



WORLD'S FIRST

Birkenhead Park Partnership Meeting

October 8th 2016

Park Manager Report

1. Current status:

- **Staff:** Visitor services team have been joined by are 2 new Forest School Practitioners Laura Williams and Russ Cottrell. Both Laura and Russ are fully experienced in Forest School delivery.
- The visitor centre team has also been joined by our new Security Events Co-ordinator Scott Brennan. Scott has had vast experience in security detail gained from his service with the Royal Marines Commandos

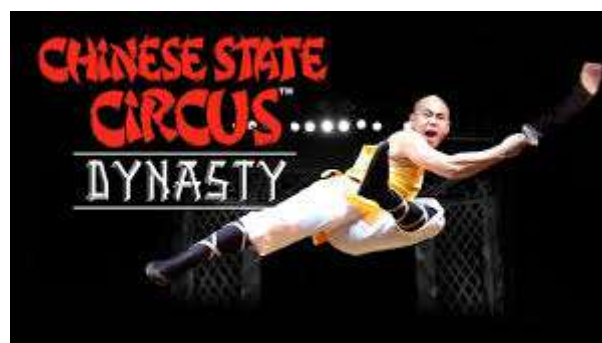
2. Promotion

- Meetings took place with the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Birkenhead First. It has been agreed that future events in BHP will be promoted by both parties.
- The new park information leaflets have been delivered (5000). The new material is publicly available and has replaced the existing leaflets.

- 19 children including Tutors from China joined our Forest School team and local school children from Cathcart St Primary on 6th July. The children and Tutors had a wonderful experience with our outdoor educational sessions.



- The Internationally acclaimed Chinese State Circus will be performing in BHP from 23rd Sep-2nd Oct 2016. They will be located on the Park rd. east playing fields. This will highlight BHP as an International venue.



- The Birkenhead Park Festival of Transport took place on 24th-25th September in the Upper Park. Whilst the event looked a lot better in terms of its layout, there were a few issues to do with footfall and pricing. The Birkenhead Park Team will work with the FoT Committee to improve the event for next year.
- The Lancashire Evening Post, the Blackpool Gazette and Lancaster Guardian posted an excellent article on BHP: Reporter Bob Clarke.

<http://www.lancashirewalks.com/JG126%20Birkenhead%20Park.pdf>

3. Partners:



Central Park Conservancy

- The BHP Master Plan was sent to Doug Blonsky President and C.E.O of NYCP for comment.
- Central Park Conservancy has launched their “Forever Green” Project. This project is similar to BHP Master Plan. NYCP aim to raise \$300 million dollars to improve and protect the future of Central Park.

<http://www.centralparknyc.org/support/forever-green.html>

- Doug Blonsky may visit BHP next April 2016 **TBC**



Wirral
Metropolitan
College

Wirral Metropolitan College

- Students from WMC outdoor education and army prep level 3 will be moving into the Grand Entrance (North Lodge) after the summer break. The lodge will be utilised for functional skills while practical sessions will be held within the park. This is a positive step forward in reaching out and engaging with 16-21yr olds.

SureStart/Trespass: Junior Rangers shop.



- Due to the Pyramids concentrating on new events this year (focussed around the Rio 2016 Olympics), the Junior Rangers programme was held in BHP. Junior Rangers began its summer activity programme in August, in partnership with:
 - Wirral Forest School
 - Sure Start (My Child Can), Brassey Gardens Children's centre
 - Catholic Children's society
 - Talonted Feathers
 - Exo Teach
- Also assisting in the provision of activities throughout the event were Maureen Chadwick of the Friends of Birkenhead Park and Sarah Hastie, Manager of the Trespass store in the Pyramids.
- The event provided 8 days of themed activities for children of all ages held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays over the August period. Themes included, pirate days, storytelling days, space days, animal days and around the world day. Children took part in den building, paper crafts, face-painting, country crafts as well as being inspired to play outdoors. There were over 1000 visits per week to these events.
- As a result of Trespass' involvement through Sarah, they are now looking to donate high-visibility jackets for the Forest Schools programme.



Vauxhalls/General Motors UK

VAUXHALL

- The team at BHP have taken delivery of a mini bus. Children from other areas can now visit Birkenhead Park. It is hoped that staff will be able to engage with schools across the Wirral.



- A Volunteer Team from the Vauxhalls facility in Ellesmere Port took part in helping with the clearing up of the Figure 8 Lake on 21st June. It is expected that additional volunteer days will take place in the coming months

HYPE, HYPE in Birkenhead Park

- HYPE works with young people directly within local communities in Wirral, Merseyside. Together they identify issues and projects within local communities

that young people feel can make a change to the quality of life for those within the community.

- They plan and deliver projects and workshops to best meet the identified needs to promote a healthy and more cohesive community. HYPE works to provide young people with productive activities as an alternative to an antisocial way of life and lead to a better future for those involved.
- The first cohort of NCS during this summer pitched to 3 other groups so there were lots of young people and leaders in the park most weeks during the holidays.

TS Black Cap Sea Cadets – are now in partnership. Mike Larson who has taken the post at the Birkenhead Base is keen to work on joint projects that will benefit all our beneficiaries. Throughout the summer they will be painting the railings in-between both sites.



Landscape Alive- Birkenhead Park

- The first information pod has been delivered and work has begun on its content. Wirral Met ESOL students will be assisting with over 7 different languages to enable in delivery of information to visitors.

Visitor Centre Pod - Laterna Vox – Landscape Alive

The initial programming for the pod in the visitor centre will contain 8 elements.

1. Video Montage – History of the Park - time 3 minutes
 - How and why it was created
 - Historic buildings
 - Reasons for the way it was designs
 - Key features – introduction
2. Restoration – Photo montage with voice over – 3 mins max
 - Looking form the decline to modern times
 - Count down from twelve million (Initial HLF funds) explaining how the funds were spent.
3. Links with New York, the world and beyond – Map with Lines and links, voice over – 3 mins
 - Landscape alive
4. Our Town – Birkenhead Photo, film clippings and voice over - 3 mins
 - A brief history of our town and its development
5. Map PDF downloadable file/jpeg downloadable file
6. Park Life today – Not sure yet but would be nice to have interviews/film
 - How the Park works and how much it costs!
 - Rangers Day
 - Apprentices day
 - Park Managers Day
 - Forest schools
 - To infinity and beyond – the future

7 Our Park – What Birkenhead Park means to our visitors local to international

- Visitor voice captures
- Children's videos

8 Events – downloadable document



- Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Birkenhead First have agreed to assist in promoting and advertising events in Birkenhead Park. Their expertise and connections will benefit BHP greatly. Both parties will be promoting our September Super Weekend and Christmas Market events this year.

4. World Heritage Status:



- Monthly meetings to explore the application for WHS have taken place. New partners including Peel Holdings have expressed interest and offered help and advice in driving us forward in achieving this World class status.
- A sub group/committee for WHS has been created. The group comprises of individuals with significant experience in related fields to aid with the application.
- Dr David Jacques who was first Inspector of Historic Parks & Gardens at English Heritage has expressed an interest in BHP application.
- New York Central Park C.E.O Doug Blonsky may possibly visit BHP next April. It is hoped the visit will include Central Park Conservancy's endorsement for our WHS application.

5. Birkenhead Park Trust



- The Birkenhead Park team is still exploring various charitable trust models, it has been agreed that we need to adopt what is beneficial and create a mechanism which will embody a safe and viable route for likely providers. This will include a terms of reference.
- This trust mechanism must also be capable of ring fencing for the park, any donations received. This will need to be highlighted so contributors feel secure in the belief that their donation, for whichever chosen project they would like to support within the park, reaches its objective.

Such as:

- kick-starting trust - to get projects off the ground
- revenue – to cover running costs, including salaries for project staff
- capital – to pay for building costs or equipment
- project funding – to pay for a mixture of items within a project budget, sometimes including a contribution towards overheads and management time
- It has been agreed that once the trust is active, a board of trustees with relevant skills be selected i.e. legal, financial, etc.

REPORT AUTHOR

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