

Addendum to ‘Future of Beckenham Place Park’ Mayor and Cabinet Report, 17th February 2016—Equalities Analysis

Introduction

A report is being presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 17th February 2016 which recommends that the Mayor:

Approves the continuation of work on the restoration of Beckenham Place Park, and notes that this will include:

- a) Public Consultation about park design and facilities
- b) Ongoing design work and accompanying technical work by consultants, to be funded by the HLF grant.
- c) Submission of a phase 2 bid to the HLF for approval of the detailed plans

Approves the closure of the existing golf course by 31st December 2016.

The aim of this assessment is to check whether the proposals (and/or any part of their implementation) is likely to have a positive or negative impact on different groups within our diverse community. Furthermore, it will assess whether or not there are actions which may be taken to **prevent** direct and indirect discrimination and **positively promote** harmonious community relations.

Assessment of relevant park user data and research

The information available about the protected characteristics of current park users is limited as it is not routinely collected. Where there is information available about current park users, this was collected as part of a usage survey carried out in November 2015. Data collected was based on a visual assessment carried out by the person carrying out the survey. Surveyors walked a specific route covering the park in an hour, and noted the people they saw. Hourly time slots from dawn till dark were allocated to surveyors on weekdays and weekend days to ensure full survey coverage on both a weekday and at the weekend.

There is no specific information available about golf users.

As the project progresses, additional data will be gathered about respondents to public consultation.

Assessment of key considerations/potential impacts

There is no data available on the protected characteristics of golfers at Beckenham Place Park and there is no suggestion that any group will be disproportionately affected by the closure of the golf course which is recommended in the report. It is also recognised at paragraph 5.4.5 and at Appendix 5 of the report, that there are a range of alternative golf courses within a 30 minute driving distance of the park and as such, the impact of the closure is limited. As such, this assessment will focus on the opportunities presented by the consultation and proposed regeneration of the park to promote equality and diverse use of the park.

Age

Age of park users from survey carried out in November 2015:

Age	Total	Percentage
0-5	19	3%
6-16	12	2%
17-24	26	4%
25-49	302	49%
50-69	223	36%
70+	37	6%
Grand Total recorded	619	100%

It should be noted that the majority of the survey was conducted during school hours, and as such, the number of children should be expected to be understated.

Key considerations/potential impacts:

Older people -

The proposed regeneration of the park includes the improvement of path networks within the open space, allowing those older people with mobility problems the opportunity to explore the park safely and with confidence. It is expected that a figure of 8 path, taking park visitors through the extent of the open space, will also be accessible to mobility scooters.

Various organisations representing the interests of older people were invited to attend the consultation events in 2014. The details of these are set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

Footpaths and visitor facilities will be improved which will improve the experience of visitors of all ages to access the park.

Younger people –

Both the 2015 usage Survey and the 2014 Usage and Movement survey stated a surprisingly low number of children in the park. 31% of the local population are under 20 (Census, 2011), and the rejuvenation of the park will provide a much needed safe local space for them to use. It will also offer educational opportunities for local schools and adults, essential for an area where 27.2% of the population currently have no qualifications (Census, 2011).

Various organisations representing the interests of young people were invited to attend the consultation events in 2014. The details of these are set out in Appendix 2 of the report. Further consultation is being carried out specifically with children and young people during the development phase, as well as with schools, to ensure that the facilities in the park post-regeneration appeal to this audience and meet their needs. Many schools locally have expressed a desire to use the park regularly as part of their education.

New facilities which are particularly likely to attract children and young people to the park are:

- New play facilities on both the west and eastern sides of the park,
- Toilets and refreshment facilities on both sides of the park
- Cycle route
- Possible kayaking or boating on the proposed lake
- Woodland trails

Disability

Whilst this was recorded as part of the November 2015 Usage Survey, it is likely to be unreliable as the visual assessment would have only identified where people had visual clues that they have a disability, ie. They were in a wheelchair. Only one person was identified as having a disability by people carrying out the survey.

Key considerations/impacts:

Public consultation events should take place in venues which are accessible to ensure that regeneration plans for the park address the needs and desires of those with disabilities. Officers are keen that both the landscape and the activities offered cater for those with disabilities.

The sensory garden, which is already an established feature of the park, will be retained, and it is hoped that many more users will benefit from it through increased footfall in the park and increased marketing.

Currently, there is a main road into the park, which is accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs up to the mansion house. Beyond this the pathways are not easily accessible, particularly in winter.

The project will improve the main pathways to ensure accessibility throughout the year. New toilets are also essential, with only one available currently. Neither the café nor the toilets are properly accessible currently and relocation to a fully accessible visitor centre, as outlined in the building plans attached, will enhance the visitor offer considerably and will support people with disabilities to visit the park.

Gender reassignment

There is no information available about current park users in relation to this protected characteristic.

Key considerations/impacts: None identified

Marriage and Civil Partnership

There is no information available about current park users in relation to this protected characteristic.

Key considerations/impacts: None identified

Race

Race of park users from survey carried out in November 2015:

Cultural Background	Total	Column1
Asian	10	2%
Black	46	7%
Chinese	3	0%
Mixed	8	1%
None recorded	11	2%
Other	9	1%

White	540	86%
Grand Total	627	100%

Key considerations/impacts:

People from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are underrepresented in the park user survey carried out in November 2015 when compared to 2011 Census data, which found that 48% of the local population come from BME backgrounds. The Council will ensure that the public consultation carried out on the second stage bid, should the Mayor proceed with the recommendations, will target local community organisations which represent the interests of BME people to better understand the reasons for this underrepresentation.

Through the provision of more facilities and greater accessibility the project will enable the park to play an important part in developing and maintaining community cohesion

Religion or belief

Key considerations/impacts:

Various organisations representing the interests of people with different religions and beliefs were invited to attend the consultation events in 2014. The details of these are set out in Appendix 2 of the report. Further consultation should be encouraged with all local community groups.

Sex

Sex of park users from survey carried out in November 2015:

Sex	Number	Percentage
F	234	38%
M	389	62%
Total	623	100%

Key considerations/impacts:

Females were underrepresented in the usage survey carried out in November 2015, with 62% of park users found to be male. The regeneration proposals aim to broaden the range of activities at the park which will appeal to people of all sexes.

Sexual orientation

Key considerations/impacts: None identified

Pregnancy and Maternity

There is no information available about current park users in relation to this protected characteristic.

Key considerations/impacts:

The masterplan includes improved facilities at the park which will benefit parents who need to change or feed their children. Pathways throughout the park will be improved through the proposed regeneration, and this will have a benefit to parents using prams or buggies.