

**EXECUTIVE**

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**(A) QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

**From Cllr William Huntington-Thresher**

Can the Executive confirm that all the grounds around the Priory in Orpington have permitted path status and any obstructions would require licencing from the Council, or stopping up via the Rights of Way Committee?

**Reply:**

The pathways within the Priory Gardens have no statutory protection and are not registered as formal rights of way. Technically from a legal perspective if any changes to such pathways were desired then it would be within the gift of the Council rather than a requirement to go through a stopping up process via the Rights of Way Committee. The lease for V22 and its successors provides for continued access to and from the land being demised to them.

**Supplementary question:**

Councillor Huntington-Thresher asked whether this part of the Park was like a shop forecourt, which should not be obstructed.

**Reply:**

The Portfolio Holder agreed that this appeared to be correct, but the precise legal status needed to be investigated.

**From Michael Meekums to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder**

1. What experience has Greenwich Leisure Ltd had in managing (a) Archaeological and (b) Archive collections and what are their proposals for future management of Bromley Historic Collections?

**Reply:**

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) will draw on their experience of operating the Wandsworth Heritage Service; key partnerships with Heritage Wandsworth and the Greenwich Heritage Centre; and in operating the contract for Lincolnshire Libraries since April 2016. In Lincoln Central Library, GLL is responsible for the Tennyson Research Centre and is a key partner with Lincolnshire Archives in providing local history services across the county.

**Supplementary question:**

The archaeological / art collections store in Priory Gardens has remote environmental monitoring, how will this be monitored in the future, has Greenwich Leisure Ltd had any experience in environmental monitoring?

**Reply:**

Their proposals for Future Management of Bromley Historic Collections (BHC) are to retain current levels of service as outlined in the specification including remote

environmental monitoring. The staff currently undertaking this role will, subject to an agreement to award the contract, TUPE transfer to GLL, so the same people will be doing this work as before.

**2.** What arrangements will there be for the public to have access to see (a) the archaeological and (b) the archive collections material in the future?

**Reply:**

The requirements of the specification will be delivered by GLL. This will ensure that the current arrangements apply ensuring the public have the same levels of access to a) archaeological and (b) the archive collections material in the future.

**Supplementary question:**

What staff will there be to look after the archaeological and archive collections?

**Reply:**

GLL have demonstrated in their Method statement in response to the requirement of the specification that the current staffing levels and expertise relating to archaeological and archive collections will be maintained, so again, there will be no change.

**3.** What arrangements will there be for depositing (a) archaeological and (b) archive material in the library in the future?

**Reply:**

In line with the Collections Development Policy, Bromley Historic Collections (BHC) will continue to collect and conserve objects, works of art, archives, and publications that record the history of the area that is now the London Borough of Bromley.

Specifically in relation to archaeological material - BHC will not acquire archaeological material (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the governing body or responsible officer has any suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures. Additionally, BHC will not acquire archaeological excavation archives. London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) at the Museum of London is the principal repository for such material in Greater London, and already holds archaeological archives from the London Borough of Bromley.

**Supplementary question:**

Will the archaeological and archive collections material currently in store, stay in the London Borough of Bromley?

**Reply:**

They will, with one exception - there are currently four human crania and one human mandible within Bromley's Avebury Collection which will be repatriated, I believe to Canada. All other archaeological and archive material will stay in the London Borough of Bromley.

## **(B) QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

### **From Joanna Friel, Vice Chair and Heritage Rep, The Chislehurst Society, to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder**

1. Will the Council guarantee the existing excellent free access to Local Studies and archives which includes evenings and Saturdays?

**Reply:**

We have outlined in our specification that Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) must deliver the existing Local Studies and Archives services (now rebranded as Bromley Historic Collections). The opening hours will remain the same and will include late night Thursday and Saturday opening. GLL have specified how they will deliver this in the relevant method statement.

2. How will the current contract arrangement with Millengate at Chislehurst Library be affected by any new arrangement with Greenwich? Will there still be provision for giving lectures and workshops at Chislehurst library as I currently do?

**Reply:**

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) are fully aware of the Council's proposals to develop a new library at Chislehurst and will work with both the developer and the Council to ensure the successful delivery of the project. Furthermore, this administration will be seeking to bring forward more opportunities to modernise the borough's library service, building on the significant success stories of Biggin Hill, Orpington and Penge. GLL are fully aware of this ambition to continue to invest in the library service and will work with the Council in bringing this to fruition over the life of the contract subject to this being awarded tonight.

Activities that are currently being undertaken now will continue going forward under the contract between the authority and GLL.

3. What guarantees can the Council give regarding the protection of the Lubbock Collection at the Central Library?

**Reply:**

The Avebury Collection is an important collection recognised in Bromley Historic Collections collecting policies and its security is assured. Although it is a static closed collection, there are many gaps in John Lubbock's original catalogue. Should any of these items come to light BHC would seek to acquire them. BHC also seeks to acquire other items relating to Sir John Lubbock's life and work.