

WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE – 11 DECEMBER 2017

Title of paper:	Highfields Park Restoration Project Update		
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Andy Vaughan, Corporate Director, Commercial & Operations Hugh White, Director, Sport & Culture	Wards affected: Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey	
Report author(s) and contact details:	James Dymond, Parks Development Manager, 0115 876 4983		
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Eddie Curry, Head of Parks, Open Spaces & Investment Funding, 0115 876 4982		
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	n/a		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Strategic Regeneration and Development			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools			<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport			<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector			<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years			<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
This report provides an update on the progress of the Lottery funded restoration of Highfields Park and Section 106 funding that has been allocated to the project.			
Recommendation(s):			
1	That the Committee notes the contents of this report.		

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The restoration of Highfields Park began in July 2017 and work is progressing well with the £3.9m of capital works.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The Highfields Park restoration project totals £4.8m of which £3.9m is capital works to improve the park. The balance is revenue activities including the new Park Ranger, a new Head Gardener, an events and activities programme and future maintenance budget increases.

- 2.2 The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and BIG Lottery Fund's *Parks for People* programme, Nottingham City Council, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Croquet Club.
- 2.3 The main contractor is Carillion Plc. Specialist sub-contractors are then brought in such as Bonsers restoration, Alpharail and WM Longreach.
- 2.4 The key elements of the project are as follows:

De-silting the lake: approximately 4,000m³ of silt are being removed from the lake, treated and pumped into geotubes on the north bank of the lake where a large flat area has been created for them to dry out. Once dried out, the silt will be removed off-site and totals approximately 450 lorry-loads. The silt removal is currently 5/6 of the way through the process of removing it from the lake with an excavator on a floating platform.

Stonework, fencing and gate repairs: bridges, balustrades and railings are being cleaned, repaired and repainted. This includes the stone bridges over the lake, the metal gateways at the Lakeside and paddling pool ends and the replacement of the 'lost' stone columns and railings leading from the pavilions to the lake.

Pavilion restoration: both pavilions at the central entrance to the park off University Boulevard are being restored, including roofing repairs and internal repair and redecoration.

Croquet lawns: the western bowls greens have been redesigned to make one large playing surface more suitable for croquet.

Boathouse: the roof and internal wooden framework has been repaired.

Ticket office: the missing arched 'wings' on the ends of the ticket office are being replaced to restore it to its original design. The doors, windows and interior will be restored to provide a high quality frontage to those hiring a boat.

Waterside: new mooring points and hand-holds for those climbing in and out of boats will be installed.

Tram-stop entrance, paving and lighting: a new custom-made artistic gate will be installed at the park entrance from the tram stop and the path leading to the park will be resurfaced. The four remaining gas lamps will be restored and lit using a new electrical power connection. The tarmac area near the lake edge and adventure golf office will be resurfaced.

Disabled parking: new disabled parking bays have been marked out in one of the car parks near Lakeside and the existing bays near the café will be removed to improve pedestrian safety in this area. Bollards will be installed to prevent access to unauthorised vehicles.

Signage: new site signage and interpretation will be designed and installed.

Path repairs: we will work with Probation Services to repair footpaths around the park.

Rhododendrons: a specialist adviser will be brought in to prune the rhododendrons and train NCC staff on this process.

Tree works: trees will be removed in key locations to open up historic views that influenced the original 1920s park design – e.g. the views from Lakeside to the Trent Building, which is now all but obscured.

- 2.5 The project timetable is currently on track and the main capital works are due to be completed in April 2018. Events and activities led by the Park Ranger will continue beyond this. Restoration Rambles, led by the Park Ranger to show park users the works, are taking place monthly.
- 2.6 As part of the original funding package, an external bid was made for £50,000. Unfortunately, this wasn't successful and so alternative funding has had to be found. To fill this gap, £25,000 of Section 106 funding from a development at St Thomas Mores Church, Glenwood Avenue, Wollaton has been allocated to the project. The balance of the Section 106 payment (£10,924.56) has been allocated to improving the play area at Torvill Drive.
- 2.7 Progress photos and the Park Ranger's most recent report can be found in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this report.
- 2.8 In addition to the main restoration project, a separate project is progressing with a charity who wish to fund raise to create a memorial garden at the former paddling pool. This will create a new wildlife area for quiet reflection.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Other options are being considered on a regular basis throughout the project as and when design changes or use of the project contingency are required.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 This paper proposes allocating £25,000 of Section 106 receipts (reference 14/03062/PFUL3) to the Highfields project. This receipt is not committed to any capital scheme at present therefore following this paper £25,000 will be earmarked pending further approval (e.g. via a Delegated Decision).
- 4.2 Once the project adjustments are carried out as detailed in section 2.6 above the Highfields Park capital project will be funded as detailed below:

	Executive Board July 12 £m	Executive Board July 14 £m	Delegated Decision 2285 £m	Delegated Decision 2634 £m	Current Decision £m	Total £m
Expenditure	3.655	(0.032)	0.129	0.200	(0.025)	3.927
Funding						
Heritage Lottery Fund	(3.100)	0.092	(0.149)	-	-	(3.157)
WREN Grant	(0.050)	-	-	-	0.050	0.000
Veolia Funding	(0.050)	-	0.050	-	-	0.000
Grant: University of Nottingham	(0.025)	-	-	-	-	(0.025)
Grant: Highfields Leisure Park Trust	(0.400)	(0.050)	(0.050)	(0.200)	-	(0.700)
Revenue Contribution	(0.030)	0.010	0.020	-	-	0.000
Grant: Croquet Club	-	(0.010)	-	-	-	(0.010)
Area Capital	-	(0.010)	-	-	-	(0.010)
Section 106	-	-	-	-	(0.025)	(0.025)
Total Funding	(3.655)	0.032	(0.129)	(0.200)	0.025	(3.927)

Thomas Straw, Finance, 29 November 2017

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 N/A

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

6.1 There are no ongoing issues from a Strategic Assets and Property perspective, but we are more than happy to advise in the event of an issue arising. (Advice provided by John West, Estates Surveyor, 10/11/2017)

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because an EIA has been carried out on the project within the last 2 years.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

8.1 None

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 Delegate Decision 2634 – Highfields Park funding.

Appendix 1: Progress Photos



Information and logo banners



De-silting the lake



Geotubes full of silt



Bridge cleaning



Boathouse roof requiring repair



Tram stop path repairs

Highfields Park

Park Ranger Interim Report

Summer / Autumn 2016



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The Summer/Autumn period has been another rewarding time with more and more park users taking an interest in the upcoming project and offering compliments. The park received its first Green Flag award this season which was a great achievement considering restoration works have not yet begun.

Working partnerships continue with Nottingham Lakeside Arts (NLA) in the shape of school visits, new activities and general day-to-day working practices which are becoming ever smoother. The partnership with the Colwick Park Lifeguards is also firm and our rolling project to recycle old boats as we replace them with new is ongoing. Old boats are generally finding their way to schools and nurseries where they are transformed into planters. Our new partnership with the RSPB is working well and their team attended the park over the August Bank Holiday weekend to promote the organisation. An existing partnership has also been strengthened with the appointment of a new estates and grounds maintenance manager for the University of Nottingham campus. Initial meetings have proved fruitful and it is hoped a good working relationship will continue.

Friends of Highfields Park is still developing and the Highfields User Group continues to be supportive and has now switched its meeting venues to the Boathouse as we look to further develop the Boathouse into a people hub on the park.

Arts events this period included Lifecycle 6 and a first in the shape of Outdoor Cinema which was screened over two nights featuring 'Jungle Book' and 'Grease'.

Recreational events included an Archery session with over 50 people taking part including 15 from 'Space Inclusive'.

Interpretative events this season included the regular monthly 'Restoration Rambles' in July, August and September and also the Heritage Open Day in September where we offer a behind the scenes look into the parks' buildings.

The park still updates its dedicated Facebook page, and general parks Twitter and Instagram feeds feature activities at Highfields. In addition, a Twitter handle @boathouseranger now offers Highfields specific tweets. Nottingham City Council has updated its website and as part of this, a new Parks page (<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/1587>) exists which will soon feature a 'Park Rangers' page which will aim to signpost and promote ranger activity at Highfields and indeed on all other parks.



Educational and practical events this season continued with Young Rangers in July and September and the annual Bushcraft summer school which was expanded to 20 children this year based on last year's success. Animal Adventures activities included the Big Butterfly Count in July, a Bat Walk in September and also a Pond dip for the 92nd Nottingham scouts. The 'A Grand Day Out' project also had a final session of the school year with 30 pupils from Heathfield Primary School.

The public volunteer days 'A Force for Nature' continued into the Summer mostly focussing on invasive species removal.

Memorials are a common feature on the park and 2 new benches were installed sporting the approved Heritage green colour and an existing out of character memorial bench was removed and an in character one was restored and replaced in the same location with the original plaque. The colour scheme has been very well received from passers-by.

The next quarter sees student and corporate volunteering sessions resume, a Princes Trust initiative, Autumn half-term activities such as Seed Safari, a trial Forest Schools session, more 'A Grand Day Out' trips, work placements, bench restoration with exclusion pupils and also the following events;

Restoration Rambles - Wednesday 9 November 1pm and Wednesday 7 December 1pm

Young Rangers - Saturday 5 November, Saturday 3 December

Spooky Campfire Tales - Friday 28 October 5-6pm

All events are listed on <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/whats-on-in-nottingham/> and search for Highfields Park in the box under 'Find an event to go to'.

