

Briefing Notes for Opening Address at CPP conference on Friday 26th October 2012

Peter Austin Vice-President of Norwood Society

Welcome again to those who participated in the very successful First Conference sponsored and funded by the local Civic Societies and the Campaign in May 2011

Welcome also to those who are attending for the first time for this Second Conference now sponsored and funded by Bromley Council with ourselves in a supporting role.

Apologies for Absence from Malcolm Woods of English Heritage who is taking Voluntary Redundancy on 31st October and frankly will be sadly missed after Eight years of Expert Advice and Support to the original CPP Dialogue Working Parties and successor groups.

Also I should like to pay a tribute to Louisa Allen now with City of London Corporation for her considerable contribution between May 2011 until July 2012 and to Marc Hume of Bromley (who agreed to this Second Conference) and Tony Wallace and Russ Barnes of GLL who are not able to be here. I should also mention David Barter ,Louisa's assistant ,who is present today and Colin Brand who have administered and supported Conference matters since Louisa's departure.

The essential objective today is to hear about the progress Bromley has been able to make with its new embryonic Trust Management Scheme and how it sees the Future. Furthermore A Ten Point Plan for Crystal Palace Park is to be presented by GLA as the Successor Body to the London Development Agency. This Agency had of course such a critical role in preparing the fabulous Olympic Games site but also funded (£20m) the repair and refurbishment of the NSC, facilities and its buildings in one of which we now meet. The Brazilian Olympic Team now regard this site as the best training camp site in Europe and wish to continue using it. The Brazilian President also visited during the Games.

We are also expecting to hear in the Ten Point Plan some Good News from GLA about the first phase of implementation of Project Work(including The Subway) and obviously providing some overdue Funding for the Park's renewal programme and certain improvements some of which are mentioned in the agreed MasterPlan. Applications for further funding will no doubt follow.

We will also hear about other projects in London (Battersea and Chiswick)where considerable progress has happened over the last 10 years. Finally and personally I wish to see the Park eventually become a European Heritage site when all the heritage ,horticultural and landscaping works are complete but perhaps also to emulate some of the themes expressed in the new Crystal Structure in the Docklands.

Peter Austin