

To: North East Area Committee

Date: 19th January 2010

Item No:

Report of: City Leisure – Parks and Open Spaces

Title of Report:

Bury Knowle Park Improvements and Management Plan

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report:

1. To present and seek Committee endorsement for the Bury Knowle Park Management Plan 2009-2019.
2. To request a contribution towards funding for improvements to Bury Knowle Park to bring it to 'Green Flag' standard.

Key decision: No

Report Approved by:

Finance: Paul Swaffield

Legal: Lindsay Cane

Policy Framework:

Improve the local environment, economy and quality of life.
Stronger and more inclusive communities

Recommendation(s):

The North East Area Committee is recommended to endorse the Bury Knowle Park Management Plan 2009-2019.

The North East Area Committee is asked to determine if funds are available to make improvements to Bury Knowle Park and if so, choose one of the options above, or a variation of the options.

Introduction

- 1.** The Green Flag Award Scheme is an annual peer review voluntary award scheme that recognises high standards of management and maintenance of publicly accessible green spaces in England and Wales. The Scheme was established in 1996 and has since gone from strength to strength, with now over 1000 parks and green spaces across England and Wales now holding a Green Flag or Pennant Award. The Scheme is a critical element of the Governments aim to drive up the standards of our parks and green spaces.
- 2.** A record number of 1013 top quality parks and green spaces across England and Wales were announced for 2009/10. This includes Hinksey Park, Florence Park and Cutteslowe & Sunnymead Parks, which are the first parks in Oxfordshire to receive the award.
- 3.** Being an annual award the Council is re-submitting Hinksey, Florence, Cutteslowe & Sunnymead parks in 2010; along with submitting Bury Knowle Park for the first time.

Benefits of the award

- 4.** By visiting a park with a Green Flag, park users can be assured that their park is welcoming, safe and clean. A Green Flag Award visibly demonstrates to the local community a clear improvement to that park or green space.
- 5.** Revenue Opportunities - The Green Flag Award scheme is a lever for obtaining external funding through improvement grants.
- 6.** Tourism - People will visit award-winning parks from afar and successful venues for events bring repeat business. The Green Flag Award makes a statement as to the quality of the experience the visitor can expect and word of mouth is a very effective marketing tool.
- 7.** Part of a National Standard - The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces.
- 8.** Civic Pride - Pride is important. Our Victorian forefathers knew it and positively promoted the best of their parks and green spaces as examples of civic achievement. It is still relevant today.
- 9.** Community involvement – By applying for a Green Flag Award community consultation and involvement is increased, by setting up mechanisms such as Friends of Groups.

The Bury Knowle Park Management Plan

10. In order to achieve Green Flag status, Bury Knowle Park must have a management plan and must meet set standards within the areas outlined below;
1. A Welcoming Place
 2. Healthy, Safe, and Secure
 3. Clean and Well Maintained
 4. Sustainability
 5. Conservation and Heritage
 6. Community Involvement
 7. Marketing
 8. Management
11. The extent to which the park meets the key criteria is judged through the park's 10 Year Management Plan, and a site visit by Green Flag Judges in June 2010. The park's Management Plan is attached to this report, the Committee is asked to endorse this plan.

Park Improvements

12. After setting out a vision for the park, the Management Plan includes an action plan for the next 10 years. This outlines the priorities for the park, their cost, and the timescale for implementing them.
13. These priorities have emerged through consultation with the Friends of Bury Knowle Park, Headington Development Committee for Action (HDCA), parks staff, customers in the park and Green Flag guidance.
14. The Parks Service is working hard to bring Bury Knowle Park up to Green Flag Standard and making many improvements. There are currently limited resources in the Parks Service to deliver all of the improvements needed, however.
15. Parks staff have been trained as Green Flag Judges, and therefore have a good knowledge of what is required for a Green Flag Park.
16. Key improvements have been highlighted and prioritised in Table 1.

Table 1

Priority	Improvement	Cost
1 st	Install 4 new main welcome entrance signs @ £1200 each (See section 2.2 in Management Plan)	£4800
2 nd	Repair and tidy car park, straighten bollards and mark bays. (See page 2.1.4 in Management Plan)	£8400
3 rd	Provide a picnic bench and tidy/improve entrance from Chestnut Avenue (See section 2.1.3 in Management Plan)	£2500

17. A contribution towards funding these improvements is requested from the North East Area Committee's discretionary revenue budget 2009/10 and 2010/11. Various options are provided for consideration, with signage being a priority, however there are numerous variations.

Option a.

2009/10	4 new signs	£4800
2010/11	50% towards car park improvements	£4200

Option b.

2009/10	2 new signs	£2400
2010/11	2 new signs	£2400

Option c.

2009/10	4 new signs	£4800
2010/11	Chestnut Avenue improvements	£2500

Recommendations

- 18 The North East Area Committee is recommended to endorse the Bury Knowle Park Management Plan 2009-2019.
- 19 The North East Area Committee is asked to determine if funds are available to make improvements to Bury Knowle Park and if so, choose one of the options above, or a variation of the options.

Name and contact details of author:

Caroline Chanides – 01865 252437

Background papers: Bury Knowle Park Management Plan 2009 - 2019

Version:3.0

