

MILLFIELDS USER GROUP MEETING – 30 JULY ENCLOSURE 3B

REPORT ON PARK MANAGEMENT AND PARKS DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FOR USER GROUP

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Parks Department of Hackney Council was restructured in October 2008. From that date Paul Foinette, who had been Park Manager for Millfields, was promoted to one of two Area Manager Posts covering all parks and green spaces in Hackney. From that date also a Parks Development division was established with posts of one Park Development Manager and two Parks Development Officers.
- 1.2 At a recent meeting Paul informed Brian Weller of the following Staff structure affecting Millfields;

Head of Green Spaces [John Wade]
Grounds Maintenance Manager [Mark White]
Area Grounds Maintenance Manager [Paul Foinette]
Parks Manager [Chris Tsentides]
Supervisor
Senior Rangers/Rangers/Gardeners

- 1.3 Millfields is allocated two Rangers, Steve Akinwale and David Pirle. Because they work five days in seven, there are times when there is only one – or even no – ranger on Millfields
- 1.4 There is also a Parks Development Officer allocated to Millfields. His name is Bruce Irvine, he started work this month, and he will have a list of seven parks to relate to. He will henceforth attend Millfields General Meetings instead of Paul Foinette. Brian Weller had a first information meeting with him on 15 July.

2 ISSUES ARISING FROM RESTRUCTURING

- 2.1 Parks Department will henceforth be represented at General Meetings by our Development Officer, and not by Paul Foinette. Given that many of the items raised by members relate to management issues we will need to assess whether Development Officer(s) come to meetings adequately briefed on management.
- 2.2 It will certainly be useful, given the demand for resources which the Master Plan exercise is likely to generate, to have a Development Officer with knowledge and expertise in identifying sources of grant and assisting the User Group with bidding.
- 2.3 Although we have two Rangers allocated to Millfields they are not always on site, and now split their time between the Hackney Homes portakabins on Chatsworth Road and the

Refurbished Playground Toilet block. We need to assess whether current cover is adequate and if not whether that is a capacity or a management issue.

3 CURRENT MANAGEMENT OF PLAYGROUND

- 3.1 The meeting with Paul Foinette addressed User Group concerns around the equipment and maintenance of the North Millfields children's Playground.
- 3.2 He described the management and maintenance of the Playground as follows;

daily visual check
weekly recorded check
six-monthly check by repair contractors [ARD]

so that in theory breakages should quickly be identified and repaired. It appears that the disrepair reported by us on 17 June has been dealt with.

4 OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Paul said that the minor repairs (electrics and plumbing) needed to bring the Playground Toilet Block into use **have been done**, though it is not clear whether the organisers of football training (Phil Vine and Access for Sport) have been informed. There is a very small office for rangers in the Toilet Block, and rangers have, according to Paul, been using it periodically.
- 4.2 We did not discuss the outstanding reinstatement of the path next to the John Laing development. I will remind Paul of this.
- 4.3 It was not clear where we go from here on the cycle path modification, where Highways Department has said it has no budget to carry out the work. Presumably this becomes another ambition to add in to the Master Plan discussion, and general resource needs arising from that.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Committee is asked to consider this report and decide on any action needed.

BW/millfields/17:07:09