


King George's Fields Charity Board 6th March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Debbie Jones – Corporate Director, Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Updates on Mile End Park	

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 Trust, three items for noting and commenting on and two items requiring decisions.

Recommendations:

The King Georges Fields Trust is recommended:

1. To note the key outputs on the Mile End Park Management Plan 2017as set out in Appendix 5.
2. To note the annual review Mile End Park Management Plan 2018-19 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
3. To note the budget report for Period 9 2017-18 financial year as set out in Appendix 3.
4. To note the update on the ponds by the Arts and Eco Pavilions as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report.
5. To approve the revised guidelines on applying to place structures in Mile End Park as set out in Appendix 4.
6. To consider and approve the proposals for subsidised lettings of Pavilions to community organisations as set out in Appendix 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council is the Trustee of the Mile End Charity and the Council's Constitution establishes the King George's Fields Charity Board ('the Board') to administer the charities affairs and discharge the Council's trustee functions. The purpose of the charity is to preserve the Park Lands in perpetuity as a memorial to King George V under the provisions of the King George's Fields Foundation and in considering the report and recommendations the Board is ensuring that the charity is carrying out the purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose. :

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not to approve the revised guidelines for applying to place sculptures/plaques in Mile End Park.
- 2.2 Not to approve the proposals on subsidies for the hire of pavilions and which would result in all hirers paying the same set fees.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Currently all hirers pay the same charges for the hire of the Arts and Eco pavilions in Mile End Park. Following on from previous discussions, the Board indicated its wish to consider whether there should be different hire rates for Community Organisations/ use. Appendix 1 sets out proposals for the Board to consider.
- 3.2 A requirement of the Green Flag status of Mile End Park requires that there be in place a Mile End Park Management Plan and to annually review the same. The Management Plan is also a working manual for staff. This reviewed Mile End Park Management Plan for 2018-19 is at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Again, following on from previous discussions, the Board indicated its wish to consider revised guidelines which would apply for applications to place sculptures and plaques on land managed by the Board. Appendix 4 contains the proposed draft revised guidelines for consideration.
- 3.4. Appendix 3 is the Budget report for period 9 and which breaks down income and expenditure as well as providing a projected out turn for the current financial year.
- 3.5. Appendix 5 shows the outcomes of the objectives contained within the 2017-18 Mile End Park Management Plans..
- 3.6. As to an update on the Mile End Ponds, these ponds are currently maintaining reasonable water levels now that the pump systems are fully functioning. Water usage will be monitored over the course of the next few months into summer when the levels tend to drop more quickly. If there is a danger of

exceeding the licence limits for drawing bore hole water then a more detailed options for possible repairs to leaks and re-landscaping will be commissioned.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

As stated in appendix 3 the KGFT is forecasting a possible surplus of £47k, there are no other financial implications.

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 purpose of the charity is to preserve the Park Lands in perpetuity as a memorial to King George V under the provisions of the King George's Fields Foundation. The 1965 Scheme which established the Foundation gave its purpose as "to promote and to assist in the establishment and to promote the preservation throughout the United Kingdom of Playing Fields for the use and enjoyment of the people..." Additionally, the trustees may " apply the land to such charitable purposes as are set out in the Recreational Charities Act 1958

5.3 As trustees, the Board must make sure that the charity is carrying out the purposes for which it is set up, and no other purpose. Further, the Board must act in the Charity's best interests and manage the Charity's resources responsibly.

5.4 This report provides information to the Board so that the trustees can undertake their duties.

5.5 As to community hire, the Scheme permits that the land may be used for facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation, provided that it is in the interests of social welfare and for the public benefit. The provision of facilities to the Community at reduced rates is in the interests of social welfare and for the public benefit but needs to be counter-balance against the the Charity's best interests and the Charity's resources being managed responsibly each year. It is noted from Appendix 3 that the Charity is projected to have a possible surplus of £47,000 and therefore there are no financial impediments to reduced rates, this financial year. Further acilitating greater community use is in the Charity's best interests as such use would be for charitable purposes as set out in section 5 of the Charities Act 2011.

5.6 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.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- **One.** Suggested proposal for subsidised hire for community groups of Pavilions
 - **Two.** Mile End Park Management plans 2018-19
 - **Three.** Budget report for period 9
 - **Four.** Revised guidelines for applying to place sculptures/plaques in KGFT land
 - **Five.** Outcomes for 2017-18 objectives from management plans.
-

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

NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Stephen Murray
Head of Arts Parks and Events
X7910