

LBB Parks Rangers Services, Activity for Period April 2011- March 2012:

Since the merging of CPP, Parks Services & Countryside Management at the beginning of November 2011, the new Parks Rangers Service is going through significant change & these are, indeed, challenging times for us.

We have seen the first three months go by & have all worked very hard to deliver on all fronts as best as has been possible under the circumstances. This has also been a time of observation because by doing this, it allows us to gauge what we as a new, leaner team with a very broad remit, can realistically aim to deliver overall in the future.

As a result, next year, you will notice other headings, as per below. These may include things such as the reintroduction of walks & talks or children's activities such as Dinosaur Buzz Club.

The integration of Countryside/Habitat Management into this new service probably represents our biggest challenge due to the sheer quantity of work this entails & on an indefinite, cyclical basis. Once we have established what is realistically achievable for this team, figures for work undertaken will likely be listed here, separately from 'Parks Maintenance'.

Scratching at the surface, here, & all still very much in planning stages.

In the meantime, please find our core stats as follows:

Maintenance & Repairs: 735 sites, 2544 man/hrs.

Graffiti Removal: 113 incidences, 188 man/hrs.

Site Surveys/Checks: 849 site visits, 1062 man/hrs.

Fly-tip Collection: 272 incidences, 394 man/hrs. So far 87,380Kg collected & disposed of, 173 tip-runs, £12,500, disposal costs.

Vehicle Recoveries: 29 burnt-out/abandoned vehicles, 21 cars & 8 motorcycles recovered, 93.5 man/hrs.

Traveller convoys illegally camped & evicted: 5 convoys on LBB-owned land, 37.5 man/hrs legal process, Police liaison & subsequent eviction.

Parks & 'Payback' Community Service: Supplied tools/equipment to 61 Payback groups for tasks designated by Jackie Baxter, 86 Ranger man/hrs.

Payback Teams designated tasks by & working alongside Parks Rangers staff (or agreed by Jackie Baxter): 23 groups at 41 sites, 151 Ranger staff man/hrs.

Most recent & highly successful instance of this was during the Mountfield Estate (BR5) Multi-Agency Clean-up Operation, 17th January 2012. Rangers & Probationers started in Sandway Rec. then expanded into the estate. Our combined contribution to this effort:

- Removed 8m² of graffiti from Sandway Rec. play area
- Cut back vegetation affecting pathways
- Collected litter filling 56 large compactor sacks from Sandway Rec. but most came from green communal areas, pathways & other problem-spots identified in & around the estate.

- Removed two large trailer loads of waste with a combined weight of 1840Kg. One from Sandway Rec. (mixture of vegetative cuttings, litter & dumped waste) & one from pathway off Edenbridge Close (dumped large felled trees from adjacent garden).
- Cut up & removed a full-sized tree (around 60ft) left in an alleyway from an occupant's garden, as above.

Friends of Parks: Rangers have provided FG's with 164 assists, totalling 486 man/hrs. This support can take many forms from simply dropping off tools, supplying the Friends event caravan to full-commitment such as providing Ranger staff, vehicles, trailers, tools, equipment, materials & personal protective clothing for volunteers for the duration of an agreed workday. We ensure Health & Safety is adhered to & staff can provide additional services such as tree felling or vegetation management using tools such as chainsaws, industrial scrub-cutters & so on. We also remove & dispose of any fly-tipped waste or litter collected following such an event.

Community Projects & Events: On occasion, Parks Services staff assist community groups that do not fall within the parks maintenance remit. We are happy to help those who want to help themselves & make a difference to their local surrounding. The Blenheim Estate Residents Association (BERA) receive the same service as the 'Friends of Parks' groups, as do volunteers of the St. George's (Beckenham Green), St. John's (Penge) & Coney Hall Church Groups upon request. We have responded to such requests on 79 occasions this period, 334 man/hrs.

Formal Borough Parks Events: Parks Rangers Services have received & processed 266 formal applications for events such as firework displays, pageants, fetes, fairs & so on that take place at various parks within the borough following approval. Parks staff have contributed 113 man/hrs from the supply of support as requested by the organiser, to organisational responsibility & safety implementation at events such as the Crystal Palace Fireworks Display.

Junior Citizens Presentations: Rangers staff deliver presentations to Year 6 children regarding the hazards of illegal motorcycling & the effects of vandalism & anti-social behaviour roughly on a monthly basis as part of our commitment to the Safer Bromley Partnership. At the end of each event, approximately 500 children are seen. Parks Services staff so far have attended 17 days, 175 man/hrs, with almost 1750 children seen.

Parks Rangers, Ward Security & Police: As always, we continue to work closely together to form a very effective alliance, indeed. Having access to information regarding local crime via our 'Shopsafe' radios means Ward Security staff are often at the sharp-end & have, on numerous occasions, acted directly to help Police prevent crime or assist in apprehending offenders. Similarly, we are often called upon to assist Police in other ways. Recent examples include helping to cordon off an area around a suspected explosive device, helping to direct traffic at the scene of a serious road traffic collision, providing specialist handler & dog support to assist Police during anti-drug operations & assisting in the search for missing persons. So far, Parks Rangers have provided 8 assists, 42 man/hrs. **This does not include time spent by Ward Security assisting in tackling criminal activity.