

# Barnard Park 3G football pitch management plan

## Governance

Islington Council will manage the pitch and the building as well as the wider park facilities.

Football Foundation funding requires the inclusion of a sinking fund writing down the investment over a 10-year period so as to protect their investment, and requires the recipient to reinvest thereafter to ensure sustainability.

## Site steering group

A steering group is to be developed to include representation from:

- The council's Greenspace Team
- The council's Leisure Team Officer
- Islington Football Development Partnership staff
- Friends of Barnard Park
- The council's Early Years Service
- Awesome CIC

The steering group will:

- Agree the delivery programme and priorities
- Address any concerns or alterations to the overall plan
- Meet and share relevant information

## Vision for the park

The investment into the park is the culmination of several consultations. It is an opportunity to galvanise the vision for the park and more recent aspirations about utilising parks for wider health benefits. The park will enable the development of new activities due to its new design. It will benefit from more footfall and floodlighting throughout the evenings, which will enable it to be a place where the community will feel safe and be able to participate in positive play.

The park staffing approach will need to reflect this new vision and embrace an increased and varied programme. The park needs to form part of a wider community engagement approach as the area has suffered considerable anti-social behaviour issues and issues affecting youth. Facility management forms just one element of the staffing regime; the key role for staff is as enablers to increase activity.

# Staffing

One member of staff will be on at all times.

The site will be staffed all days of the year (except 25 December to 2 January).

# Site operating hours

The pitch will be open 9am-10pm Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm on Saturdays, and 9am-8pm on Sundays.

The building will be open and staffed 8am-10pm Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm on Saturdays, and 8am-8pm on Sundays.

The building is to house a staff office, so availability of staff may extend from these hours dependent on seasonality.

The One O'Clock Club hours are to be developed as a Service Level Agreement with the Early Years Service. The building is designed to serve multiple purposes; therefore the extent of wider community use will need to be factored into the operations as well as the upkeep management and pricing regime.

# Maintenance

Existing corporate contracts will be extended to encompass provision at this site including the respective Health and Safety management and all the regulatory and statutory building management requirements.

# Pitch maintenance

The installation of the pitch, fencing and lighting will be through the Football Foundation framework. The first year's maintenance of those facilities is included within this package. Thereafter a service contract with a pitch specialist is needed in order to complete:

- Top up of infill as per recommendation for warranty
- Cleanse of infill (yearly or as per requirement – ongoing assessment of level of migration from grass pitch to be recorded)
- Repairs as required

A regular localised regime is required for the site's operational staff.

- The pitches will be litter-picked / swept daily.
- Tractor sweep of pitches as per warranty (twice or once weekly)

# Programme

A balanced programme of Free Play activities, targeted youth provision for local groups and some bookable paid slots has been developed to enable the site to respond to the immediate needs of the area. This approach has been used at other local facilities and also responds to the

need for youth engagement in the area. Two current users of the park, Copenhagen Youth Project and Highbury Wolves, formed the group of key existing stakeholders; however a number of other stakeholders have been consulted when preparing the draft programme of activities that will take place at the new sport pitch in Barnard Park.

The Football Foundation have a required approach to a balanced programme but as Islington has a borough-wide football plan, some sites place more emphasis on certain elements than others. Examples include girls provision at Whittington Park, leagues and competitions at Market Road, and youth engagement at Elthorne Park and Rosemary Gardens.

- Delivery outcomes to be managed / monitored by the Islington Football Development Partnership.
- Islington Football Development Partnership to complete Football Foundation annual usage reports in partnership with Greenwich Leisure Limited staff.
- Islington Football Development Partnership to complete Football Foundation financial reports.

As part of the consultation with stakeholders we approached the National Governing bodies, Sport England, the Football Foundation, and the Rugby Football Union. One of the results of this consultation is the new provision for some recreational standard rugby. This affects the specification for the pitch surface as it requires a different shock pad. The Football Foundation support this approach. This approach meets all the Football Association (FA) standards as technology has developed since the early versions of the product; the Rugby Football Union have committed to a relatively small capital allocation as part of the funding for the pitch.

Seasonality is also key for this site. The winter programme of 34 weeks will be different than the summer programme of 17 weeks.

## Free play

Free play is scheduled within the programme for weekdays and weekends and fluctuates between winter and summer.

Free play is introduced to ensure that there is a balanced approach to play for local community access. It enables the park to foster a come-and-try approach throughout the week and weekends.

Winter programme – Monday and Friday 3-5pm, Saturday 4-6pm and Sunday 3-6pm

Summer programme – Monday 3-5pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-6pm, Saturday 4-6pm and Sunday 3-6pm

Further hours are offered within summer holiday weeks.

The pitch will also be free to use where booking slots are not used.

## Bookings

Bookings across our sports pitches in Islington are managed by Greenwich Leisure Limited who also manage our Leisure Centres so that it is a one-stop shop for the customer who wants to book sports facilities and to allow for web-based bookings. This approach has been beneficial for the customers and for the council as applicants can be offered a range of options and alternatives due to high demand.

Income is collected and managed by Greenwich Leisure Limited on behalf of the council and is then paid in full to the council on a monthly basis.

No cash is collected on site.

## Village Green

User groups fed back that this area needs to be flexible in its programming for some play and some flexible park usage as too much intense play would affect the grass which would deteriorate and become unusable for general park users.

## Pricing

Pricing is managed by Islington Council and reviewed annually with all the council's fees and charges as part of the annual budget process.

The Barnard Park pitch is a 9v9 pitch; it's the first of its kind in the borough and a new FA regulatory size. The pitch can be divided into three small sided areas which is the same as introduced at Whittington Park and Market Road. The three thirds allow us to increase participation figures due to high demand and enable there to be a balance between adult and junior provision.

Seasonality is also key for this site. The winter programme of 34 weeks will be different than the summer programme of 17 weeks.

The proposed rates for the Barnard Park facilities are listed below.

### Pitch Hire (per hour)

- Full Pitch Adult £90
- Full Pitch Junior £55
- Small sided pitch Adult £40
- Small sided pitch Junior £25