

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN RESIDENTS FORUM

Monday, 23 January 2012 6.00pm

Held at St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, London NW11 8HL

Action/Update Note

*Chairman: Councillor Reuben Thompstone

*Vice-Chairman: Councillor Graham Old

*denotes Councillor present

	Issue Raised	Response	Action/Update:
1.	<p>The council has just announced plans to hire out parts of some of our local parks for private functions and other events. I would like to know:</p> <p>(a) Is it the intention of the council to allow any of these parks to be fully closed to the public for any event?</p> <p>(b) Has legal advice been taken on the grounds for allowing such use of the parks?</p> <p>(c) Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) study been carried out?</p>	<p>A number of sites were identified as locations that could accommodate private events, areas within the 8 sites that have been identified as potential pilots for private events have been identified, and these do not include the entire park.</p> <p>It is not the councils intention to close entire parks for an event, however if it was appropriate to close a park (this is the current position practice also) for a large event this would be considered. If a park was to be closed for an event a statutory closure notice advertising the event and closure would be carried out.</p> <p>Legal advice has been sought from the council's legal team.</p> <p>A risk assessment was carried out that identified that an EIA was not required.</p>	<p>How many times a year is it envisaged that parks will be closed? Will entire parks be closed for events?</p> <p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p> <p>Resident asked if external legal advice had been taken.</p> <p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p> <p>Is there a copy of the risk assessment that residents can have?</p> <p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p>

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	<p>(d) Why has Friary Park been missed off the list of parks intended for the scheme? Has the Cabinet Member for the Environment withheld it from the scheme and if so why?</p> <p>(e) The scheme includes Scratchwood greenspace. Is the Cabinet Member for the Environment aware that this location is known for its use by 'dogging' enthusiasts, and does the council really think this is a suitable venue for weddings and other such events?</p> <p><i>(Theresa Musgrove)</i></p>	<p>A number of parks were identified as possible suitable locations that would be consulted on as a pilot. This list is not exhaustive and further locations may be put forward in a second tranche for consideration, thank you for raising Friary Park as a possible option for consideration.</p> <p>Scratchwood Greenspace has a number of attributes that are suitable for private and events in general. The council is aware that the site is used by a variety of groups, which also includes schools for nature conservation activities. The wider use of the site by a variety of groups and in particular for events will promote and increase the positive use of the site.</p> <p>This issue was also referred to the Finchley & Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee, which was held immediately after the forum meeting on 23 November 2011. The Sub-Committee: RESOLVED – That subject to the overall costs being contained within available budgets, the Interim Director of Environment, Planning and Regeneration be instructed to consider an extension of the consultation period to the end of January 2012 and that Friary park be included in the parks to be consulted on as a pilot.</p>	<p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manger</i></p>
2.	<p>At a recent Council meeting it was disclosed that budget priority was being given to spending on roads rather than footpaths, and that the only work on footpaths has come from 'LIP' funding. Bearing in mind the state if many of our local paths, could you explain what this</p>	<p>Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding is provided by Transport for London (TfL) to help deliver the Local Implementation Plan of the Mayor's Transport Strategy. Other than an element specifically provided for Principal Road (A Road) maintenance it is not provided for maintenance work, but pavement improvements form an integral part of some wider improvements to particular areas or road corridors.</p> <p>In 2008 -09 there were 54 schemes costing £3.2m, which was a mix of Prudential borrowing, revenue budget, section 106</p>	<p>Officers have contacted TfL and TfL have advised that they are investigating the concerns raised</p> <p>TfL can be contacted on 0845 330 9880 (8am - 8pm daily).</p> <p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>

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	<p>means, and inform us how much in total has been spent on footpaths from this source of funding, and compare it to the amount spent on footpath funding in previous years from each source?</p> <p><i>(Theresa Musgrove)</i></p>	<p>(developer contributions), town centre funds and some additional contributions</p> <p>In 2009-10 there were 22 schemes costing £0.9m. This was from a variety of funding sources</p> <p>In 2010-11 there were 25 schemes costing £1.7m, funded by Transport for London (TfL) or Barnet revenue budget</p> <p>In 2011-12 there are 9 schemes costing about £1m, with the funding coming from TfL Local Implementation Plan (LIP) – the footway element of packages of schemes being delivered through the ‘Corridors’ element of the LIP funding.</p>	
3.	<p>The junction of Hoop Lane and Finchley Road has a number of road signs. One of them says 'To the Unitarian Church'. This should point West along Hoop Lane, the same direction as the Library sign. However, someone has swung it round so that it points North up Finchley Road. Please can it be put back in place and secured.</p> <p><i>(Andrew Tucker)</i></p>	<p>The site has been visited and the sign put back in its correct position.</p>	<p>No further update required.</p>
4.	<p>(a) Long Lane - the appalling state of the cracked pavements at the Ballards Lane end. They have been renovated at other end but this end they have not been touched in the 16 years we</p>	<p>Inspections and minor repairs continue in Long Lane, and the condition has recently been noted as being ‘fair to good’.</p>	<p>No further update required.</p>

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	have been here - cracked, unsightly and unsafe.		
	(b) We need more waste bins to take the waste from the many take away outlets in Ballards Lane. There is a regular trail of litter down Long Lane at night. (c) The tree outside number 44 needs pruning. <i>(Patrick Naylor)</i>	The current provision of litter bins in Ballards Lane has been reviewed and is considered adequate. The bins are serviced / emptied daily, 7 days per week by our Town Keeper. There are also litter bins at 5 locations on Long Lane between Ballards Lane and Vines Avenue. These bins are also emptied regularly but are seldom found to be full. The area street scene supervisor will inspect the road over the next month so that we can get an overview of whether or not additional bins are needed. London Plane tree is subject to three year pruning regime. Last pruned in 2009, this tree will be pruned during the forthcoming financial year.	No further update required. <i>Dave Ward, Street Cleansing Manager</i> No further update required. <i>Andy Tipping, Principal Arboricultural Officer</i>
5.	Petition – Paving Stones, St Elizabeth’s Court, Mayfield Avenue N12 <i>(29 signatures)</i> <i>(Mrs Eileen Hill)</i>	Mayfield Avenue has been inspected and found to be in good condition.	No further update required.
6.	Hendon Lane, N3 – can a Vehicle Activated Sign (flashing 30mph sign) be introduced? <i>(Victor Spencer)</i>	Officers will investigate but would appreciate any background info that can be provided regarding the concern. These requests are assessed against various criteria including recorded injury accidents and vehicle speeds.	No further update required.
7.	Is it possible to review the level of lighting in Chaville Way, the approach to	Chaville Way is a Private Road owned and maintained by Transport for London (TfL) London Underground Limited (LUL). Officers will pass on the concerns and request to TfL LUL and	Officers to clarify if all of Chaville Way is a private road. Resident also asked if Chaville Way could be included in the

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	<p>Finchley Central underground station? The lighting is totally inadequate, and is potentially a risk for the security of women and vulnerable travellers using the station late at night, Bearing in mind the determination to remove staff from ticket offices, and the frequency of muggings in the immediate vicinity of tube stations, it would seem a good idea to improve at least the perception of personal safety.</p> <p><i>(Ms Musgrove)</i></p>	<p>advise Ms Musgrove of the response when received.</p>	<p>plans for Church End town centre improvements.</p> <p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>
8.	<p>There was a recent public consultation about private events in parks. I am concerned specifically with Victoria Park and Myddleton Playing Fields. Could we please see details of the business plan for these proposals showing the project income and also all expenses which would be incurred in the implementation and operation of this scheme as relates to these parks?</p>	<p>The Greenspaces team already has a structure in place for the management and hiring of parks for existing events should the decision be taken to permit the hiring of parks for Private Events then this will be absorbed within the existing arrangement. This piece of work will see a slight amendment to existing operations and does not warrant a business plan or expenses.</p>	<p>How much is the envisaged revenue from hiring out the parks and what are the operational costs?</p> <p>Officers to respond to Mr Gee's letters.</p> <p><i>Matthew Gunyon, Leisure Contracts Manager, Greenspaces</i></p>

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	<i>(Mike Gee)</i>		
9.	<p>Parking problems in Nether Street between Hall Grove and Hillcourt Avenue, N12 - Proximity of three Moss Hall schools, private nursery school, and West Finchley tube station means there is a large amount of parking, both all-day (tube commuters) and at school drop-off and pick-up times. Residents' exits and drive-ways are frequently blocked, and so is Nether Street itself. Representations to Highways to have some form of parking control (e.g. only allowing it on one side of the street) have met with refusals to change the status quo</p> <p><i>(Prof. Pat Caplan)</i></p>	<p>This is being dealt with through the item that was discussed at the last meeting and referred to the sub committee, and officers are currently investigating a number of concerns relating to parking and road safety, and hope to make progress on these matters over the coming few months.</p>	<p>These issues were on the Agenda of the Finchley & Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee, which was held immediately after the forum meeting. The Sub-Committee:</p> <p>RESOLVED – That an update report including details of the outcome of the site meeting between officers, the Head Teaches of Moss Hall Nursery, Moss Hall Infant School, Moss Hall Junior School and Morasha Jewish Primary School and Ward Councillors be brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>Survey results to be forwarded to Prof. Caplan.</p> <p><i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>
10.	<p>Nether Street – Traffic problems between Moss Hall Grove, Alexander Grove and Argyll Road</p> <p><i>(John Came)</i></p>		
11.	<p>Will Finchley Community Festival and other</p>	<p>Every application made to the council for events is considered on</p>	<p>Resident has been asked to inform the Finchley Community Festival Organising</p>

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	<p>community events be allowed to go ahead this year free of charge, as other community fairs in the borough, for example the Friern Barnet Summer Show and if not - how much will the Finchley Community Festival be required to pay in charges for the use of Victoria Park? <i>(Tirza Waisel)</i></p>	<p>its own merits, depending upon the event categorisation.</p> <p>The council fees and charges that are currently under consultation set out the required fees for each type of event.</p>	<p>Committee to contact and start early engagement with council officers regarding organising an event. <i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p>
12.	<p>Why are the replies I received from the Events In Parks consultation to my response about private events in Victoria Park imply the matter had already been decided on, as if the question for decision is not IF to hire out the park for private events but rather HOW to do it? [your comments in relation to traffic management have been recorded. Consideration to these matters could be addressed through the event hire procedures which we feel would adequately manage these concerns', 20/12/2011;</p>	<p>The council can confirm that no decision has yet been made in relation to the Events in Parks Consultation. Once the results to the consultation have been analysed a report will produced which will be presented to the relevant decision making body.</p>	<p>For the schedule of fees and charges, is there a different charge for registered charities and community events? <i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p>

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	'Your comments and suggestions were received within the consultation period and will assist in the development of the policy going forward.' 18/1/2012] <i>(Tirza Waisel)</i>		
13.	Can the council guarantee that no road markings and parking restrictions will be imposed on residents in the area around Victoria Park and the current free parking in the streets around it will be maintained? <i>(Tirza Waisel)</i>	The council are not in a position to state categorically that such restrictions would never be considered or introduced however; there are no plans to introduce any such restrictions or to investigate the same.	No further update required. <i>Neil Richardson, Highways Manager Traffic & Development</i>
14.	Will the council publish the statistics of responses to the consultation collated from respondents of the Victoria Park area? <i>(Tirza Waisel)</i>	The responses to the consultation are currently being analysed. Following which these will be published on the consultation portal.	<i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i>
15.	a) What does the council do to improve road safety conditions in Golders Green, where cars are allowed to park on part of the pavement, thus restricting the movements of	Where there is a danger to pedestrians then footway parking would not be allowed. The council recognises however that in some streets in the borough the conditions are such that footway parking would not cause danger or inconvenience to pedestrians or result in damage to the footway. Footway parking in these locations allows vehicles to park on both sides of the street whilst facilitating the free movement of traffic, including delivery and	No further update required.

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	<p>pedestrians and causing special hazard for people pushing baby prams, wheelchair users and elderly pedestrians? <i>(Ms Arati Banerjea)</i></p> <p>b) Can pedestrian traffic light changing intervals be extended and islands added where there aren't any, to allow slower pedestrians to cross the roads in Golders Green safely? <i>(Ms Arati Banerjea)</i></p> <p>c) Why is there no prior notice when moving bus stops temporarily for road works, to enable people who may carry heavy shopping and/or are elderly, to plan their route better? e.g. the bus stop near the post office on Golders Green Road. <i>(Ms Arati Banerjea)</i></p>	<p>refuse collection vehicles.</p> <p>b) Officers will review specific locations to ensure that the signals are operating optimally but would appreciate further background information</p> <p>c) There is liaison with Transport for London (TfL) when works are carried out affecting bus stops to agree alternative temporary bus stop locations. TfL usually provide information at each closed stop as to the alternative arrangements.</p>	<p>No further update required.</p> <p>Officers to liaise with TfL to see if TfL can arrange for advance notification to be posted at bus stops. <i>Mervyn Bartlett, Transport and Regeneration Manager</i></p>
16.	<p>a). Why was the Events In Parks consultation questionnaire removed from the website?</p> <p>b). Why was no consultation</p>	<p>a) The Events in Parks consultation was not removed from the website, and still remains on the consultation portal. The consultation was closed on the 16th Jan 2012 (the extended closure date) however due to newer consultations that were added to the website the Events in Parks consultation moved</p>	<p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p>

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	<p>alerts made to any of the residents living around Victoria Park but instead only posters on the park's gates were relied on? This implies that the consultation was flawed as anyone living around the park but not entering it in this period will find themselves suffering from the private events' nuisance (noise, parking shortage, rubbish, broken glass) without having had a warning.</p> <p><i>(Mr Ron Cohen)</i></p>	<p>down the listing and subsequently was not displayed on the front page, it was however still available on the website until the closure date listed above.</p> <p>b) The council wrote to a number of local residents to draw their attention to the consultation, these addresses were identified by using the same consultation model that our planning department would use. The council also wrote to the Friends of Parks Groups and displayed posters in the park. Following the extension to the Consultation from 16th December to the 16th January the council also wrote the Residents Associations to inform them of the consultation.</p>	
17.	<p>Why has the bench on Cricklewood Broadway reported in August 2011 not yet been repaired or removed? It is an eyesore. It has planks missing and nails sticking out of it.</p> <p><i>(Jessica Howey, Cricklewood Railway Terraces' Residents' Association)</i></p>	<p>Officers apologise for the delay but can confirm that the seat will be removed by 24 January 2012 at the latest.</p>	<p>No further update required.</p>
18.	<p>a) Will the councillor responsible make representations on behalf of users of Victoria Park to</p>	<p>a) Representations made through the consultation on private events in parks will be given due consideration.</p>	<p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p>

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	<p>ensure that they have free access to all public areas?</p> <p>b) Will the councillor responsible also ask that friendly consideration be given to any new proposals for a [non-commercial] community festival this year?</p> <p><i>(Julian Silverman)</i></p>	<p>b) All event applications are considered on a case by case basis.</p>	
19.	<p>The Consultation period for Proposed Private Events in Public Parks is over. On the basis no known constituent has agreed to Proposal on Health and Environmental grounds, with regards to Victoria Park are the council intending to Listen to the views of its constituents, OR, are you going to ignore the democratic process by going against the interests of the Community you are elected to represent?</p> <p><i>(Carole Read)</i></p>	<p>The consultation responses are currently being analysed and full consideration will be given to the feedback received. Each site will be considered on a case by case basis and a decision taken on how to proceed which could include any number of options. Once this data is analysed a paper to seek the relevant authority for any proposals will be forthcoming within the next 3 months.</p>	<p><i>Jenny Warren, Greenspaces Manager</i></p>

The Forum which commenced at 6.00pm ended at 7.30pm (The meeting was suspended at 6.50pm and 6.55pm due to persistent interruption by a member of the public).

Future meeting dates:

Date	Venue
Wednesday, 14 March 2012	Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE

Officers Present:

Chidilim Agada – Business Governance Officer
Mervyn Bartlett –Transport and Regeneration Manager
John McArdle – Interim Parking Manager

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