoy good health and wellbeing Outcome 3 - People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential Outcome 5 - Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible Outcome 10 - We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration Outcome 11 - We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment. Outcome 12 - Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.*

22. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments.
23. The projects and works outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2020-21 *(a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.*

Financial Implications

24. Donations for the Queen's Park Sand Pit and playground project continue to be received online. Donations can be made at:
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/queens-park/donate-to-us>
25. The Superintendent is in discussion with the London Borough of Brent to explore the opportunity of applying for funding through the Brent Community Infrastructure Levy scheme (CIL) for the redevelopment of the Sandpit / Playground.
26. From 2021/22, in respect of Open Spaces (local risk budget), income relating to donations and legacies to the Charities shall be ring-fenced and where necessary, carried forward in the relevant ring-fenced Charitable reserve for each Charity.

Resource Implications

27. Staff recruitment is being prioritised to ensure the Park is maintained and remains safe, accessible and secure. A number of vacancies are being covered with Casual Staff.

Climate Implications

28. The City of London launched its Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 and the strategy is now in implementation stage. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing the City of London's carbon emissions.

Legal Implications

29. No Impact.

Risk Implications

30. Risks are being monitored and recorded through the Divisional and Departmental Risk Register

Equality Implications

31. No Impact.

Security Implications

32. Security implications are addressed in the emergency response to COVID-19 and are being monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Conclusion

33. The park has continued to deliver an open space for the local community throughout the lockdown period. The Pandemic has had an impact on the park and its ability to progress with events and projects.
34. A proactive recruitment exercise to fill necessary posts aligned with appropriate training delivered for casual employees will enable staff to continue to deliver its charitable aims and objectives. The Target Operating Model will support the delivery of an effective structure and future projects in the Park.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – 6-month Review of the Plans for Future Periods and Key Performance Measures for 2021-22
- Appendix 2 – Queen's Park Divisional Plan 2021-24 (September 2021 update)

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