

Appendix 1

KGFT under lock down report. March 31st 2021

1. Background

All parks have been under more pressure during lockdown as people become desperate for somewhere to go for exercise and leisure. This report covers the impact of lockdown on KGFT lands and building.

2. Staffing

Parks staff regularly patrol the parks and inspect equipment within it. During the first lockdown gym equipment was removed and play equipment was fenced off. It became increasingly difficult for staff to manage the public and get them to abide by Covid19 guidelines and fencing was regularly pulled away from equipment to enable usage. Some members of the public became very abusive when asked to stop using equipment and staff have felt threatened. We did have access to volunteers and redeployees in the first lockdown but whilst this was helpful they were limited in what they could do. Patrols across other parks have had to be upped which puts additional pressure on covering Mile End and Stepney Green. Inevitably staff getting sick or shielding/self isolating has impacted on numbers and increased pressure on those still working. All in all staff have done a fantastic job under pressure but have barely had a break before we tackle the challenges going into the summer months.

3. Litter

Litter in parks is collected by the Clean team and they have been very stretched by the increase in litter and we expect the same again this summer. We have in some areas of the park provided bigger euro bins which has helped.

4. ASB

When pubs and venues have been closed due to lockdown restrictions we have found more groups drinking and picnicking in parks and defying restrictions. The scale of this across the borough has been challenging to rangers, the Police and our own THEOs. We have also seen an increase in theft of bikes and robbery of belongings such as phones.

5. Loss of income

Both pavilions have seen a dramatic fall in income due to lockdown restrictions. They have latterly been used for Covid Testing and soon vaccinations. We hope to get some income for this use but the extended use for this purpose to the end of August as lockdown is eased means we are having to cancel bookings which is bad for rebuilding the business. No bookings at Stepney Astro pitch has meant loss of all

income there. Additionally we have had no corporate volunteer schemes this year which bring in income and also support vital works in the park.

6. Actions

We have to look to increase income again to tackle the ongoing deficit. We must also reign in on expenditure where we can. We need to review priorities and working arrangements for staff to avoid burn out and maintain a safe working environment.