

<p style="text-align: center;">King George's Field Charity Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 December 2017</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Debbie Jones – Corporate Director, Children's Services</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Updates on Mile End Park</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Abdul Chunu Mukit Lead Member for Culture and Youth
Originating Officer(s)	Stephen Murray Head of Arts Parks and Events
Wards affected	Bow West. Mile End East
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	Great Place to Live

Executive Summary

The content of the report is all in response to requests for updates from the last meeting of the Board. Three items are for noting and commenting on and two items require decisions.

Recommendations:

The King Georges Fields Board is recommended:

1. To note the information update on free to access activities in Mile End Park
2. To note the summary of commercial activity in Mile End Park
3. To note the update on the lakes by the Arts and Eco Pavilions
4. To consider the proposal for a statue in Mile End Park
5. To consider the current forms for applying to place statues, plaques and memorials in Mile End Park.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The report is mainly for noting but decisions required are:
- To approve or decline the proposal to place a statue in Mile End Park. This in response to a formal application
 - To consider changes to the existing guidelines and application form for placing statues and other structures in Mile End Park

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The alternative options would be to not consider the proposal to either place a statue or consider changes to the existing guidelines and application form. This is not recommended however as it leaves the guidelines and application form unchanged and would in effect be a negative response to the applicants to place a statue in the park.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Attached is a breakdown of activity in the current year on free to access events and workshops - Mile End Park - **Appendix One**.
- 3.2 The activities listed are funded from core allocated budget which is supplemented from earned income from the hire of the Pavilions.
- 3.3 **Commercial activity in Mile End Park. Appendix two.** Gives a break down of lease income, parking and hire income across the park for the current year.
- 3.4 **Arts and Ecology Pavilions Lakes. Appendix three.** Gives a summary of advice provided by Geosynthetic Technology Ltd. Predicted costs of works, £200,000, are too great for available budget and so we will have to identify funds to take this forward. In the meantime we are able to keep the lakes topped up to reasonable level.
- 3.5 **Application to place a statue in Mile End Park. Appendix four.** This was tabled at the last board meeting and no decision was made pending more information. The attached is the original proposal plus additional information, in 5.2, provided at a meeting between the Head of Arts Parks and Events and the applicants.
- 3.6 **Appendix five** is a copy of the guidelines and application form for placing statues and other structures in parks. This is currently used for all parks including the Charity's land.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There is no direct financial implication to LBTH for the two decisions being sought. The guideline for approving request to place statue in LBTH parks and open spaces specifically requires the proposer (organisation or individual) to commit to fund all development, repairs and maintenance cost with the associated landscaping to be maintained into perpetuity.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Council is the Trustee of the Mile End Charity pursuant to the Governing Document which is a Scheme dated 28th February, 2000. The Council is also the trustee for Tredegar Square with the Trust deeds. The Council's Constitution establishes the King George's Fields Charity Board to administer the charities affairs and discharge the Council's trustee functions.
- 5.2 The trustees have a duty to consider the King George's Field Trust budget that supports the running of Mile End Park. It is consistent with this duty that the trustees are advised of commercial activities within Mile End Park that generate income as well as expenditure in respect of maintenance and upkeep.
- 5.3 As the running of Mile End Park is about ensuring open spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy then it is important that information about free community events in Mile End Park is provided to the trustees so they can satisfy themselves that the park is being appropriately used.
- 5.4 With regard to the erection of a statue, as landowner it is open to the Council through the Board to approve the erection of the statute subject to entering into a written agreement covering aspects such as access, repairs and liabilities. Even if provisional approval was given, the applicant would also be required to obtain relevant planning consent.
- 5.5 In giving consent, the Board would have to be satisfied that the application meets criteria set out the 2016 guidance and formal application process.
- 5.6 As to consultation, this would be undertaken by the applicant and would be separate to the consultation undertaken regarding obtaining planning consent. In considering consultation, the Board should consider the extent of loss of park land and the impact that this would have on park users.
- 5.7 In considering this report and its recommendations, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty). There is some information in the report relevant to these considerations in paragraph 6 below.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Mile End Park is an important community asset that is open to all. As the population of the borough increases it, along with other parks, becomes increasingly important as a facility for healthy living and community activity promoting community cohesion.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 We will continue to carry out bench marking against similar facilities in the area to ensure we remain competitive in the hire of our buildings and spaces.
- 7.2 The maintenance of the Park is carried out by the Council's Green Team whose services were subject to best value testing when the service was brought back in house from external contracting.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 The management of Mile End Park is focussed on providing good quality green spaces in a sustainable way.
- 8.2 The commercial aspects of the park directly link to supporting the maintenance of this key green space.
- 8.3 The park plays an important role in promoting bio diversity and educating the public on environmental issues.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Park management acts to create a sustainable income stream to support the maintenance of the park and its infrastructure.
- 9.2 There has been a recent review of operational inspections and maintenance procedures of play equipment in the park and changes, including use of specialist software on hand held tablets, are being embedded now. At the same time all risk assessments have been reviewed for quality and implementation

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Mile End Park forms part of the boroughs facilities that help to engage young people in healthy outdoor and indoor activity.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 All events involving young people are tightly managed with welfare and safeguarding issues addressed in risk assessments and management plans
 - 11.2 The issue of safeguarding in relation to funfairs has recently been discussed at the borough's Safety Advisory Group, multi agency group including Met Police, and we are looking at how this might be managed more effectively through contracting process.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- **One.** Free to access activity within Mile End Park
 - **Two.** Commercial activity in Mile End Park
 - **Three.** Update on repairs to lakes in Mile End Park
 - **Four.** Update on application to place a statue in Mile End Park
 - **Five.** Copy of guidelines and application form for placing structures in parks
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Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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