

Boggart Hole Clough and David Lewis Rec. Stakeholder Meeting

20 October 2018

North City Library Meeting Rooms

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Councillor Basil Curley	Councillor for Charlestown Ward
Councillor Hannah Priest	Councillor for Charlestown Ward
Jon Atkin	North Area Parks Manager
Paul Rosenbloom	North Area Parks Team
Marise Lindsey	Boggart Hole Clough Lakeside Café
Julia Mottershead	King William IV Angling Society
Duncan Mottershead	King William IV Angling Society
Phil Whetham	King William IV Angling Society
Tommy Brown	Great Run Local
Lorraine Platt	North Manchester Fitness
Margaret Dolan	North Manchester Fitness
Joanna Moran	North Manchester Fitness
Donna Young	North Manchester Fitness
Sue Blaylock	Simply Cycling
Colin McLaren	Moston Juniors Football Club
Peter Milner	Friends of Boggart Hole Clough
Chris Cooper	Community Member
Marc Hodges	Community Member
Gill Patman	Community Member
John Doohan	Community Member
Mervyn Romain	Community Member

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Councillor Veronica Kirkpatrick	Councillor for Charlestown Ward
Chris Fitzgerald	Commissioning Officer – Sports & Leisure
Elaine Crosdale	Blackley & North Manchester Athletics Club
John Biggs	Whitemoss Centre
Stephen Holt	Parkmount Residents Association
Lisa Cary	Community Member
Leonie Painter	Community Member
Josephine Quayle	Community Member
Mildred Lloyd	Community Member
Karen Galston	Community Member
Gillian Hamer	Community Member
Peter Carr	Community Member
Steve Lestrangle	Community Member

Suggested Topics: Raised by Members of the meeting

1. Track and Field Scheduling
2. Track Toilet usage for Great Run Local
3. Grass cutting of the grassed area located next to the running track
4. Tree maintenance
5. Footpath maintenance
6. Himalayan Balsam issues throughout the site
7. Members of the public parking on the footpaths close to the Athletics Track
8. Anti-Social Behaviour
9. Cross Country (December 2018) issues and concerns
10. Visitor Centre update

Group Constitution: Update

It was confirmed at the meeting that THREE members were required: Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Stakeholder members Chris Cooper and Karen Galston had previously cited their interest in becoming constituted members.

During the meeting, stakeholder member Marc Hodges volunteered for the role of Treasurer.

An agreement was made at the meeting that all interested parties would be invited as soon as possible to meet with the North Area Parks Team Manager and Neighbourhood Engagement and Delivery Officer to take this forward and get the group constituted.

David Lewis Recreation Ground Tree Planting Proposal

It was confirmed that the Arbor Team had been liaising with both North Area Parks and the Neighbourhoods Team with regard to funding being in place for the tree plant and the species of tree that are currently being considered.

It was agreed with the North Area Parks Manager that the list of species could be circulated via email following the meeting.

Half Term Activities

North Area Parks confirmed that the half term activity programme had been agreed with a range of activities taking place throughout the North Area Wards.

A copy of the half term activity schedule was emailed out following the meeting as per the instructions of the North Area Manager.

Lakeside Café: Tender Update and Operator Introduction

North Area Parks Management confirmed that the new lease on the Lakeside Café at Boggart Hole Clough commenced on the 01 October 2018 and made introduction of Marise Lindsey who is the Café's new operator going forward.

It was confirmed that North Area Parks and Manchester City Council's Facilities Management had been liaising and working with Marise to ensure that the Café is brought up to standard for re-opening in the very near future.

Although the Café would be being used as the venue for some of the October 2018 half term activities it was confirmed that a more realistic official opening would take place prior to the annual Remembrance Service at the Clough on the 11 November.

Marise confirmed that opening / operating hours and staffing would be determined at a later date as and when she has had more time running the Café etc.

It was also confirmed that Marise had touched base with a number of the community groups associated with the Café and **it was agreed that members of the stakeholder group and the North Area Parks Team would help and support Marise in any way that they could going forward to make the Café a success.**

Lake Issues

North Area Parks Management confirmed that, following on from the last stakeholder meeting that took place on the 16 June 2018, members from the 'Friends of Boggart Hole Clough' had a meeting on site, at the Boating Lake, with North Area Parks to discuss the impending continuation of the tree works that began in January – February 2018.

It was confirmed that, whilst some of the bulkier trees and foliage would be cut back and brought out of the water, some of the low hanging branches etc. would be left in situ to support the wildlife in / on the water.

It was reiterated at the meeting that these works had the full backing and approval of the Manchester Ecology Unit.

North Area Parks cited that they would be in touch with BioMatrix about the floating islands to determine what kind of plants are growing on them etc. and to see if any water plants could be planted in their place.

The Councillors in attendance also cited that the islands would need to be moved from their current position(s) on the water: **North Area Parks Team to liaise with King William IV Angling Society to this end to support the requested / required works.**

Given the complexities of looking after the Boating Lake in its entirety, a suggestion was made to draw up a lake management plan in order to ensure that the area is maintained as a nature reserve.

Litter Collection: Boggart Hole Clough and David Lewis Rec.

North Area Parks Management confirmed that a site wide visit was conducted with the head of the Grounds Maintenance Team and that a new and improved collection / pick schedule had been agreed upon going forward.

Copies of the schedule were provided at the meeting but will also be sent out with the action points.

Concerns were raised by numerous members of the meeting that, despite the new schedule being in place, the main Visitor Car Park next to the Visitor Centre was a major issue with litter not being picked on a regular enough basis.

North Area Parks confirmed that this would be taken up with the Grounds Maintenance Team but also that members of the meeting could send emails and / or photographs direct to Parks staff as and when they saw particularly bad areas for so that these could be logged with the Grounds Maintenance Team.

The waste in the numerous cloughs and ravines on site were mentioned: it was confirmed by North Area Parks and by the Councillors present that to get these cleared would cost a substantial amount of money that wasn't readily available to get the work done.

It was agreed that the issues surrounding the build-up of waste should be looked into further via a Park Plan and that they would need stringent planning prior to any action being taken given the costs and health and safety issues involved.

Suggested Topics: Raised by Members of the meeting

- 1. Track and Field Scheduling:** it was confirmed at the meeting that a separate meeting would take place with all concerned parties invited to meet with North Area Parks to discuss the issues.
- 2. Track Toilet usage for Great Run Local:** it was confirmed by North Area Parks that the Visitor Centre should, and would be open for use of the public toilets there on a Sunday morning and reiterated that costs are incurred for exclusive use of the track facilities as and when booked.
- 3. Grass cutting on the grassed area located next to the running track:** it was cited that said area used to be a wildflower meadow and suggested that the grass cutting was taking place at the wrong time of the year. It should be noted that, as per Grounds Maintenance schedules etc., all grassed areas are cut between the months of March and October. It should also be noted that the area was cut given complaints that the North Area Parks Team were receiving from community members and / or dog walkers who use the area regularly who cited that it was unkempt and in need of cutting. It was also suggested that looking into establishing a new wildflower area could be a possibility going forward.
- 4. Tree maintenance:** concerns were raised about the state of the trees located on the lower meadow located next to the running track. North Area Parks cited that this would be looked into and referred to Grounds Maintenance.

5. **Footpath maintenance:** concerns were raised about the edging of the paths (site-wide issue). North Area Parks cited that this could be included in the upcoming 'Winter Works' programme carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Team. It is also something that volunteer groups could be involved with.
6. **Himalayan Balsam issues throughout the site:** confirmed that there was a widespread problem regarding the plant throughout the park. Members of King William IV Angling Society mentioned clearance of the aforementioned plant at one of their associates' sites: North Area Parks to liaise with King William IV Angling Society on this and obtain quotes for works required.
7. **Members of the public parking on the footpaths close to the Athletics Track:** this is becoming an issue with activities on the track etc. North Area Parks Management confirmed that the North Area Parks Team could potentially look into the purchase of more rocks to go alongside the footpath as these have proved effective on the opposite side of the path.
8. **Anti-Social Behaviour:** members of King William IV Angling Society cited that there were issues with drug and alcohol misuse, night fishing and abusive behaviour at the fishing lake. North Area Parks Management confirmed that this would be referred to Parks Incident Response and that any anti-social behaviour witnessed needed to be reported immediately to either Parks Incident Response or the Police. It was also suggested that the reinstatement of a lockable barrier should be looked into (on the main pathway between the Charlestown Road entrance and the Lakeside Café) as this would deter / prevent anti-social behaviour occurring on site at night time. North Area Parks Team to get quotes for the works and, if actioned, look into scheduling for said barrier to be opened and locked daily etc.
9. **Cross Country (December 2018) issues and concerns:** due to a lack of time to cover all of the issues, it was agreed that all concerned parties would be invited, along with the organisers of the race, to attend a separate meeting with the North Area Parks Team.
10. **Visitor Centre update:** North Area Parks Management confirmed that, at present, there was no update with regard to the redevelopment of the Visitor Centre.

Date and Venue of the next meeting: 01 December 2018 (Park Development Plan)