


King George's Field Charity Board 27th June 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Corporate Director, Children's	Classification: Unrestricted
Mile End Park Summer Activities Programme	

Lead Member	Cllr Mukit MBE, Lead Member for Culture
Originating Officer(s)	Stephen Murray
Wards affected	Bow West Mile End
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	A Safe and Cohesive Community / A Great Place to Live

Executive Summary

The report presents details of the Mile End Park summer activities programme, commercial events and an update on repairs to water features in the park.

Recommendations:

The Board is recommended to:

1. Consider and comment on the summer activities programme
2. Note the report on commercial activity in Mile End park
3. Note the update on repairs to water features in Mile End Park

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The King George's Field Charity Board, at its meeting on 4th April 2017, requested additional information around ongoing problems with the lakes at the Ecology Pavilion.
- 1.2 The Board also needs to be aware of the commercial activities that take place in Mile End Park and also the free community activities.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 This is a noting report.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 Background:

- 3.1.1 The Trust must generate income to support the running of its parks and spaces. In addition to rental income commercial activity takes place in the park and this report updates on the programme for this year.

3.2. Income generation, repairs and planned Activity

- 3.2.1 The report sets out the activities planned to take place in Mile End Park over the summer in Appendix 1. These activities are designed to engage with the public, bring visitors to the park and promote the Council's healthy living agenda. The format and content is partly informed by the requirements of the Green Flag Scheme.

- 3.2.2 The following commercial activity is planned for the current year:

- A "German Village Festival" in Mile End Park on the same site as fairground off Burdett Road. The operation days for this were 27th April to 1st May and 4th May to 7th May. This went ahead without generating any complaints locally and generated an income of £24,600. The event was delivered by the same organisation as Oktoberfest in Millwall Park and we await an approach to repeat it next year.
- Irvin's Fair on Wennington Green was held from May 19th-22nd. It is proposed that a second Fair takes place in July. Fairs generate income of £6,100

- 3.2.3 At Mile End Park we have 5 areas that contain water features / pumps

- Mile End Arts Park Lake
- Mile End Ecology Pavilion Lake
- Cascade terrace
- Pump chamber (behind Ariana restaurant junction of bow common lane)
- contains 1 bore hole pump which draws water from the London water

table and stores it in 2 chambers and we have 2 booster pumps and controls that pump the water around MEP to the various water points and water features)

- Mile End Play Park interactive water feature

3.2.4 We have experienced a number of issues with water levels in the lakes and cascade that were mainly down to faults with the pumps and the inability to top them up with water. These pumps were effectively past the age when would expect to replace them but no scheme was in place to do so.

3.2.5 In the past 18 months we have carried out the following repairs:

- October 2015 replacement booster pumps and control systems £8,840
- January 2016 replacement booster pump was installed £3,195
- February 2015 a replacement circulation pump was installed to the cascade water feature £5,292
- March 16 interactive water feature was commissioned (this is an annual cost) £1,069
- November 16 new bore hole pump installed and commissioned £13,075
- January repairs to the retaining wall and pump at the cascade £2,220

3.2.6 The water levels in the ecology lakes are being maintained by the new pump but the main lake is leaking and requires a new liner. We have identified specialist providers for this work and will shortly obtain quotes after which we will have to identify funds to carry out the necessary works.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 This report presents the planned summer activities programme for 2017 and an update on the completed repairs to the water features within the Mile End Park.

4.2 The overall budgetary aim is that the income from the park covers the expenditure and so does not call in general fund resources. The current expenditure budget for 2017/18 is £1.1m with a projected income of £1.1m. The income is generated from rentals and lettings of the facilities, donations and fees and charges.

4.3 The Trust accounts for King George's Field at the end of 2016/17 showed a balance of £169,342 in the reserve which will continue to be used to managed unexpected events and future rental income cash flows impacts. The extent to which income projected to be generated is realised will need to be considered alongside the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy process, and the ongoing need for investment in the parks infrastructure.

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, including repairs to the water features.

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.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Parks are free for all residents to access and the Council looks to make them safe spaces where all sections of our community are comfortable using the facilities contained there.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Budgets are based on securing best value within the context of continuing to maintain Mile End Park in accordance with the objectives of the Trust.

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 parks staff operate a comprehensive risk process which covers all activities within the park by users and staff.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Parks staff work closely with colleagues and the Police to reduce ASB and crime within the park.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Staff operating community events ensure that safeguarding issues are covered off in risk assessments and that staff are fully conversant with what to look out for, how and where to report to.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix 1- Mile End Park Activity report

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Stephen Murray