

Crystal Palace Park Conference-Friday 20th May 2011

Paxton Suite, The Lodge, Crystal Palace Park

Opening Welcome by Peter Austin

The origins of the Proposal for a conference event

Three Civic Societies and the Campaign as a result of their involvement in the Dialogue Process, The Planning Inquiry and the current Working Party process recognised that there was no direction or organisation of the next stage. Possible collaboration between five local authorities and LDA did not seem realistic and viable and has made little progress.

Why are we here? To identify an overall purpose by:

Reviewing where we are with the Planning Framework and to see how we can make progress and move forward over the next three years. We did this similarly at Battersea in June 2002 and with some success.

Briefing and educating the key authorities and stakeholder representatives on the state of the heritage assets in the Park and the urgent need to protect and refurbish these assets. The NSC has benefited from considerable investment since 2006 and you will see that today; but now it is time for this unique Park to get your attention and benefit as other Parks have elsewhere and many Museums and Art Galleries too.

Enabling the Community representatives to be recognised as a stakeholder in any new consultative process which emerges similar to that experienced in the Dialogue but now on a representative basis. And

Continuing to develop and draft a new Governance and Ownership system for 2012 onwards and further engage in setting it up.

We are grateful to the presenters who have given their time and services today and NSC and GLL staff coupled with the Toby Smith, Parks Service Manager and his Ranger staff who will be helping with the Park Tours programme led by Pat Trembath of the Sydenham Society and Ray Sacks of the Campaign. Ray also for acting as Central Administrator of this event as well. We also welcome your participation today.

I thank also my Civic Society colleagues in supporting the original proposal and their Committees agreeing sponsorship and funding, with the Campaign, of this event here in Crystal Palace Park and in the refurbished Paxton Conference Centre. I would also wish to pay tribute to Bromley's Peter Martin's assistance and wise counsel in setting up meetings and communications to bring people together to make this happen. Tessa Jowell and Malcolm Wicks two of our local MP's have sent their apologies and probably wish to visit the Park and NSC later. We are able to welcome Jim Dowd (whose Lewisham constituency covers the Park as a whole), Bob Stewart (MP for Bekenham) and Val Shawcross (GLA Assembly member) and Cabinet members from Bromley and Croydon with a host of Local Councillors from associated Boroughs.