



## Keats House Consultative Committee

**Date:** FRIDAY, 3 MAY 2024

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Venue:** KEATS HOUSE, NW3 2RR

**Members:** Munsur Ali, Chair of CHL  
John Griffiths, Deputy Chair of CHL  
John Foley  
Jason Groves  
William Upton KC, Chair of HHHWQP Committee

Stephen Ainger, St Albans Road Residents Association  
Steven Bobasch, Keats Community Library  
Jim Burge, Heath Hurst Road Residents' Association  
Alexandra Lavery, Heath & Hampstead Society  
Nicholas Roe, Keats Foundation

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**Ian Thomas CBE**  
Town Clerk and Chief Executive of City of London Corporation

# AGENDA

## Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
  
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
  
3. **MINUTES**  
To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2023.  

**For Decision**  
(Pages 3 - 6)
  
4. **PROGRESS AT KEATS HOUSE APRIL 2023-2024**  
To receive a presentation on progress at Keats House during 2023/24.  

**For Information**  
(Presentation)
  
5. **END OF YEAR UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT KEATS HOUSE**  
To receive the report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.  

**For Discussion**  
(Pages 7 - 16)
  
6. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**
  
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
  
8. **DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**  
The next meeting will take place on Friday 11 October 2024 at Guildhall at 2.30pm (preceded by lunch from 1.30pm at Guildhall).

## KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 13 October 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Keats House Consultative Committee held at Aldermens' Court, Guildhall on Friday, 13 October 2023 at 2.30 pm

### Present

#### Members:

John Foley  
John Griffiths  
Jason Groves

Stephen Ainger  
Steven Bobasch  
Alexandra Lavery

### In Attendance

#### Officers:

Rob Shakespeare	- Environment
Simon Glynn	- Environment
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Munsur Ali, and the meeting was chaired by John Foley.

#### 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

#### 3. MINUTES

On the website relating to Keats House (KH) referenced at item 3, a Member asked whether more content could be added. The Committee heard that further content was expecting to be added shortly, particularly on the story of the House. Further online content is being added relating to the collections that will be linked to the website of the City of London Corporation (CoLC).

On item 4 (specifically, the charities review recommendations for submission to the Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee [CHL]) the meeting noted that the CHL meeting of July 2023 had considered the Charities Review at item 17 of that meeting.

**RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the meeting of 23 June 2023 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

#### 4. PROGRESS AT KEATS HOUSE APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2023

The Committee viewed a presentation on Keats House that included information on the various programmes and activities set out in the report submitted for item 5 (including Young Romantics in the City display running to

February 2024, as well as the Poetry vs Colonialism programme and the living 'Mary Shelley' and 'Fanny Keats' actors).  
The Committee viewed visualisations of the boundary wall proposals as submitted to the London Borough of Camden.

## 5. **MID-YEAR UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT KEATS HOUSE**

The Committee received the report of the Interim Executive Director of Environment that provided Members with an update on activities at Keats House between April and September 2023.

Referencing section 6, the Committee noted, in response to a question, that staff shortages (due to illness) had resulted in the closure of Keats House for one day.

A Member asked whether any covid-related measures were in place in the event of any spread of covid, the meeting heard that KH was more resilient than it used to be (noting section 5 of the report on staffing coverage). The meeting noted that volunteer numbers are down.

The meeting heard that there was an expectation that Saturday openings would resume from April 2024 onwards, at which point a full recovery of visitor numbers is expected. In response to a question on why KH was not currently open on Saturdays (in lieu of, for example, Wednesdays), the meeting heard that efficiency savings during and before the pandemic had resulted in some staff not being employed to cover Saturdays, recruitment for which is more difficult and costly.

In response to a request for clarification on the busiest day for visitors, the meeting heard that the figures were variable across the week, noting that the tourist economy has not fully recovered. In response to a question on whether the closure for lunch impacted negatively on figures, the meeting heard that there did not appear to be any issues with that one-hour closure, and that lunchtime closure is common among small attractions.

A Member asked how the figures compared to forecasts. The meeting heard that KH attracted 12K visitors p.a. prior to the pandemic, while during 2022 there were 5K visitors. The expectation was that 8K visitors would come to KH during 2023, with 4K having visited so far.

A Member asked where volunteers were sourced. The Committee heard that a steady stream of volunteer applicants approached KH – primarily students and 'poetry ambassador' figures – though the main need is front-of-house people, and resilience is only realistically achieved through paid staff. A Member commented that there might be merit in sourcing volunteers from the Heath & Hampstead Society.

A Member asked whether a notice could be put up at KH with opening hours. The meeting heard that a QR code provided the information, noting that the hours are variable and that the notice boards would be refreshed and re-designed with high-quality signage.

Referencing page 19 of the agenda, a Member asked for clarification of the term "deficit fund" in the sentence "the City Corporation will deficit fund Keats House through its City's Cash Fund as follows...". The meeting noted that the term was specific to the KH charity that took into account the shortfall in the £110K income target that did not match the cost of running KH, noting that City's Cash supported the £187K not covered by income.

On the Cultural Partnerships funding, the meeting noted that KH is the lead organisation on Culturally Speaking and will receive all Education Strategy Unit funding and most of that funding will go to the partner organisations involved. In response to a question, the meeting noted that it costs the CoLC £300K p.a. to run KH.

**6. OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OPERATION OF KEATS COMMUNITY LIBRARY FROM TEN KEATS GROVE**

The Committee discussed options for the future operation of Keats Community Library from Ten Keats Grove.

Referencing sections 14 and 15 of the report submitted under item 5, the meeting noted that a licence was issued to 31 March 2024.

The meeting noted that Keats Community Library (KCL) has long requested a longer licence duration for surety and to support fundraising.

The following points were made:

- A licence agreement is in place but supporting documents have not been provided (comfort letter that the licence will be renewed, and a statement of intention to pursue a longer-term licence);
- It is currently problematic to seek fundraising and investment for KCL in the current circumstances given the uncertainty;
- The CoLC Comptroller has declined to provide a comfort letter because such a letter would prejudice any future agreement;
- The main obstacle to finalising any agreement is dual use of the building: only one large space is suitable for some events and hires, and that space is used for the children's library;
- The movement of books and equipment to facilitate both uses is impractical and labour-intensive (though doable) due to having to clear the room – that arrangement has been in place for a decade;
- The income target for the space is £19K;
- CoLC members are obliged to act in the best interests of the KH charity (these should include community and cultural benefits as well as financial considerations);
- One option is to hand over unlimited use of the space to KCL for approximately £19K (the income target) with some recourse for larger events;
- The room is currently under-used partly because the CoLC is unable to invest in dedicated resources to hire out the space due to restrictions on the space's use;
- The KCL children's library cannot operate without the use of the room.

Members suggested that an onsite briefing take place.

Members suggested that a paper setting out the options be submitted to the CHL Committee meeting of January 2024, the aim being to reach an agreement that is acceptable to all parties.

**7. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

A Member noted that a recent children's party in the room had generated complaints due to the noise level from amplified music, noting that there is no reference to amplified sound in the current agreement, and that no supervision was available on that single occasion due to staff shortage. The meeting heard that two people were on site at the time as per operational and risk assessment requirements.

A Keats commemorative event in Westminster Abbey is expected to take place on 31 October 2023 at 1215.

9. **DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 03 May 2024 at 2.30pm Keats House, NW3.

**The meeting ended at 4.15 pm**

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Chairman

**Contact Officer: Jayne Moore**  
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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Committee(s):</b> Keats House Consultative Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 03/05/2024
<b>Subject:</b> Update Report for Keats House Charity, 2023/24	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 &amp; 12</b>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	<b>N/A</b>
What is the source of Funding?	<b>N/A</b>
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Bob Roberts, Interim Executive Director, Environment Department	<b>For discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Rob Shakespeare, Head of Heritage & Museums, Environment Department	

## Summary

Since 2019, Members have received the Trustees Annual Report on activities at Keats House as the basis for updating your Committee on achievements and progress at the House.

Presented at Appendix 1 for information and discussion is the draft report on activities at Keats House between April 2023 and March 2024.

Members are asked to note the achievements at Keats House in rebuilding its services and programmes and the extent to which it delivers the objectives of the charity and contributes to Corporate, Departmental and wider outcomes.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note Keats House's achievements in 2023/24 (as outlined below and described in more detail at Appendix 1) and how these support the priorities, aims and objectives outlined within the Corporate Plan 2018-23 and other key Corporate strategies, the Environment Department's primary and supporting aims and objectives, and the objectives of the Keats House Charity.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Keats House is a registered charity (number 1053381) with the City Corporation acting as sole trustee.
2. As a registered charity it is required to submit an annual report and financial statement, detailing its activities and to ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The update included at Appendix 1 forms the basis of the draft report for 2023/24, including activities from April 2023 to March 2024.
3. This has been a year of transition for Keats House, with the continued aftermath of the pandemic and the organisational changes following the implementation of TOM2 in the Environment Department impacting directly and indirectly on the team and its activities.
4. The implementation of TOM2 has resulted in Keats House being managed within the Natural Environment Division's Culture & Projects Section. This has resulted in some fundamental changes in the way the team and its supporting services operate, many of which were previously provided by North London Open Spaces.
5. Keats House continues to rebuild its core services by increasing audience numbers and engagement, supporting a growth in income and increased contribution to a range of Corporate, Departmental and sector outcomes. It continues to work with internal and external partners to deliver creative and engaging programmes which contribute to a range of priorities, including access to culture, creative learning, wellbeing and community cohesion.
6. Keats House continues to reposition itself to better support the objectives of the Environment Department, the City Corporation and wider cultural sector, with the retention of Museum Accreditation seen as a key target in recognising the role Keats House plays in the cultural life of London and the nation, and beyond.

### **Current Position**

7. In 2023/24, Keats House was open to the public on 200 days (up from 172 in 2022/23), on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, 11am – 1pm and 2 – 4 or 5pm.
8. The 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition, which opened in February '23, provided the focus for much of our live events and social media programming throughout the year. Cardiff University funded the project through their 'Innovation for All' grants programme with Dr Anna Mercer, Lecturer in English Literature (Romanticism), playing a key role in co-curating the exhibition, along with the associated changing displays and public events programme.
9. The overarching theme of our public programming and social media campaigns in 2023/24 was #YoungRomantics, with the exhibition driving much of our digital



output, along with promotion and celebration of key events and initiatives.

10. A total of 36 different public events were delivered, including poetry readings, talks, book launches, family and literary workshops. We also hosted the Keats Foundation annual conference and one day of the 'Colonial Histories Network' conference in partnership with Wordsworth Grasmere and Lancaster University, attended by delegates from academic, cultural and community organisations around the world.
11. We have continued to increase engagement with schools, offering poetry, drama and creative writing sessions to teachers and students in formal education and home-schooled groups. Our involvement in delivering three special projects, funded by the City Corporation's Education Strategy Unit through their Cultural & Creative Learning Grants, has helped broaden our learning offer and partnership working, and our annual Summer School enables students to immerse themselves in creative writing during four days at Keats House.
12. Collections research projects have prepared our catalogue records for online access, informed temporary displays and exhibition development for the 'Hidden Histories of Keats House' exhibition in 2024/25. Updating policies and processes to ensure we are ready for our Museum Accreditation submission, now expected in 2024/25, has also been a key focus of our non-public work throughout the year.
13. Keats House was able to support a range of local community partner events and private hire requests. These included events for Hampstead Summer Festival, which benefits two local charities: Keats Community Library and Hampstead School of Art. Income from the private hires, though increasing year-on-year, has yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels.
14. We are working with City Surveyors to schedule reactive, cyclical and planned preventative maintenance projects for both the Grade I listed house and garden and the Grade II listed Ten Keats Grove (library building). The required permission and consents have now been approved by the London Borough of Camden's Planning Department for the replacement of fire detection and security systems across the site and these works will be scheduled as soon as possible in 2024/25.
15. A new, longer-term agreement to be offered to Keats Community Library (KCL) for the operation of their local library service from Ten Keats Grove, which is an asset of Keats House charity, was developed and approved by Members of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee on 29 January 2024. This has yet to be agreed to by KCL.

## **Proposals**

16. Members indicate their continued support for the activities and priorities of Keats House in delivering the Charitable Objectives, as well as contributing to Corporate, Departmental and wider strategic and community outcomes.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

17. The activities, projects and works outlined in this report contributed towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society; Support a thriving economy; and Shape outstanding environments. Activities from April 2024 will be mapped against the outcomes identified in the new Corporate Plan 2024-29 and Natural Environment strategic themes and measures.
18. Keats House continues to support the Environment Department to Shape Sustainable Future Environments through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives and contribute to the outcomes identified in the Natural Environment Division's new strategic framework.
19. The activities of Keats House are also designed to contribute to the aims and outcomes of the City Corporation's Education, Creative Learning and Skills Strategies.

## **Conclusion**

20. Keats House has been able to extend its opening hours in 2023/24, while continuing to deliver public events, special projects and formal learning sessions which provide opportunities for life-long learning and engagement with arts and culture.
21. The increasing number of visitors and overall engagement is supporting the achievement of a balanced budget for the charity despite the slow recovery from the pandemic and challenges faced across the visitor economy.
22. The 'Hidden Histories of Keats House' exhibition and events programme for 2024/25 has been planned, exploring the, sometimes untold, stories of those people who lived at the house after Keats left and before it became a museum.
23. Once fully realised, the organisational and strategic re-alignment of Keats House will allow for a sustainable future for the charity, particularly in the lead up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the house opening to the public, which we will celebrate in May 2025, by when we expect a full recovery of our audiences and income.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – [Draft] Annual Report for Keats House Charity 2023/24

### **Rob Shakespeare**

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## **Appendix 1 – [Draft] Annual Report for Keats House Charity 2023/24**

### **Origins and Objectives of the Charity**

In 1921, a body called the Keats Memorial House Committee appealed to the public for funds to purchase the property and archive from the then private owners to save it from being destroyed or dissipated, and in order to preserve John Keats's former home in which most of the poet's finest work was written. The public appeal was successful, and the property was acquired and vested in the, then, Corporation of Hampstead "as a permanent trust to be restored and equipped with relics of the poet and to be maintained in perpetuity as a Keats Museum and a live memorial to his genius, a shrine of pilgrimage for his worldwide admirers and a literary meeting place and centre". Camden Borough Council became the successors of the former Corporation of Hampstead on 1 April 1965, pursuant to the London Government Act 1963.

Keats House was registered as a charity in March 1996. The City of London Corporation acquired ownership of the land and buildings and responsibility for the administration and management of Keats House with effect from 1 January 1997.

The objective of the Charity is:

'to preserve and maintain and restore for the education and benefit of the public the land with the buildings known as Keats House as a museum and live memorial to John Keats and as a literary meeting place and centre.'

The Charity shall first defray out of the income of the Charity the cost of maintaining the property (including the repair and insurance of any buildings thereon) and all other charges and outgoings payable in respect thereof and all the proper costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the administration and management of the Charity.

The Trustee has due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when setting objectives and planning activities.

### **Explanation of Aims and objectives for the year including the changes or differences it seeks to make through its activities**

The activities of the Keats House Charity are guided by its Charitable Object as stated above and developed within the framework of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23 and the Environment Department's Business Plan 2023/24. Our activities also support the City Corporation's Education, Cultural & Creative Learning and Skills Strategies and the Natural Environment Division's strategic framework, as well as the wider aims of heritage sector organisations such as Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and The National Archives.

The City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23 states that:

Our vision

The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London with a globally-successful UK.

We aim to...

- Contribute to a flourishing society
- Support a thriving economy
- Shape outstanding environments

Keats House aims to support the Environment Department to Shape Sustainable Future Environments through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives, particularly:

- Provide excellent frontline services
- Deliver key strategies (climate action and volunteering)
- Support sustainable growth, vibrancy, heritage and culture
- Provide thriving, biodiverse, relevant spaces
- Financial, Information and Talent Management, Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration and inclusivity.

The contribution which Keats House makes towards these is detailed below.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Achievement against the key priorities for 2023/24:**

#### **1. Implement projects and activities identified in the Keats House Divisional Plan and Activities Plan identified for delivery in 2023/24**

Throughout 2023/24, Keats House was open to the public on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, 11am – 1pm and 2 – 4 (in autumn / winter) or 5pm (in spring / summer).

The focus of our programming throughout the year supported the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition, which opened to the public in February 2023. This externally funded partnership project with Cardiff University explored the diversity of writers and writing in the Romantic period through the inter-connected themes of politics, class, gender and race. These were further explored through changing displays featuring: items from the Keats House collections, supported by our colleagues at London Metropolitan Archives; the first display in this country of the British Library's first-edition copy of 'The Woman of Colour'; and a selection of pamphlets featuring popular ballads in Welsh and English from the special collections of Cardiff University. Keats House are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of Dr Anna Mercer,

lecturer in English Literature (Romanticism), for her ongoing contribution to Keats House's public engagement programme, which was substantially supported in 2023/24 by Cardiff University.

As part of the 'Young Romantics in the City' and our regular event programmes, Keats House delivered 36 different events, which were attended by 878 people in 2023/24. Highlights of the programme included: an event for Earth Day as part of 'The Wild Escape' national initiative, which was delivered in partnership with Hampstead School of Art; live interpretation featuring our new Mary Shelley and Fanny Keats characters, as well as repeat events with our Keats and Coleridge characters; two performances by Saudha Bangla music and arts; three creative writing workshops led by City Lit; eight free, themed poetry readings by the Keats House Poetry Ambassadors; and events targeted at specific audiences, including a special afternoon opening of the house for under 5s and their carers.

As well as our own programme, Keats House officers supported the work of partner and stakeholder organisations, through a number of projects and initiatives, including: four events in Keats House garden for Hampstead Summer Festival 2023; the inclusion of Keats's facsimile of Shakespeare's First Folio in the Heritage Gallery display at Guildhall for the Folio400 celebrations; and, again working with colleagues at LMA, to display their 'Unforgotten Lives' outdoor exhibition at Hampstead Heath in August and September.

Our social media following remained relatively constant over the past 12 months, despite reduced capacity to create content and, sometimes negative, changes in the platforms themselves. As at March 2024, Keats House had 6.9k followers on Twitter (0% growth on March 2023), 4.2k on Facebook (2%), and 3.7k on Instagram, which at +9% remains our fastest growing and most engaged virtual audience. Our main campaigns for the year were #YoungRomantics and the ongoing project to publish online the Fanny Brawn to Fanny Keats letters on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of them being written, with three letters, with supporting research, articles and social media posted in the past 12 months. Regular newsletter to our c. 3,500 subscribers helps promote our offer and drive visits to our Corporate web pages, which are seen by c. 10,000 active users per quarter.

We have continued to increase engagement with schools, offering poetry, drama and creative writing sessions to teachers and students in formal education and also to home-schooled groups. In addition to these subject focussed taught sessions, Keats House was involved in delivering three special learning projects, funded by the City Corporation's Education Strategy Unit through their Cultural & Creative Learning Grants. Working alongside London Metropolitan Archives we continued our work with 'Poetry Versus Colonialism', researching and revealing the colonial histories of our collections. This resulted in the 'Word on the Street' festival – a programme of workshops and events for students, trainee teachers, cultural sector workers and established and emerging young poets, who produced a series of short films. We continued to work with Speakers Trust and four other cultural partner venues to deliver 'Culturally Speaking', which encourages confidence and oracy skills in students in Year 8, and were one of the key partner venues

for the Young Poet in the City programme, which inspires young people to write and perform poetry through engagement with practising poets.

Through this broader offer, we delivered a total of 48 taught sessions, to 8 primary and 35 secondary groups and 1 HE group, with a total of 949 students and a further 131 accompanying adults being directly engaged with our offer.

In July, the twelfth Keats House Creative Writing summer school took place at the house, with workshops by poet Arji Manuelpillai and novelist Catriona Ward. 30 students from 6 London secondary schools took part, leading to a total of 110 instances of engagement over the four days. The week was very successful, and students' writing from it was collected in an anthology which was distributed to the participating schools.

Keats House volunteers continued to support our work by providing afternoon tours for visitors and free themed poetry readings on the second Sunday of most months, including a reading of 'The Eve of St Agnes' at Guildhall Art Gallery in January. We also benefitted from the time of one post-graduate volunteer who has helped welcome visitors to the house when their studies allowed. As always, we would like to send our grateful thanks to all our volunteers for their continued support for the Charity and its activities.

Unfortunately, our Roehampton University doctoral research student placement has not delivered the expected outputs in 2023/24, but it is hoped that this workstream may resume and conclude in autumn 2024.

In 2023/24, Keats House opened to the public on 200 days, with a total of 7,338 recorded visits to the house. For comparison, 11,755 people visited Keats House in 2019/20 and 5,149 in 2022/23. The number of people visiting Keats House has therefore increased by 142% on the previous year but remains at only 63% of pre-pandemic levels.

Income from admissions, shop sales and private hires has risen along with the increase in numbers visiting the house. It has not yet been possible to achieve the levels of income previously derived from admissions, shop sales, events hires or events prior to the pandemic, although it is anticipated that a full recovery will be achieved by 2025/26.

As a condition of the premises licence for 10 Keats Grove, Keats House Consultative Committee receive a twice-yearly report of licensable events held at the House, to ensure that the operating schedule and conditions are being upheld. To report that no activities involving the sale of alcohol took place in 2023/24 under Keats House's premises licence. As referred to above, events were delivered from the premises for Hampstead Summer Festival which involved the sale of alcohol and other licensable activities under TENs obtained by the organisers. Complimentary drinks were also served at 13, largely partner funded, events and music was performed at two events. Although these did not involve the sale of alcohol they are reported here for completeness. The Premises Licence for 10 Keats Grove was renewed for the period to 11 September 2023 at a cost of £180.00.

## **2. Deliver maintenance and access improvement projects at Keats House**

Keats House officers have continued to work with City Surveyor's, consultant architects and the London Borough of Camden's Planning Department to progress projects to conserve and enhance Keats House.

While planning and listed building consent have already been granted for the proposed new visitor entrance, the cost and timescale for this to be completed has yet to be agreed with City Surveyors. A connected project, to replace the aged, wooden boundary fence to the front of the property, has yet to achieve the required planning and listed building consents. Possible sources of funding for these projects are City Corporation facilities maintenance budgets, the Keats House charity's reserve and London Borough of Camden's Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy fund, and they are currently being costed by the City Surveyor's Department to inform funding applications and project delivery.

London Borough of Camden's Planning Department have approved the plans for the replacement / new fire and intruder alarm systems for both buildings and an upgraded CCTV system for Keats House, which can now be completed in 2024/25.

In 2023/24, a dedicated team of 'Heath Hands' volunteers working with officers from the Golders Hill Park team contributed their time and expertise to the garden. During weekly sessions, they undertook a combination of routine maintenance, seasonal planting and thoughtful enhancements to the beds and borders and we are grateful for their commitment to the garden, which is enjoyed by visitors, site users and local residents alike.

## **3. Develop a three-year Management Plan for Keats House, to ensure the future sustainability of the Keats House Charity and its operating model**

Following the recent launch of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024-29 and the Natural Environment Division's new strategic framework, a draft Keats House Activities Plan for 2024/25 will be presented to the City Corporation's Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee in summer. The development of a detailed three to five-year forward plan for Keats House, which is required as part of the City Corporation's documentation framework and for our Museum Accreditation return will be developed in 2024/25, to support the new Corporate Plan and Departmental priorities for 2024-29. This will be submitted to Members as our Trustees for consultation and approval, before being presented as part of our Museum Accreditation return, now expected in late 2024 or early 2025.

As a result of the above activities, the Trustee has had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when setting objectives and planning activities.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

The overarching priorities which will guide all of our objectives and activities from April 2024 are:

- Implement projects and activities identified in the Keats House Activities Plan for delivery in 2024/25 onwards
- Deliver maintenance and access improvement projects at Keats House
- Develop a 2024-29 Management Plan for Keats House, to ensure the future sustainability of the Keats House Charity and its operating model.