



## London Borough of Bromley News Release

**30 July 2014**  
**For immediate release**

### **Crystal Palace Park improvements agreed**

A range of improvements to the landscape and built heritage in Crystal Palace Park, as well as improvements to visitor facilities have been agreed as part of a £2.4 million improvement programme.

As part of the improvements, which are being funded by the Mayor of London and Bromley Council, a Community Projects Fund is being established. The fund will be able to award grants to community groups with aspirations to deliver specific projects and activities in the park that require funding. Groups will be able to apply for up to £20k for community projects which are consistent with the vision for the park as set out in the master plan.

The feasibility of, options, and detailed costings for the nine improvement projects identified through public consultation will now be worked up. The nine projects being pursued are:

- Conserving the dinosaur models
- Conserving the sphinxes and south terrace steps
- Conserving the Paxton basin and improving surroundings
- Returning parking site in central area back to parkland
- Removing parking from central axis
- Removing turnstiles from central axis
- Renovating concert platform to be a functioning venue
- Restoring existing café
- The creation of a new skate park

Further news is expected in Spring 2015 when this first stage of work is complete. It is then expected that these projects will start to be delivered from Summer 2015 onwards depending on the results of this feasibility stage.

Richard Blakeway, Deputy Mayor for Land and Planning, said: "The Mayor is committed to creating a bright future for Crystal Palace Park working in partnership with Bromley Council. We are delighted that, following consultation locally, we have been able to identify a raft of improvements set to benefit park users."

Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council, said, "This is good news for the park which demonstrates Bromley Council's absolute determination to bring about long term improvements to the park. We are enormously grateful for the on-going support

that local groups and residents have given us and we will continue to work with local people going forwards.”

Councillor Carr added, "Understandably, people are also interested in our negotiations with the ZhongRong Group and whilst these discussions continue, I know people do understand our need to respect the confidential nature of these discussions. Equally, as soon as we can say more, we will and as it is critically important we get this right, we will take as much time as it needs and then of course, we will share the nature of our position.”

Additionally, progress is also being made at the Crystal Palace Subway. Donald Insall Associates has been appointed to carry out feasibility works at the Crystal Palace Subway. The purpose of the works is to carry out technical investigations, to inform the production of a Conservation Management Plan and costed options for the future of the site. Work began on site on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, and is expected to be completed by December 2014. English Heritage has provided a grant for 50% of the project costs. The Friends of Crystal Palace Subway are fully supportive of the project, and will be making available archive material collected through their Inspired by the Subway project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) to inform the works, as well as providing feedback throughout the process as key stakeholders.

Further information about Crystal Palace Park is available at [www.bromley.gov.uk/crystalpalacepark](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/crystalpalacepark).

ENDS

**Editor's notes:** The programme was agreed by the Council's Executive on Tuesday 22 July and by the Mayor of London on Thursday 24 July.

The final list of projects will be subject to final approval by the GLA's Investment and Performance Board.

The spring target for preparing the detailed costings will allow all the project costs to be gauged before moving forward. It is expected much of the work will be completed before this time.

The parking projects proposed, along with the other projects being pursued, will be fully investigated to ensure their viability. A parking study of the park is already underway, as commissioned by the GLA.

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