Report to: **Elsea Park Community Trust Board**

Date: **Wednesday 5 November 2014**

Subject: **Management Report**

From: **Barry Cook – Community Trust Manager**

1. Transfer of land East of Setts Green Conservation Area

Taylor Wimpey are now working on the legal transfer of the land to The Trust. I wrote to eleven residents on Coltsfoot Drive whose properties faced the close board fence adjoining the Conservation Area advising that we wanted to remove the fence, and explaining why.

Two members objected to the fence being removed, three supported the removal, and six did not respond. I met with the objectors to discuss their concerns and they subsequently agreed to support our plans.

The fence was dismantled and removed from site during the week commencing 20 October, and the briars were removed and the ditch flail mowed the following week. The extent of repairs required to the badger proof fence have now been scoped and agreed and the work will be undertaken early in November.

2. Drainage / Grounds Maintenance

Over the past few weeks, the ditch on the north side if Raymond Mays Way between roundabouts 1 and 2 has been flail mowed and de-silted. We are continuing to develop the ditch and ponds maintenance strategy, and the costs are being recorded for inclusion in the business plan.

The Badger tunnel flooded again during in a recent spate of heavy rainfall, and rather than having to hire a pump for a third time in as many months, we have now purchased our own 3” sludge pump and accessories at a total cost of £404 plus VAT.

Peter has spent several days relaying the block paving on Quayside East & Quayside West. The paviours had been lifted by feeder roots from the Alder trees breaking out of their containment into the sand bed. Peter will continue to monitor the situation, and we will need to get the trees pruned and trimmed.

Ground Control have now completed the final grass cut of 2014, and have been on site this week to trim and maintain the hedges and shrubs throughout the development, and to edge all the path and hard standings. Once this work is completed, Ground Control will attend site once a month during the winter quarter for minor routine maintenance and litter picking.

3. Planning Application for Bins, Benches, and Signs

Planning permission was granted on 22 September 2014. I have met with Ian Fielding from Malcom Lane & Sons, and we have walked the site to discuss our requirements. Ian is dropping off some samples next week for us to view at the Board Meeting prior to our finalising the order for the street furniture.

4. Issues Log

Kier have completed the remedial work on The Gables, strimmed the bund off roundabout No 2, and "made safe" the dropped kerbs / trip hazards on the Aintree Way area of the development (and the entrance to The centre).

5. Conservation Work

The Trust has recently purchased two Hedgehog houses to encourage hedgehog hibernation (at the suggestion of a member via facebook who thought we should be doing more to help hedgehogs). One of the houses has been installed on Setts Green, and Peter and I recently presented the other to the school during an assembly. Peter gave an engaging talk and Q&A session which was well received by the children, and gift of the house was much appreciated. It is being installed in a secluded area of the school grounds over the half term holiday.

We were successful in our application to The Woodland Trust for a large Community Tree Pack, and the saplings should be delivered week commencing 3 November. We have been liaising with the school to arrange a community planting event in Setts Green and await their preferred date. We will invite residents to join the event via facebook and our website once the date is finalised.

Some of the panels / posts from the Setts Green fence have been retained, and Peter will be using them to extend and improve the bird feeding station on The Meadows.

6. Staffing

Some of you will be aware that Liam has submitted his resignation, with his last working day being 28th November 2014. Plans for his successor are under review, and I am in discussion with Peterborough College as I am investigating taking on a Business Administration Apprentice to fill the gap that will be created by Liam's departure.

7. Centre Income

Income in October was £2187.00. This was slightly lower than expected due to a number of hires being cancelled, but was still a record month.

November also looks like being a good month. If all hires run as planned, we are on track to beat the October record by £2.00.