



London Borough of Bromley News Release

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For immediate release

Reviewing short term improvements to Crystal Palace Park

A commitment to improve Crystal Palace Park has been re-affirmed despite the news that Heritage Lottery Fund application was not successful.

The HLF application, which included partnership working with the Mayor of London and community groups, outlined a range of incremental improvements for the park. These improvements would have seen Sir Joseph Paxton's central axis re-established as the focus of the park through a number of physical changes, reuniting the park as a single, designed and connected landscape. The proposals also included improved visitor facilities and a range of activities to attract park visitors.

Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council said, "We are absolutely committed to securing much needed improvements at Crystal Palace Park and this latest news is clearly disappointing. Perhaps understandably, with the potential full restoration of the park a real possibility, the application was not successful but it would have been wrong not to pursue this option and apply for the grant."

Councillor Carr added, "I would like to thank the community groups who we worked with and supported the application. We now all need to remain focussed on the long term and re-examine potential options as to how best we can generate improvements in the short term which would also support the long term objectives."

The news follows the ZhongRong Group's announcement in October of their £500 million investment proposal to rebuild The Crystal Palace and restore the surrounding public park. The Council has now entered into an exclusivity agreement until February 2015 which allows time to bring about the detailed plans required for a planning application which is anticipated towards the end of 2014.

Further information about Crystal Palace Park is available at www.bromley.gov.uk/crystalpalacepark.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The ZhongRong proposal is to rebuild the Crystal Palace on the 'top terrace' and to restore and upgrade the park to match the spirit and form of the original design. The new Palace would replicate the size and scale of the original, taking into account the current constraints of the site such as the television mast. The scale of the Crystal Palace, approximately the length of five football pitches and up to six storeys, offers the potential to accommodate many different roles, including public exhibition space and commercial uses such as a hotel.

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