

Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec. Stakeholder Meeting

20 January 2018

Attendees

Name	Organisation / Role
Jon Atkin	North Area Parks Manager (Manchester City Council)
Paul Rosenbloom	Neighbourhood Engagement & Delivery Officer for Charlestown & Blackley (Manchester City Council)
Elaine Crosdale	Blackley & North Manchester Athletics Club
P. Ash	Blackley & North Manchester Athletics Club
Julia Mottershead	King William IV Angling
D. Webster	King William IV Angling
John Biggs	Whitemoss Youth Centre
Margaret Dolan	North Manchester Fitness
Colin McLaren	Moston Juniors Football Club
Tony Ganner	Local Resident
Joyce Lightfoot	Local Resident
John Doohan	Local Resident
Karen Galston	Local Resident
David Jackson	Local Resident

Apologies

Name	Organisation / Role
Councillor Basil Curley	Manchester City Council
Councillor Veronica Kirkpatrick	Manchester City Council
Councillor Hannah Priest	Manchester City Council
Andy Baker	Strategic Football Development Officer (Manchester City Council)
Chris Fitzgerald	Sport Strategy Manager (Manchester City Council)
Sue Blaylock	Simply Cycling
Craig Emery	Simply Cycling
Donna Caulfield	Walk2Run Blackley
Lorraine Platt	North Manchester Fitness
Peter Milner	Friends of Boggart Hole Clough
Danny Reilly	Local Resident / Cycle Cross Organiser
Michael Stott	Local Resident / Volunteer
Chris Cooper	Local Resident
Josephine Quayle	Local Resident
Mildred Lloyd	Local Resident

Suggested Topics raised by members of the meeting for discussion

- Visitor Centre Improvements
- Track Improvements / Update
- Lighting Issues
- Cleanliness of the site in general
- Firework Displays on site
- Security around the site

Manchester City Council Parks Strategy

Jon Atkin (North Area Parks Manager) confirmed the launch of the new and improved Manchester City Council Parks Strategy and highlighted for all in attendance where they could find the relevant correspondence on the said by using the Manchester City Council website.

Lake Improvement Work

Jon Atkin (North Area Parks Manager) confirmed that works to the boating lake at the heart of Boggart Hole Clough had been sanctioned to improve the general state of the island and the surrounding body of water: this would be done by removing some (not all) of the overhanging branches and trees.

Approved by the Manchester Ecology Unit, the works are to go ahead in two phases: before and after the nesting season so that the wildlife on the island are not disturbed etc.

Copies of the report from the Manchester Ecology Unit were provided at the meeting.

Update: Phase One of the works has been completed with Phase Two due to commence later on in the year (October / November time).

Previous Meeting Action Points: 30 September 2017

The action points from the last meeting were briefly discussed by the group. The following actions were discussed at some length:

- Re-paving / laying of the path at the David Lewis Rec. leading from the bowling green down to the cottages at the Rochdale Road entrance to the park: monies accrued from the fun fairs held on site were used for this.
- Security light on the track has been re-instated. Apologies were given for the delay in said works going ahead: due to strike action the works were delayed by 3-4 months.

Copies of the action points were provided at the meeting for all in attendance.

Proposed Events for 2018

Representatives from King William IV Angling confirmed that there would be a 'Spring Into Fishing' event held at the fishing lake on the 24 March 2018.

Fun fairs: the general consensus was that the fair at the David Lewis Rec. could go ahead over the May Bank Holiday weekend as it did last year as long as early closing / noise nuisance was enforced.

The proposed fair for the Autumn / Winter half term holidays were also discussed with the general feeling being that they should not go ahead due to the damage likely to be caused to the grounds.

Piece of Cake 10K: the organisers of the said have suggested that the race will be going ahead on the May Bank Holiday weekend (likely date of the 05 May 2018).

Cycle Cross: more information to be provided as and when further discussions have gone ahead with the organisers of the proposed event.

Battersea Dogs Home Muddy Dog Event: the event was discussed at some length with queries being raised as to why the event was being held for Battersea Dogs Home rather than a local charity. It was confirmed that local charities have the right to propose such events themselves but as they have not done so and due to the fact that the proposed event will bring revenue into the park further discussions would be going ahead to see if the event is a viable option for the site.

Manchester Area Cross Country: it was confirmed that parking for the aforementioned event would need to be looked into a lot more thoroughly given the level of traffic around the site on the day of the event in November 2017.

Suggested Topics raised by members of the meeting for discussion

Visitor Centre Improvements

- It was confirmed that Jon Atkin (North Area Parks Manager) would be following up an update on the improvements.
- Modular design that can be added to if need be has been discussed but funding of the project still remains an issue.

Track Improvements / Update

- An update from Chris Fitzgerald (Sports Strategy Manager) confirmed that proposed cleansing will be looked into once the budgets for the upcoming 2018/19 financial year have been finalised.
- It was raised at the meeting that funding was accrued for improvements to the track at Wythenshawe Park: Jon Atkin (North Area Parks Manager) to look into this and raise this with Kylie Ward (Parks Lead, The Neighbourhoods Service) for further information.
- Long jump area needs tidying up / improving: this is another issue that can be raised with the Sports Strategy Team to determine what is in place for this particular issue.

Lighting Issues

- It was confirmed that the quote of £18-20K to have the track lights renovated had not changed.
- Blackley & North Manchester Athletics Club stated that they had contributed a significant amount of money to get the lights looked into circa 4-5 years ago. Jon Atkin (North Area Parks Manager) confirmed that there was no record held at the North Area Parks Office regarding this and thus it would need to be followed up with the previous manager(s) of the team.

Cleanliness of the site in general

- It was confirmed that the Grounds Maintenance Management Team had cited that the bins would be emptied at least three times per week on site including once on weekends.
- It was also confirmed that the previous couple of weeks had been difficult for Grounds Maintenance to deal with due to the vast amount of waste being dropped on site following Christmas and New Year and staffing issues.
- Week of the 08 January 2018: bins were left due to staffing issues and could not be done on Saturday 13 January 2018 due to the operative on cover being hospitalised due to an incident on the roads.
- Fly tipping: comes under BIFFA so any reports of fly tipping are not dealt with Manchester City Council's Grounds Maintenance Team directly and have to be passed on to BIFFA. The timescale for fly tipping to be removed is usually 5 working days.

Fireworks Displays on site

Fireworks displays were raised with regard to holding such an event on site as had been done in the past.

It was explained that given there were a number of displays all in relatively / very close proximity over the course of a week in the North (Crumpsall Park, Brookdale Park, Etihad / Philips Park and Heaton Park) that there would be little chance of there being any such events held at Boggart / David Lewis Rec. in the future.

Monetary requirements would also hamper any such event taking place on site. However it was the intention to repeat the Lantern Parade with a local school to celebrate Halloween.

Security around the site

Concerns were raised regarding anti-social behaviour in and around both areas of the site. Jon Atkin (North Area Manager) confirmed that the best course of action is to call Parks Incident Response (0778 631 2710) or Greater Manchester Police on the 101 service. In case of emergency / serious incident(s), members of the meeting were informed to call the emergency services on 999.

CCTV cameras were suggested around the site: given current budgets etc. and where to link said cameras up to, this was taken on board by the North Area Parks Team as something to consider in the future though not considered as feasible at present.

However, this was something that the group could look into with regard to applying for funding as and when they become constituted.

Any Other Business

Regular litter picks: were brought up / suggested at the meeting, much like the ones carried out by the newly established 'Friends of Bailey's Wood'. This is something that can be carried forward and advertised around the site given enough interest from all involved parties.

Management Committee: regarding use of the track, trackside facilities and football pitch to be discussed at a later date between all involved parties who utilise the facilities on site. A separate meeting will be held in this regard.

The Stakeholder Group in general: it was discussed amongst those in attendance whether one, park wide group would suffice or whether the stakeholder group would prefer to operate as two separate entities: one group for Boggart Hole Clough and one group for David Lewis Rec.

No decision was made on the day so this matter is up for further discussion at the next stakeholder meeting to be held in May 2018.

Action taken since the meeting held on 20 January 2018

- **Lake Improvements:** commenced on the 01 February 2018 with the first phase of the works completed on the 09 February 2018. Phase two will go ahead as scheduled later this year (October / November).
- **Cleanliness of the site:** Grounds Maintenance were contacted about all of the concerns raised about the rubbish collection and general build up of litter around the site. They are back into a regular routine of collecting the rubbish and completing litter picks as and when necessary. We are yet to hear back about the cleansing of the clough's around the site.
- **Pathways at the David Lewis Rec.:** further work has been completed at the David Lewis Rec. to repair some of the paths on site.

- **Date of next meeting:** May 2018 (actual date has not yet been decided).