EVENTS IN THE PARK

Report of the: Clerk to the Committee
Contact: Samantha Whitehead
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Junior Park Run Proposal
Other available papers (not attached): Applications file

REPORT SUMMARY
To advise the Joint Management Committee of events which have previously been approved and new applications that have been received for 2015.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

(1) That the Joint Management Committee notes the Event Calendar;

(2) That the Joint Management Committee approves the proposal to host the Sport Relief 2016 event in Nonsuch Park;

(3) That the Joint Management Committee approves the proposal to host a weekly Junior Park Run event in Nonsuch Park subject to operational issues being resolved satisfactorily.

Notes

1 Events 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meadow Primary School - Race for Life</td>
<td>Sat 13 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Picnic - Cheam Gate Dog Free Area</td>
<td>Sun 14 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Raphael's Music in the Park</td>
<td>Thu 9 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shakespeare in the Park – Cheam Gate Dog Free</td>
<td>Tue 14 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shakespeare in the Park – Cheam Gate Dog Free</td>
<td>Wed 15 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hermes Running - Nonsuch Park 10KM Fun Run</td>
<td>Sun 2 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merton Folk Dancers</td>
<td>Sun 9 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mole Valley Orienteering</td>
<td>Tue 11 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness Day</td>
<td>Sun 13 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>St Raphael's' Sponsored Walk - Nonsuch Park</td>
<td>Sun 20 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Runners Children's Running event</td>
<td>Sun 4 October</td>
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2 Sport Relief 2016

2.1 Comic Relief is the parent charity to Sport Relief which is a fundraising event that takes place every two years. It aims to harness the power and passion of sport to change lives for the better.

2.2 Comic Relief spends the money raised through Sport Relief to help give those living in disadvantaged and divided communities in the UK a better life; and also helps children and young people in the world’s poorest countries escape from extreme poverty, abuse and exploitation.

2.3 In 2010, Nonsuch Park played host to its first Sport Relief event. The event was a mile long route around the park and attracted 1,000 participants over the course of the day. The event was organised by Officers from both London Borough of Sutton and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, with help from volunteers who were actively involved to ensure that participants and spectators had a safe, enjoyable and rewarding day.

2.4 In 2010, the Sport Relief event at Nonsuch Park was declared the second highest fundraiser in the UK outside of the Flagship City Events, raising a staggering £40,000.

2.5 Following the success of 2010, Nonsuch has continued to host the bi-annual Sport Relief event. The 2012 event was one of 700 local mile events, but was the largest local mile in the country. Over 1,500 participants completed one, three or six miles around the park and helped to raise a grand total of £37,608.85 for the Sport Relief charity. In 2014 the Nonsuch Park event was the 9th largest event in the Country and helped to raise £25,183.84 for the Sport Relief charity.

2.6 The event is well-rehearsed and managed by Officers from Epsom & Ewell’s Leisure Developments and Operational Services teams. If the Joint Management Committee agrees to host the 2016 event, Nonsuch Park will be given its own page on the Sport Relief website. Sport Relief will advertise the event and officers will back this up with additional press coverage both in Sutton and Epsom.

2.7 Participants will register direct with Sport Relief, who will in turn advise officers of the number of entries. Sport Relief will supply all promotional materials, water, goody bags and an event organiser’s kit.

2.8 The event will be held on Sunday 20 March 2016. The main event area will be situated in the open parkland at the front of the Mansion House. A mile long course has been identified and this can be repeated three or six times for participants who would like the extra challenge.

2.9 The event will be split into five waves with a maximum of 500 participants per wave. This phased approach has previously worked well and limits the amount of participants on the course at any one time.

2.10 Participants will be invited to the Park at the time specified for their event. This will combat the impact of everyone turning up at once. Car parking will be available at all three designated car parks and additional car parking will be available on Church Field, weather permitting.

2.11 The event will be attended by an appropriate first aid provider and volunteers from local sports and community groups who will act as marshals for the event.
2.12 In addition local organisations and clubs will be invited to set up temporary stalls to help promote and signpost opportunities locally.

2.13 Previously Sport Relief has agreed to contribute up to £1,500 towards the delivery of an event in Nonsuch Park. This normally covers the equipment costs for the event. Officers will ask Sport Relief to contribute a similar amount towards the organisational costs for the 2016 event and are confident due to the Borough’s excellent reputation for delivery, that this budget will again be agreed for 2016.

2.14 It is expected that any additional costs for delivering the event can be covered from within existing budgets between Operational Services and Leisure Developments.

2.15 There is a great opportunity to develop stronger external partnerships and networks using Sport Relief as an exciting incentive. The possibility of attracting a large number of participants and spectators to Nonsuch Park would help to encourage local clubs, organisations and businesses to get actively involved in the event.

2.16 In previous years officers have worked with Nonsuch Girls School providing volunteering opportunities at the Sport Relief event. It is expected that a similar arrangement will be offered if the event is approved.

3 Park Run

3.1 At the last meeting of the Nonsuch Joint Management Committee, the committee were approached by the Nonsuch Park Run group who expressed their wish to set up an additional weekly Junior Park Run aimed specifically at children ages four to fourteen.

3.2 The Group were advised to work with the Streetcare Manager to draw up a full proposal which would be considered at a future meeting. The Group have now worked up a proposal which is attached as an Annexe to this report.

3.3 Concerns have been raised by the Streetcare Manager and Parks Supervisor regarding the increased pressure on the parkland, the car parks and the day of the event. At present Sunday is the only day of the week where they are no regular, weekly activities, which means that the Park is more accessible to other groups who wish to hold a one-off event.

3.4 As with all Park Run events, the number of participants cannot be controlled as the ethos of the event is to register online and then turn up at any Parkrun event around the country. It should also be noted that with the Junior Parkrun event, the number of people attending will be at least doubled by the accompanying adults.

3.5 These concerns have been discussed with the Park Run representatives and they are very keen to work with all stakeholders to ensure that their events have minimum impact on the environment and the enjoyment of all park users. A meeting between Officers and Park Run has been scheduled for 18 June 2015 to discuss these issues and formulate a solution.

4 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Management Committee is asked to note the Events calendar for 2015, approve the proposal to host a Sport Relief event in Nonsuch Park and, subject operational issues being satisfactorily resolved, to host a weekly Junior Park Run event in Nonsuch Park.