

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> October 20 2009	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Executive
<b>Report title:</b>		Access to Sports Facilities in Peckham Rye Park – Report from Scrutiny Sub-Committee A	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Environment and Housing	

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the executive consider the comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Housing in response to the recommendations of scrutiny sub-committee A (set out in section 7 of the scrutiny report attached as appendix A) and overview and scrutiny committee (paragraph 4 below).

## **BACKGROUND**

2. In July 2008 the scrutiny sub-committee- A commenced a review of the access to sports facilities in Peckham Rye Park. The sub-committee produced its report in November 2008 in which it highlighted the need for a clear strategy for Peckham Rye Park with a view for short, medium and long term future for the provision and management of sports facilities.
3. The executive received the scrutiny sub-committee report at its meeting on April 28 2009 and noted its contents.
4. Overview and scrutiny committee considered the scrutiny report on February 18 2009 and agreed an additional recommendation as follows:  
  
“that the Nunhead and Peckham Rye Community Council and relevant executive members take a view on the Council’s preferred option within the next three months and start progressing towards finding the necessary funding.”
5. The detailed recommendations of the report together with the response of officers are set out in paragraph 8 of this report.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

6. The scrutiny review and the opportunity to engage with many of Peckham Rye Park and Common’s users to create a clear framework for the future is much welcomed.
7. Peckham Rye Park and Common has received a large amount of capital investment in the past few years. The Heritage Lottery Funded restoration was completed in 2005 and £2.2m was invested in the park, including improvements to the football pitches. In 2007 the new cafe on the common was completed to the value of £500,000. In addition £80,000 was granted in 2007 for new changing facilities. There have also been CGS grants for the skate park, outdoor gym and the adventure playground.
8. Response to Scrutiny Report recommendations:

Scrutiny Report Recommendation	Response
<p>1. Management to control booking allocations, with a clear procedure of pitch usage.</p>	<p>Parks Management have taken specific steps to control booking allocations through by convening a Sports User Group forum where clubs discuss their need for bookings at the beginning of the season. In June 2009 representatives from the football clubs, Gaelic football club and Friends of the Park were invited to meet with representatives from the Parks and Open Spaces Business Unit. Most clubs attended and meeting was successful, opening up useful dialogue which should facilitate a more collaborative way of working. This group will meet at least twice a year or more regularly if issues arise.</p>
<p>a. That management of the pitches and facilities on Saturday and Sunday is required to supervise and assist user groups on these days.</p>	<p>The Area Park Manager is on duty every other weekend, on intervening weekends a duty manager for all Southwark Parks is on call. There are currently no extra resources available to provided dedicated supervision and assistance to user groups at the weekend.</p>
<p>b. That officers look at the pitch allocations and consider the possibility of extending pitch availability at the rear of the park by 2 extra pitches and use pitches at the front of the park for casual users, but giving priority to sporting activities.</p>	<p>The Council has commissioned consultants to deliver an Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Strategy. The aim of the study is to assess and audit the open space, sports and recreation provision within the London Borough of Southwark in accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. This study includes a playing pitch strategy.</p> <p>Early findings for Peckham Rye ward (the provision was analysed at this level as it provides the most accurate information relative to the sites in question) show that there is a deficit of junior and mini pitches. There are currently 2 senior pitches, 2 junior pitches and 2 mini football pitches at Peckham Rye Park and a Gaelic Football pitch on the Common.</p> <p>Due to the extension of the football season at the Park in 2008 one of the existing junior pitches is unplayable and teams are being asked to use junior pitches at other sites nearby. This pitch requires drainage works, re-leveling and re-seeding of the playing surface to put it back into use. There are currently no resources available for this work.</p>

	<p>There are no other sites within the park which are suitable for football pitches. The common suffers from poor drainage and heavy informal use throughout the year and is therefore not suitable for formal play. Significant investment would be required to allow for formal play on the Common.</p>
<p>c. Review of policy and training.</p>	<p>New season pitch bookings forms are sent out to clubs in August and are accompanied by clear terms and conditions of pitch usage.</p> <p>A review and benchmarking is currently being undertaken about how to best manage sports bookings and sporting activity in parks.</p>
<p>2. Best use of Peckham Rye facilities</p>	<p>The facilities at Peckham Rye are very well used. There are some areas where improvements could be made – please refer to responses below for more information.</p>
<p>a. That officers review the range of sports that could take place at the park and include user groups including cricket and bowling representatives.</p>	<p>Whilst it is not possible to provide every type of sport in every major Park it is important that the Council makes the most of all available assets. To encourage wider use of the new bowling facility the Council has funded ‘bowls taster sessions’ this year to attract new users. In addition the cafe has been asked to open the facility at the weekend throughout the summer, as a pilot, to encourage use on a ‘pay per play’ basis. There is currently no bowls club and therefore no bowling representative available to attend a user group meeting.</p> <p>Cricket is not available at Peckham Rye Park or Common due to a lack of demand, and there are no current plans to make it available in the future.</p>
<p>b. That officers look at the possibility of extending pitches and increased facilities as the demand for sporting activity increases, which fits in with health and youth provision aspects.</p>	<p>Please refer to response 1b. In addition to football and bowls facilities, there is an adventure centre, a skate park and a new outdoor gym in the park which fit in with health and youth provision agendas.</p>
<p>c. A management user group should be established which will have equal representation of all user groups including park</p>	<p>A Sports User Group has now been established based upon the existing successful model developed at Burgess Park. The group meets twice a year.</p>

management reporting directly with the Council. Perhaps this can be a template for all parks in future.	
3. The need for a full feasibility study	Please refer to responses to recommendations 3d and 3e.
a. A full review of changing rooms and storage container is required as the present facilities do not meet the needs of the present users.	<p>The Council recognises the need to review changing facilities at Peckham Rye.</p> <p>The HLF grant could only fund the restoration of original Victorian features at Peckham Rye. Changing rooms could not form part of the scheme. There was a dilapidated changing room building outside the park on the common which was demolished at the time of the HLF project. The decision to demolish was taken because the building was dilapidated and it was not possible to refurbish it due to its unsuitable position on what was a pond.</p> <p>Six of the eight existing changing rooms (built with £80K of CGS funding) have planning consent until 2012. The Council needs to ensure that there is a well thought through plan to address the need for changing facilities for the end of the current planning consent.</p> <p>There is now a now a 40ft container available for storage.</p>
b. The picnic area in the Park could also do with some development as it is a beautiful relaxing area which can be used by all park users.	User feedback suggests that this area is a successful part of the park and therefore no further improvements are planned.
c. There is a need to update notice boards and maps in the park/common.	The Parks community outreach team will ensure that the notice boards are regularly updated.
d. That the feasibility study be released and used for basic sporting activities in the park/common.	Nunhead and Peckham Rye Community Council had granted £10k to fund a feasibility study that looked at the development of a Multi Use Centre at Peckham Rye. The proposal was to deliver a new centre at Peckham Rye which would house a new One o'clock Club, changing facilities, community facilities and youth facilities.

	<p>This study was made available at a public meeting in November 2008 and discussed at the N&amp;PR CC in July 09.</p>
<p>e. That the Nunhead &amp; Peckham Rye Community Council and relevant executive members take a view on the Council's preferred option within the next three months and start progressing towards finding the necessary funding.</p>	<p>The feasibility study presented options for delivering the proposed Multi Use Centre elements at Peckham Rye. All options were estimated to cost in excess of £1m to deliver in full.</p> <p>An options appraisal report was presented at the Nunhead and Peckham Rye Community Council meeting in July 2009. Members voted on the options and agreed on the best way to deliver improved facilities at Peckham Rye, and the best use of available Cleaner Greener Safer funding.</p> <p>Community Council Members agreed to endorse the multiple site option, a phased approach. This option allows existing CGS money to be used to develop costed proposals for changing facilities and children's facilities at Peckham Rye. These proposals would enable the Council to seek funding from external sources and to implement plans as and when external funding becomes available.</p> <p>CGS funding and play builder funding has been made available for a new One o'clock club and new children's play facilities. These works can now be delivered.</p> <p>It is not proposed that any Council money will be allocated to the Park in the foreseeable future other than that already allocated through the CGS process as there is no available resource in the Council's capital programme.</p>
<p>4. That officers be requested to provide information on the proposed football centre to all parks officers for their information.</p>	<p>Information on the proposed football centre or Multi Use Centre has been widely disseminated within the Parks Business Unit.</p>

9. The original request for a scrutiny review in to the use of facilities at PRP followed concerns raised by local residents and sports clubs into the arrangements at the site. In addition to the scrutiny review formal complaints have been received by the Council concerning the processes followed by the Council and Community Council in making decisions relating to PRP. These concerns have been investigated by the

Council's Corporate Complaints Manager who has concluded that the process and decisions made were correct and had not caused any significant injustice to any individual or group of individuals.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Scrutiny Sub-Committee - minutes and reports	Scrutiny Team Room 3.16 Town Hall Peckham Road London	Fitzroy Williams Scrutiny Project Manager  Tel: 020 7525 7224

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Access to Sports Facilities in Peckham Rye Park – Report from Scrutiny Sub-Committee A

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment and Housing	
<b>Report Author</b>	Rebecca Towers, Parks and Open Spaces Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	October 12 2009	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>Consultation with other officers / directorates / Executive member</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Strategic Director Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No