



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2023
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: THE GREENWOOD CENTRE, 37 GREENWOOD PLACE, NW5 1LB

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)	Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
Ray Booth, (Barnet Mencap)	Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Foley Merlin Fox, (Heath Hands)	Ellin Stein, (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)	Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)	Steve Ripley, Ramblers Association
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces Society)	David Walton, (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
Sharlene McGee, (Leonard Cheshire)	John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
	Simon Williams, (Vale of Health Society)

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

NB: Certain items presented for information have been marked * and will be taken without discussion, unless the Committee Clerk has been informed that a Member has questions or comments prior to the start of the meeting.

Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

3. **MINUTES**

For Decision

- a) Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 19 June 2023 (Pages 5 - 8)
- b) *Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 17 July 2023 (Pages 9 - 14)

4. ***HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

To receive the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 9 October 2023.
(To Follow)

For Information

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 15 - 24)

6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY UPDATE**

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 25 - 44)

7. **PARLIAMENT HILL MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 15 JANUARY 2024**

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 June 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at the Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood Place, NW5 1LB on Monday, 19 June 2023 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
Ray Booth, (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Foley
Merlin Fox, (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces Society)
Sharlene McGee, (Leonard Cheshire)
Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ellin Stein, (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Steve Ripley, Ramblers Association
David Walton, (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Williams, (Vale of Health Society)

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Department
Paul Maskell	- Natural Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Department
Paul Singleton	- Heath Constabulary

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from John Weston, Dr Gaye Henson and Jeff Waage.

2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 17 April 2023.

Matters arising

The Assistant Director provided Members with an update on the issue of the house at the Parliament Hill entrance. She confirmed that a solution had been found to repair the cracks in the structure and the insurance team were liaising with contractors to prepare the works. These works would be complicated and it was estimated that it would take about nine months to complete. Officers would consider how best to use the house in the meantime.

RESOLVED – That the minutes and summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 April 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

- b) Members noted that the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee were not available in time for the meeting but would be made available to Members as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – That the minutes and summary of the Committee meeting held on 17 May 2023 be circulated to Members.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The Committee received the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 12 June 2023.

Members and officers present at the Forum meeting also provided an oral update.

Members expressed their condolences regarding the passing of Declan Gallagher and noted the hard work of the team through a difficult time.

Members noted that work had started on the athletics track, and welcomed the speed which with this had got underway. It was noted that there were potential ways to access additional funding for the project.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since April 2023.

Parliament Hill Masterplan

Members received a presentation regarding the Parliament Hill Masterplan

The Chair requested for the Masterplan to be updated with additional text and circulated to Members.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood) noted that it was important to consider what children liked when redeveloping play areas, and encouraged officers to seek to attract local residents who did not regularly use the Heath.
- In response to a request to retain the mosaic, Members noted that the funding for the mosaic was the responsibility of a local school
- The Chair noted that a high-level consultation was due on 19th July 2023, and suggested that it would be appropriate for Members to share this with the members of the bodies they represented.
- Members requested that the outcome of the high-level public consultation be included in the next Assistant Directors report.

Events

Members noted the success of the Night of the 10k Personal Best, with a competitor had achieved a new all comers record of 11th fastest in the whole world. The Chair remarked that was quite an incredible feat for a small regional track.

Members noted that a new cross country running event would replace the Southern Counties event for this year. Members welcomed the new event but also felt it was important to raise awareness of the impact of events such as this on the physical state of the Heath.

Security

In response to a member's question on anti-social behaviours at the Heath, Officers confirmed that there had been an isolated incident, but also noted that the nature of reporting on social media could lead to misinformation and misperceptions. Officers assured the Committee that adequate security measures had been taken and the Metropolitan Police was working closely with the Constabulary to secure the Heath.

In addition, Officers confirmed that the Constabulary would potentially engage additional private security during summer to improve the security.

Noting that changes had been made to the Heath Constabulary as part of the TOM, Members requested that Officers return with further information on the impact of the TOM on the Heath in particular.

Café tendering

Officers were undertaking surveys to help give potential contractors of the Parliament Hill café an understanding of the building's fabric.

Other

A Member suggested that it would be helpful to develop an archaeological strategy for the Heath, and suggested that a professional geo-survey could be commissioned, noting that a photographic survey had taken advantage of the dry weather in summer 2022 and produced useful results. Officers took the request on notice but advised that there were several elements to be taken care of before a survey could be considered.

RESOLVED – That that the report be noted.

6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH BATHING PONDS AND LIDO ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/23**

The Committee discussed a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning a review of the Swimming season during 2022/23 at the Bathing Ponds and the Parliament Hill Lido.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

The Chair informed Members that this would be the Assistant Directors last meeting, and the Committee thanked Stefania for all her hard work.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 30 OCTOBER 2023**

The meeting ended at 19.16pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Blair Stringman
blair.stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE Monday, 17 July 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 17 July 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chair)
John Beyer
Councillor Marcus Boyland
Timothy Butcher
John Foley
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Michael Hudson
Lobo
Wendy Mead
Andrew McMurtrie (Ex-Officio Member)
Councillor Arjun Mittra

Officers:

Nathan Adjei	- Environment Department
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Ellen Fouweather	- Town Clerk's Department
Julie Fittock	- City Surveyor's Department
Clem Harcourt	- Chamberlain's Department
Joanna Hill	- Environment Department
Stefania Horne	- Environment Department
Elisabeth Hannah	- Environment Department
Jack Joslin	- Bridge House Estates
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Bob Roberts	- Environment Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Gregory Jones, John Absalom, Jason Groves, Wendy Mead and Alethea Silk.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

3.1 **To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 17 May 2023**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 17 May 2023 be approved as an accurate record

3.2 **To note the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 19 June 2023**

RESOLVED – To note the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 19 June 2023.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR**

The Committee received a verbal update of the Natural Environment Director.

The Natural Environment Director informed the board that she had been in post just over a month and had seen firsthand the fantastic variety of work that was being undertaken by colleagues in the Natural Environment Department. The Director explained that she had already visited several sites and looked forward to visiting and meeting colleagues from other areas.

The Director informed the board of her previous work, noting how she had trained previously as an ecologist and had worked for a range of nature conservation organisations such as the London Wildlife Trust, the Butterfly Conservation, and the Zoological Society in London.

The Director noted that her top priority in the first month was to familiarise herself with the Target Operating Model which was taking place and reach out to all those staff affected to ensure consistency across the Corporation.

MATTERS ARISING

The Committee received a verbal update of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

The Interim Executive Director, Environment noted he would bring institutional knowledge and experience to help navigate the complexities of the organisation and would work effectively with Members when dealing with governance issues. He highlighted his commitment to ensuring the department's voice was heard at the highest levels of the organisation, believing this to be essential to address challenges and recognise the exceptional services provided by colleagues. He noted his aims were straightforward: collaborate with members, ensure proper governance, support with institutional knowledge, and ensure the department gain the recognition that they rightfully deserve.

RESOLVED – That, the verbal update from the Natural Environment Director and the Interim Executive Director, Environment be noted by the board.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment providing Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since May 2023.

The Assistant Director, North London Open Spaces updated the Committee noting that the projects on a specific page were primarily meant for informational purposes. Notably, the swimming facility and the access and security project were currently marked in red due to issues identified by contractors on the site. The project management team, led by City Surveyor's, was closely monitoring, and addressing the challenges to mitigate any potential timeline and budget delays. It was noted that although the project remains in the red category as these solutions were still in progress.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

6. HAMPSTEAD HEATH BATHING PONDS AND LIDO ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/23

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment providing Members with a review of the Swimming season during 2022/23 at the Bathing Ponds and the Parliament Hill Lido.

Regarding the swing ponds, Members expressed budgetary concerns, Towards the conclusion, we're intrigued by the Lido and its innovative utilization, as the new system promises to provide us with deeper insights into the emerging trends. Our current observations suggest that the trends which are currently on the rise are likely to maintain their high trajectory in 2324. This overall situation is indeed a positive development regarding the usage of Ponzi lighters.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning risk management update regarding Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn.

Concern was raised by Members about the maintenance of buildings and equipment risks, with requests for more information on required works and the potential impact on the City's reputation due to building conditions. It was noted that detailed lists of works were not available yet but were being prepared as part of the Operational Property Asset Review.

Additionally, discrepancies in risk levels were mentioned, particularly plant and tree diseases, with some cross-divisional risk registers indicating higher risks due to variations in the charities' risk scores. Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the high-risk levels regarding maintenance of buildings and urged for a sense of urgency, proposing an earlier report rather than waiting for the next committee meeting. The Chair noted the importance of having this report before a specific upcoming meeting to argue for an increased budget to address the risks.

The discussion concluded with the acknowledgment of the urgency, and the officers were encouraged to provide the report as soon as possible while allowing them some leeway in determining the exact timing. The newly appointed officers were also urged to understand the gravity of the situation and act promptly.

Members agreed to remove the phrase "and mitigate" from the recommendation, as it was suggested that effectively identifying the risks was more appropriate at this stage, with a future report focusing on mitigation.

RESOLVED – That, Members confirm, on behalf of the City Corporation as Trustee, that the registers appended to the report satisfactorily identified the key risks to the charities and that appropriate systems are in place to effectively identify risks.

8. **REVENUE OUTFURN 2022/23 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment.

The Chamberlain's Department presented the final revenue outturn for the committee's 2022-2023 budget. The report compared the final revenue position for the year with the final agreed budget. The report also highlighted three local risk carry-forward bids related to the committee.

Officers clarified that one of the bids was approved, while the remaining two were not, as they would go through the cyclical works program managed by city surveyors instead. The Committee discussed the underspend and the reasons behind it, with a focus on vacancies and additional income generation, discussion revolved around the implications for the next year's budget.

RESOLVED – That, the report and the proposed carry forward of local risk underspending to 2023/24 be noted.

9. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23 - YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment providing Members with a review of the delivery of the 2022/23 high-level Open Spaces Business Plan which was approved by the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee in December 2021.

Officers updated on the progress of implementing the strategic framework and annual plan. While there were some actions that were not yet initiated due to the need to fill key positions in the department's structure, it was noted that significant progress had been made. An emphasis was placed on the branding efforts for the zoo, aiming to improve facilities and generate more income. This included creating an online presence with adoption schemes, birthday party options, animal feeding experiences, and a focus on donations to enhance sustainability. The discussion also touched on managing the transition of key

personnel and the development unit, with the hope that these roles would be filled soon to further accelerate progress.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

10. **SENIOR OFFICER RECRUITMENT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning the senior officer recruitment procedure for the Assistant Director, North London Open Spaces.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: The following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

14. **MARKETING APPROACH TO RETENDER CAFES AT HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOODS, QUEEN'S PARK AND GOLDERS HILL PARK**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Natural Environment.

15. **HISTORICAL INCOME REPORT (2017/18-2023/24) FOR HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK**

The Committee received a report of Executive Director, Environment.

16. **HISTORICAL INCOME REPORT (2017/18-2023/24) FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

The Committee received a report of Executive Director, Environment.

17. **CORPORATE CHARITIES REVIEW SCOPING EXERCISE TO SUPPORT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES REVIEW**

The Committee received a joint report of Managing Director Bridge House Estates and Natural Environment Director.

18. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no urgent business.

20. **TOM PHASE II UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

The meeting ended at 6.20pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Blair Stringman
blair.stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 30 October 2023
Subject: Assistant Directors Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Interim Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since June 2023.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

Main Report

Events

1. Give it a Go! (16th July) – the popular event where everyone gets an opportunity to test their skills and abilities across a wide range of different activities. This was another well attended event, with over 4,000 participants throughout the day. The Mayor of Camden generously gave her time to participate, and events included demonstrations in martial arts, yoga, mindfulness, and rugby. In addition, there were many stalls with health and wellbeing professionals sign posting information and help aimed at improving the community’s health and wellbeing.
2. 24th Duathlon (3rd September -This is a partnership event organised in partnership with Hampstead Rugby Club, Jubilee Trust and the City of London. This year, we offered competitors an online experience which worked well. We were unable to finish on the track due to ongoing work, however, the event was well supported with over 350 competitors. The Duathlon cup was again won by Tri London, with the women’s winner Amy Pritchard completing the course in 36 minutes and 40seconds - and first-man back Luke Thomas completing the course in 33minutes and 36seconds.

3. Natural Aspects, the Heath and Hampstead Society's annual concert (3rd September) - This event was designed to celebrate local culture and a fond goodbye to the summer. Bands included John Etheridge and Vimala Rowe Bangla, Shur (a local Bengali group), the Spud Peelers (an Irish country and folk ensemble) and the Estimators (a traditional Jamaican ska band). The day attracted large numbers of visitors, with lots of families and local people picnicking.

The upcoming events on the Heath include:

- Conker Festival (8th October), in partnership with Heath Hands, at the Parliament Hill Bandstand.
- Zippos Circus (9 – 18th October set up; 19-29 live) returns to East Heath Carpark for set up from 9-18th October and then open to the public from 19-29 October)
- The London Youth Games (18th November) flagship event the Cross-Country championships

Projects update

4. A project on a page summary has been prepared in relation to the Ponds Project (Appendix 1), and the Parliament Hill Athletics Track improvements (Appendix 2).

Athletics Track refurbishment

5. The athletic track is red category due to the high risk related to the tight timelines. There have been a number of issues over the last three months with replacing the tarmac of the track. FM Conway, the lead contractor, had to complete significant repairs to several areas of the track where there was insufficient sub-base to replace a tarmac base course. Works were also delayed due to unforeseen needed repairs to the existing drainage, as well as periods of wet weather. The specialist sports surface is now being laid and the base layer is nearly completed as of 5th October. The next phase is laying the polytan layer, a rubber crumb synthetic (describe what this is) and then re-marking the track's lanes. The forecasted completion date is highly dependent on weather conditions this month into November as the polytan surface has to be installed in dry conditions.

Ponds Project (accessibility)

6. The works are progressing after a number of delays. At the Men's Pond, the installation of the steelwork that will make up the new jetty is now underway and cable trenching is starting at the Mixed Pond for the upgraded electricity supply that will be installed.

Partnership Working

7. Partnership working with the Heath and Hampstead Society, Heath Hands and the London Natural History Society (LNHS) is very strong and allows us to conduct a range of activities that inform our annual conservation plans. The LNHS continue their grant-funded floral survey of the Heath, which is revealing a number of rare species including liverworts and lichens.

Parliament Hill Masterplan progress

8. A separate Parliament Hill Masterplan report is attached with the visitor survey results in the reports pack. Please refer to this for current information.

Constabulary Update

9. There is a separate report on the Hampstead Heath Constabulary attached with the papers for this Committee. Please refer to this for an update. The Constabulary have been supported this summer by Parkguard Ltd, a National Police Chief's Council approved company.

Nature Conservation and Ecology

10. In September, rare breed sheep were once again grazing on Hampstead Heath. In a partnership between the City of London Corporation, the Heath & Hampstead Society, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and Heath Hands, sheep grazed a site on the Heath Extension. As well as grazing down the long grass, several invertebrate species were found utilising the sheep dung, including at least two species of dung beetle.
11. In partnership with the Royal Free Hospital, a live feed wildlife camera was installed on Hampstead No.1 pond. The camera is currently being trialled by the hospital patients for a potential wider rollout.
12. Two wildflower meadows were created in partnership with Butterfly Conservation. Both meadows, one at Queens Park and the other at the Heath Extension, flowered well in their first year. Approximately three hectares of grassland were taken out of the regular mowing cycle and allowed to revert to meadow as part of the Climate Action Strategy. The Conservation Team have been cutting the meadow areas on the Kenwood Estate as part of a partnership arrangement with English Heritage.
13. A master's degree student has just finished a project looking at levels of chemicals from pesticide in Heath ponds, working in partnership with the City of London Corporation and the Heath and Hampstead Society. Results are being peer reviewed to ensure their accuracy. Findings will be shared once peer reviewed.
14. Branch Hill Pond has had a deeper refuge area for aquatic species created, and hundreds of wildflower plugs have been planted around the pond and wider area. The newly deepened section of the pond will reduce the chances of the pond drying out during future droughts and will increase the site's climate change resilience.
15. National hedgehog monitoring scheme (NHMS). Cameras have recently been collected from the Heath Extension and wider area as one of the first sites to be used for the newly created scheme.
16. Two new moth species for the Heath were recorded this year, the Hornet Moth and Six-belted Clearwing.

Tree Team works

17. The team have had a busy summer clearing storm damage at Queen's Park and the Heath Extension in July. They have been carrying out works on a number of

veteran trees at South Meadow, Sandy Heath, Vale of Health, Hampstead Gate, and Golder's Hill Park. They have also been continuing their Integrated Pest Management programme monitoring Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) nests and the parasitoid populations across the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. The team are still actively involved with the annual Canker Stain of Plane survey for the London area, which is managed by Forest Research and the London Tree Officer's Association. At the end of September, the Tree Team met with the new Assistant Director and led a walk around some of the areas they are managing.

18. The Tree Team have been supporting the West Ham Park Team in removing OPM nests and carrying out tree inspections on site. The team has also been to Burnham Beeches, supporting that team with important work on the ancient Beech pollards which require specialist pruning and propping work.

Formal landscape

19. Golder's Hill Park won the London in Bloom Gold Award in the Large Park category, and the Pergola Garden won the Gold Award in the Walled Garden category. The Hill Garden also won a Gold Award in the Small Park category and Queen's Park won the Gold Award in the Large Park category. This was a great accolade for all the teams involved and we are delighted with these results.

20. As we approach the end of the busy season and enter into the autumn, we can return to the subject of a fitting memorial for our great friend and colleague Declan Gallagher. We have a number of ideas and they all are centred around Golders Hill Park, where Declan spent so many years, and where he brought up his family. We will report back at the next meeting and share proposals with the Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

21. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environment.
22. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

Financial Implications

23. No Impact

Resource Implications

24. No impact.

Climate Implications

25. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 (appendix 1) are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving

and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

26. No impact.

Risk Implications

27. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

28. No impact.

Security Implications





29. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

Appendices

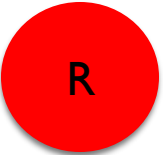



- Appendix 1 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Athletics Track Capital Project)

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SWIMMING - Access, Safety & Security	Outcome	Lead	Overall status	
	Improved safety, access and security across the three Bathing Ponds.	Richard Chamberlain (C. Surveyors)		
Date of Report: 6 October 2023			Phase: Construction	
Highlights	Next Steps		Metrics	Status
<p>Page 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works started on site on 11th April, with a Practical Completion (PC) date of 21st August. Due to additional drainage works, structural design issues and fabrication issues relating to the jetty structure and mesh platform the contractor is in delay and PC is now likely to be November 2023. Progress to date: Ladies Pond – complete apart from the tiling to the accessible toilet that must be retiled Mixed – Steel pontoon approaching completion apart from grating. Men’s – Steel installation complete and timber sub structure now being installed to the steel structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Completion – November 2023 Gateway 6 – January 2023 		Budget	
			Schedule	
			Risk	
Risks and Issues	Reasons for RAG Status			
<p>Key Risks and issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work sequence & access restrictions Challenges with design, structural requirements and additional drainage works Project Programme overruns 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RAG status has been re-baselined following delays to programme and potential additional prelim costs Schedule is Red as there is a risk, this could overrun if issues arise on site. 			

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PH Athletics Track Surface Reconstruction	Outcome	Lead	Overall status		
	Undertake a full re-surfacing of the 8-lane Parliament Hill Athletics Track & associated infrastructure (i.e., LED floodlighting) to obtain UKA “TrackMark” certification.	William LoSasso			
Date of Report: 25 September 2023 Phase: Construction					
Highlights		Next Steps		Metrics	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track Surfacing: Specialist installation works commenced 25 September Floodlighting: New columns have been installed and cabled back to control point Additional works have been necessary following site discoveries and poor ground conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> track and pathway re-construction, additional drainage works, reinforced floodlight bases additional wearing course and levelling works, underground ducting asbestos discovery, testing and possible works in response <p>Very wet weather in July and August slowed progress on site and compounded other delays The Contractor has worked diligently, resequencing the works and working extended hours and weekends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction completion anticipated in November 2023 but subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry and warm weather to allow track surfacing to complete in October Plan of action to work around unforeseen asbestos within Electrical switch-room 		Construction Works: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To complete as much specialist surfacing works as possible during the diminishing weather window to the end of October To complete the floodlighting installation during November Review works achieved and plan to complete any remaining in Spring 2024 		Budget	
				Schedule	
				Risk	
Risks and Issues		Reasons for RAG Status			
<u>Key Risks/Issues:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Timely completion of the specialist surfacing work is at risk due to the seasonal nature of the surfacing works; diminishing weather window through October into the Autumn Forecast costs exceed the approved budget due to discovery, poor ground conditions and very wet weather. Scope reduction to mitigate budget overspend has been had limited impact. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Risk, Budget and Programme are Red due to the delayed programme and “weather window” for construction works. Considerable additional works have had to be completed to provide the new track surface with a suitable sub-base. Additional remedial works to existing drainage and underground ducting as well as increased design responses for floodlight foundations have contributed to delays and additional costs. 			

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 30 October 2023
Subject: Hamstead Heath Constabulary Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Interim Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Committee Members with an update on the Hampstead Heath Constabulary and its restructure as part of the new TOM process. Included with the report as appendices are a dashboard for Constabulary operations and activities during September, and a report summarising Parkguard's work over the summer period.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

Main Report

TOM structure update

1. As part of the North London Open Spaces TOM restructure process, the Hampstead Heath Constabulary was reconfigured to have a two-tiered layout, with four Ranger Constables and supporting Operative Rangers, all working under a Senior Ranger (Enforcement). After discussions with the current Constabulary Team, the previous Assistant Director, the new Director of Natural Environment, and the new Assistant Director, we are proposing to revise the structure to a single team of six Ranger Constables managed by a Senior Ranger (Enforcement). We believe that this will deliver a more effective enforcement service for the same budget, as the six Ranger Constables will be able to provide a more effective enforcement function working in rostered teams and the staffing structure change will be cost neutral to the Corporation.

Parkguard's supporting role

2. Parkguard are a National Police Chief's Council-approved company operating in and around London, operating at a number of other City of London sites, including West Ham Park. Parkguard has been successfully deployed since early July 2023, providing essential support for the Constabulary Team over the last three months. They provide two levels of staff: a police-accredited officer and a community engagement officer. Parkguard provided critical support for staff and the Constabulary in the heat wave during the school holidays. We plan to retain Parkguard until the end of November to support the Constabulary Team. At the same time, we will start the process of recruiting new Constables as noted above to join the team so that we enter the new year with a full complement of staff. Once we have the full complement of Ranger Constables in post, we can phase out the Parkguard support.
3. We anticipate using Parkguard again next year to support the Constabulary Team at busy periods during the summer. We now know more accurately how best to deploy Parkguard staff having used their services this summer.

Next steps

4. We now plan to launch an external recruitment programme in November/December to fill the currently vacant Ranger Constable posts and start the process of rebuilding the team. We will initially recruit 4 Grade C Constables as approved in the TOM2 and will recruit to the other vacant roles when Committee approval has been received. We are fortunate to have a team of very experienced staff who will be able to support the new team members and reestablish a cohesive and effective team.
5. The team's sergeant, who is currently off sick, is making a good recovery and the management team have been supporting the family with the help of the City of London's Occupational Health Team and HR. We are very fortunate to have had a very capable and committed constable who has acted up in the absence of the sergeant, and he will continue in that position until further notice.
6. Going forward into next year, we anticipate continuing to use Parkguard's service in the busy summer holiday periods and particularly on weekends and during hot weather episodes to provide additional support to the core team as required.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environment.
8. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

Financial Implications

9. No impact foreseen.

Resource Implications

10. No impact foreseen

Climate Implications

11. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 (appendix 1) are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

12. In order for us to ensure that we are fully aligned with data protection regulations and to maintain compliance, we will work with colleagues in the Comptroller and City Solicitors Department to review the current arrangements with Parkguard and make sure we are meeting the required data protection standards. This will help us maintain the trust and confidence of the public and continue to provide a high-level service with the support of Parkguard particular in the busy summer months, while prioritising the privacy and security of all personal data that we handle.

Risk Implications

13. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

14. No impact.

Security Implications

15. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Constabulary Dash Board September 2023
- Appendix 2 – Parkguard Activity Report Summer 2023

Assistant Director, Natural Environment

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY

PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Sep-23

Incident Patrol Type

CODE

CODE	Description	Count of patrols relative to work plan priorities
PAC	No cycling - targeted patrols in non cycling areas and pathways	57
PAA	Dog control - intelligence led targeted patrols	78
PAM	Reduce sexual offences by targeted patrols	43
PAM	PSE patrols	61
PAK	Reduce instances of ASB by targeted patrols	77
PAJ	Reduce serious crime by targeted patrols	64
MO2	General patrols	151
PAI	Targeted patrols of swimming facilities	49
RQC	Indecent Exposure	6

Locations of Patrols

Hampstead Heath, GHP, Sandy Heath, Heath Extension, Queens Park
 Hampstead Heath, Heath Extension, GHP, Queens Park
 Sandy Heath, South Meadow, West Heath
 West Heath, GHP
 Hampstead Heath, Heath Extension
 Hampstead Heath
 Hampstead Heath, Queens Park, Heath Extension, GHP, Sandy Heath
 Hampstead Heath Ponds
 Heath Extension, Hampstead Heath, GHP

Byelaw Offences committed Relative to incident types

CODE BYELAW OFFENCE

CODE	BYELAW OFFENCE	Count	Result	Location
PAK	Byelaw 32 committing a nuisance contrary to public decency and propriety	x2	Recorded Formal warning	Pier - Hampstead #1 Pond
PAK	Byelaw 31 no person shall make any fire or discharge fireworks	x3	Recorded Formal warning	Parliament Hill & Pryors Field
PAI	Byelaw 41 no person shall bath or engage in fishing without consent	x2	Recorded Formal warning	Heath Ponds
PAA	Byelaw 17 no person shall leave a vehicle unattended or after closing hours	x11	Recorded Formal warning	EHCP, Lido CP & JSCP
PAH	Byelaw 4/5 no person shall climb into or onto enclosed or prohibited area	x3	Recorded Formal warning	Hampstead Heath Ponds and #1 Pond Wier

Times of byelaw Offences

15:30hrs
 15:00hrs - 21:30hrs
 15:30hrs - 20:30hrs
 20:30hrs - 22:00hrs
 17:00hrs 19:00hrs

Criminal offences reported and/or assisted MPS/LAS

CODE	OFFENCE	No. INCIDENTS	ACTION/ENGAGEMENT	Location
RQE	Exposing person.	4	Males detained /arrested for OPD	
RWL	Assault	3	Individuals Physically assaulted - Parliament Hill	
RSD	19A. Rape of a female	1	Allegation of threats to commit a sexual offence (Rape)	
RKT/M06	Drunk/disorderly	11	Drunk and disorderly Males/Females	
RVN	Possession of weapon	2	4/5 Males with a knife on Heath	
RQC	Indecent Exposure	5	Naked males on the Heath	
RCD	58B. Criminal damage	2	Criminal damage to Mens toilets PH & Racist Graffiti	
PAK	Reduce instances of ASB	17	Group of youths at PH cfe threatening Public	
PAM	Reduce Sexual Offences	6	PSE Prevention patrol W Heath	

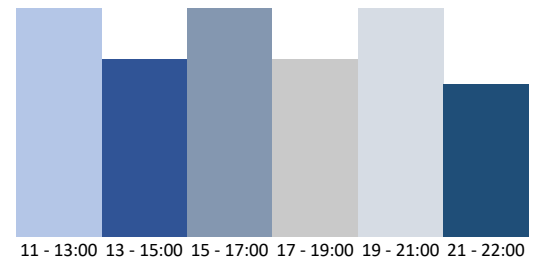
Times of criminal related offences and assistance

17:30hrs
 18:30hrs - 21:00hrs
 18:45hrs
 20:00hrs - 21:45hrs
 16:00hrs - 20:00hrs
 17:00hrs
 16:30hrs - 20:00hrs
 12:00hrs - 20:00hrs

Other deployment/actions

TYPE	NUMBER
Missing persons assist. Search	4
Community Engagements - Fun Fair - static visits	1
Dog Walking Licence Enagement patrols	61
Facility collections	15
Homeless persons intervention	9
Telephone calls from Public	361
Telephone calls from Staff	31
Radio calls from staff	277
Email to HHC web address	67
MPS Airwaves Calls	49

Overall break down of byelaw/criminal offences



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Parkguard Ltd

Service provider to Local Authorities & Police



Hampstead Parks Patrol Service

Dedicated to safeguarding visitors, staff, and the environment



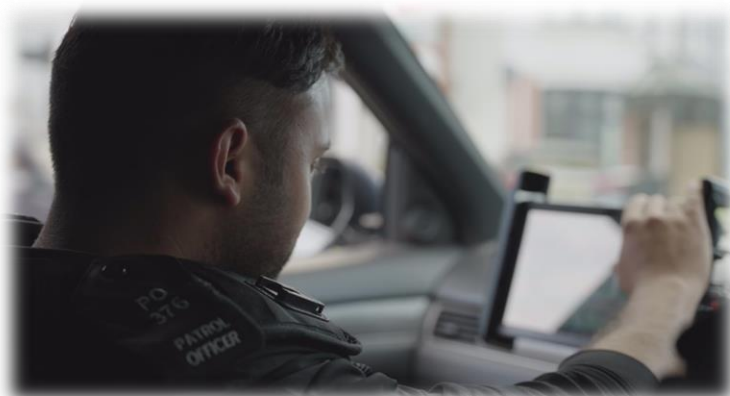
Our Hampstead Parks Patrol Service has now been operating since the 5th of July 2023 and is funded by the City of London Corporation. Our role continues to promote community safety, offer reassurance to park users and residents and to deter, detect and combat anti-social behaviour, address quality of life issues and prevent crime and disorder.

We achieve this by carrying out uniformed, high visibility patrols and by carrying out enforcement, making use of any person powers and our officers key skills in conflict management and resolution. We recognise that proportionate, education-based delivery and consistent community engagement plays a crucial part of maintaining public confidence and the reputation of the City of London Corporation.

Our officers are typically from a Police, Security or Services background, which means that they have the training, experience and skill sets required to intervene and tackle low level quality of life issues, by-law offences and anti-social behaviour. We gap fill any specific training needs with a comprehensive training package that incorporates an array of safeguarding and welfare related topics.

At first glance, the service appears to represent an enforcement entity which provides an impressive presence, but a huge emphasis is placed on harm reduction and support interventions, especially in relation to drug abuse, street population issues such as rough sleeping and public / park users welfare.

The parks patrol service has been seen by our partners as a valuable and trusted contributor to the reduction of local crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough's parks and open spaces. The highly descriptive and comprehensive information and intelligence that we collate and circulate including specific reports on safeguarding, prostitution, dog incidents and rough sleepers and rough sleeper hotspots are used to inform responses from a wide range of partners and council departments.



The information is captured into a daily report that is disseminated to our approved partner mailing list to aid in wider action, harm reduction and enforcement outcomes. In addition, the increasing number of joint patrols that the patrol officers participate in with council, police and other groups has not only improved the quality and quantity of information exchange but has increased resources in areas that are causing most concern to local people. This can be evidenced with the large number of park users and businesses that have personally thanked the officers stating that their families and staff feel much safer in the parks since the service was introduced.

The range of information that we collect is vast and allows for local management to prioritise specific locations at certain times which will guarantee the best possible outcomes for the patrol. These taskings are regularly reviewed by management.

A brief overview of the patrol's duties in Hampstead are:

- Intelligence led, tasked patrols of parks and open spaces hotspots and emerging problematic areas
- First contact referral for homeless persons and those involved in controlled drug activity
- Identification and intelligence gathering for those committing acts of anti-social behaviour and crime in parks and open spaces
- Evidencing and monitoring those who are subject to civil and criminal sanctions, providing information of breaches for further action to be taken
- Statements and court appearances as professional witnesses
- Identify safeguarding and welfare related concerns, evident in the parks and open spaces.
- Providing reassurance and presence to immediately intervene with local concerns
- Identify and report health and safety concerns that may affect park users
- Provide additional support during joint action days with a variety of partners
- Reducing harm in parks by regular weapon, articles and person searches
- Providing support and facilitating assistance to the most vulnerable park users

Consistent Delivery of Service

The Hampstead Parks Patrol Service deployment consists of a double crewed patrol vehicle and two additional park support reassurance officers.

Our deployment in Hampstead is flexible and intelligence led and during key ASB times, five days a week. The patrol currently starts at 12:00PM and finishes at 10:00PM. These patrols times coincide with local priority tasking times and park closure times.

In the period 5th of July to the 13th of September 2023, Parkguard Ltd have delivered on 100% of all 51 shifts scheduled. On each of the 51 days the patrol fulfilled its 10-hour commitment.

By remaining flexible in terms of our deployment, we can make short notice changes to respond appropriately to new and emerging issues.

Our patrols make use of a range of information to inform where patrols are directed. This includes self-generated information and intelligence where our patrols have identified new or emerging issues as well as tasking requests from the City of London corporation and other partners.



Summary of deployment

As mentioned above, we record a wide range of information gathered during patrols of Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood. This is all collated on a central secure database and is searchable. We are therefore able to measure outcomes not normally measured and that provides a balanced overview of our activities since the service commenced.

Deployment by location

■ Top 10 Priority Areas

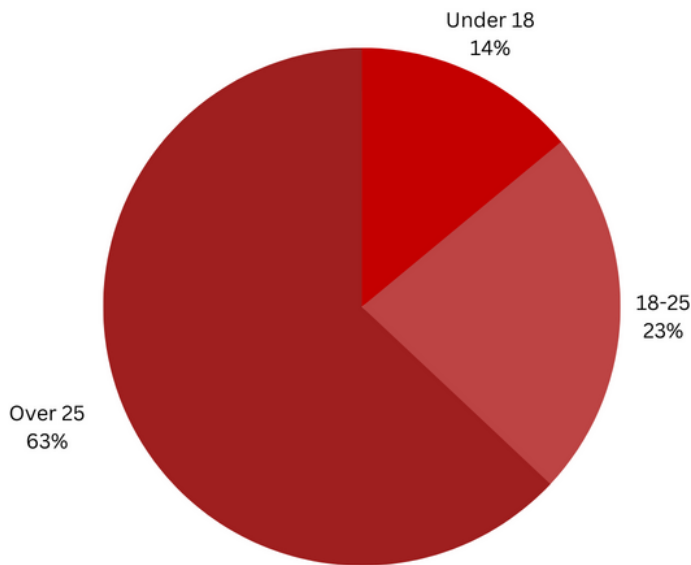
Overview of Visits and Time Spent			
Location	Visits	Number of occurrences / actions required	Duration (Hrs:Mins)
Athlone House Gardens	3	8	01:30
Cohens Fields	1	3	00:06
Dukes Field	23	141	09:07
East Heath Car Park	74	519	17:17
East Heath Road	2	10	01:31
Fairground Site	2	12	00:44
Golders Hill Park	46	287	39:03:00
Golders Hill Park Bandstand	1	2	00:20
Goodison Fountain	4	24	00:32
Hampstead Heath (General Entry)	193	894	120:48:00
Hampstead Heath Adventure Playground & Clubhouse	3	16	01:12
Hampstead Heath Constabulary Office	260	200	137:18:00
Hampstead Heath Extension	28	149	23:25
Hampstead Heath Extension Playground (South)	1	9	01:37
Hampstead Heath Paddling Pool	1	25	00:33
Hampstead Heath Sports Ground	2	10	00:26
Hampstead Heath Tumulus	1	2	00:20
Hampstead No 1 Pond	37	317	12:39
Hampstead No 2 Pond	18	148	07:34
Heath House	2	4	01:24
Heathfield House	2	3	01:15
Highgate Mens Bathing Pond	74	481	32:28:00
Highgate No 1 Pond	10	106	05:39
Highgate Woods	13	86	12:10
Ice House	2	22	03:00
Jacks Straw Castle	1	1	00:13
Jacks Straw Castle Car Park	6	28	00:51
Jacks Straws Car Park	54	336	10:23
Judges Walk House	1	4	00:15
Kenwood House Car Park	1	1	00:15
Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond	35	111	08:41
Lido Café	10	16	03:17
Lime Avenue	2	5	00:30
Millfield Lane Public Toilets	1	4	00:30
Mixed Bathing Pond	50	313	21:40
Model Boating Pond	95	691	48:10:00
Parliament Hill (Kite Hill)	75	516	55:18:00
Parliament Hill Bandstand	28	215	23:28
Parliament Hill Fields	48	505	29:17:00
Parliament Hill Fields Athletics Track	3	11	01:45
Parliament Hill Lido	50	490	45:54:00
Parliament Hill Lido Car Park	55	273	15:13
Parliament Hill Office	11	67	04:10
Parliament Hill Road	3	9	00:32
Preachers Hill	4	36	02:30
Pryors Field	14	126	04:58
Queens Park	13	131	13:34
Sandy Heath Woods	31	192	25:24:00
South Meadow	9	63	03:52
Stock Pond	4	30	01:02
The Hill Garden & Pergola	28	185	22:07
The Hive	9	62	05:48
The Secret Garden	3	14	00:57
Vale of Heath	15	96	06:52
Vale of Heath Playground	6	23	02:06
Vale of Heath Pond	21	235	11:14
Viaduct Pond	3	27	00:52
West Heath Road	7	24	03:16
Whitestone Pond	1	2	00:29

Service Summary

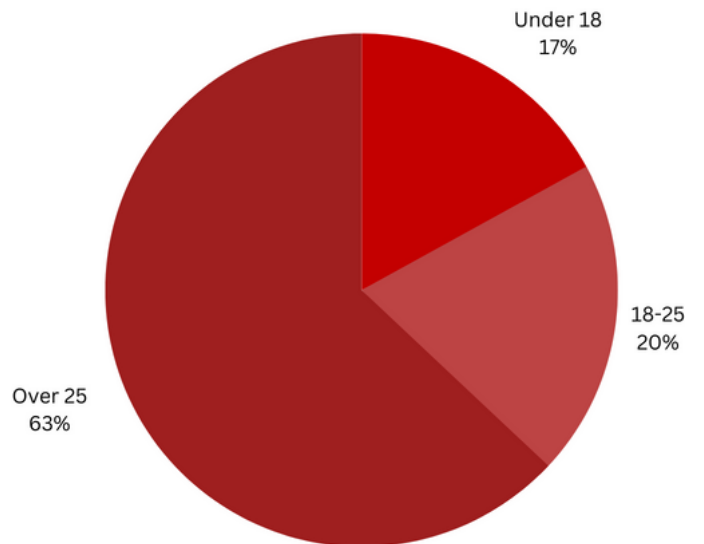
In the period 05/07/2023-13/09/2023, the Hampstead Parks Patrol Service have generated the work returns and outcomes as detailed below:

Anti-Social Behaviour - Occasions	Occasions
ASB - Identified Address	2
ASB - Identified Person(s)	34
ASB - Identified Vehicle(s)	36
Lone adult found in childrens play area without due cause	2
Nuisance (Adults/over 18)	103
Nuisance (By-law Infringement)	136
Incidents of disorderly street drinkers	1
Incidents of street drinking - No ASB or Offences found	7
Occasions of person(s) found to be trespassing	22
Fishing related incidents - All	27

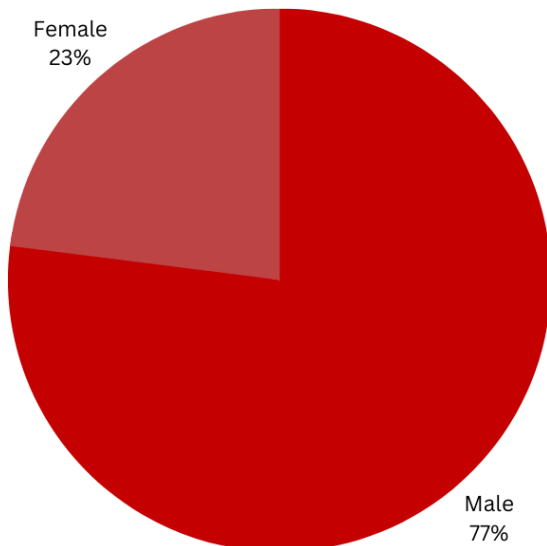
Anti-Social Behaviour - females by age



Anti-Social Behaviour - males by age



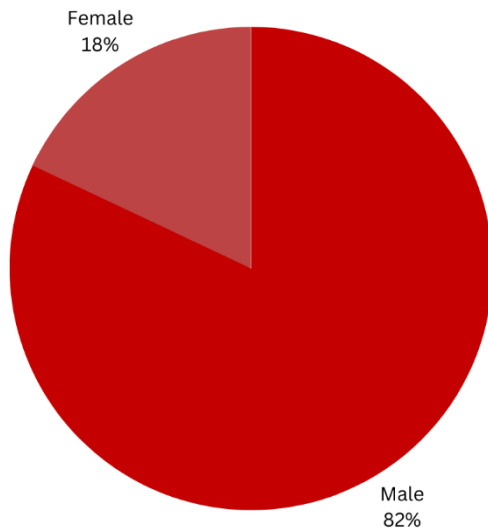
Anti-Social Behaviour – by gender



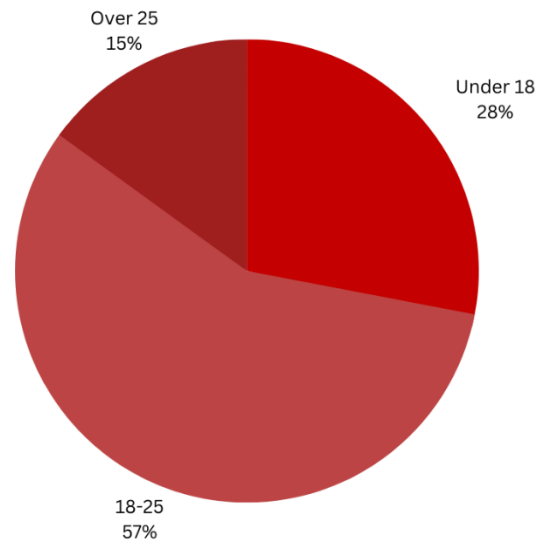
Nuisance - Incidents dealt with	Occasions
Barbeque identified - either permitted or unauthorised	5
Nuisance (Fly-tipping)	2
Nuisance (Littering)	153
Nuisance (Noise complaint)	6
Nuisance (Urinating in Public)	5
Nuisance (Youths under 18)	38
Occasions of unauthorised photo/filming	2

Drug Related - Incidents dealt with	Occasions
Seized Alcohol - CSAS Powers used	2
Possession, Supply or Use of Class A drug	1
Possession, Supply or Use of Class B drug	8
Possession, Supply or Use of NOS	2
Found and reported occasions where drug paraphernalia was found which was used as intelligence to task drug hotspots - Class A	4
Found and reported occasions where drug paraphernalia was found which was used as intelligence to task drug hotspots - Class B	45
Found and reported occasions where drug paraphernalia was found which was used as intelligence to task drug hotspots - NOS	4

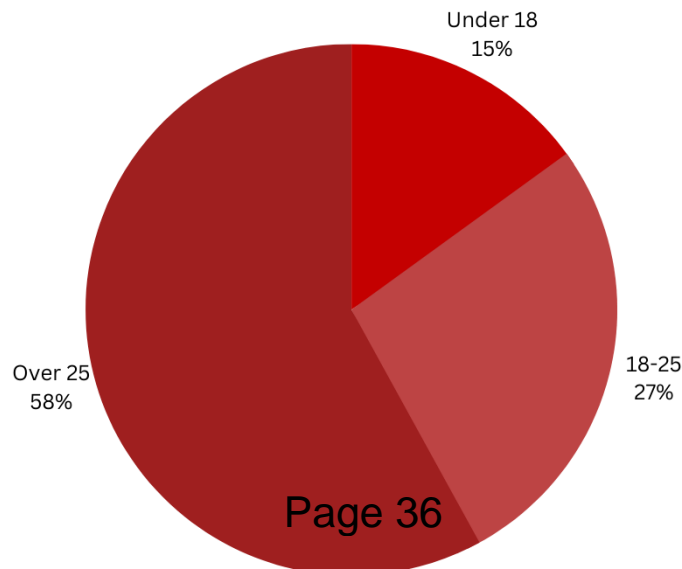
Drug Related - females by age



Drug Related - males by age

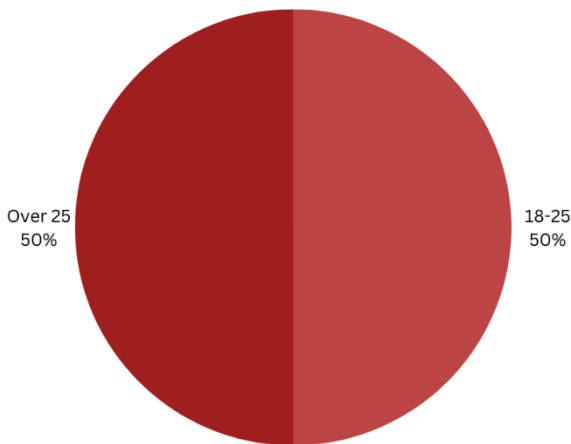


Drug Related - females by age

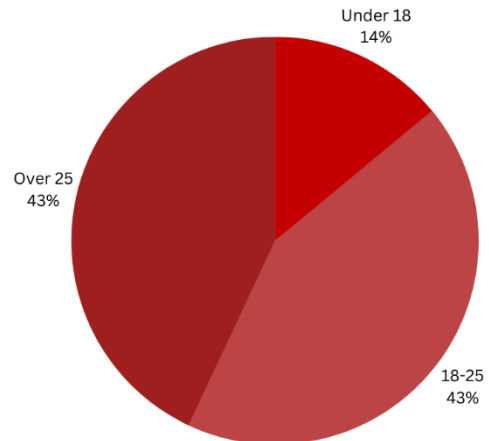


Crime - Incidents dealt with	Occasions
Assault - All	3
Dealt with instances of Criminal Damage	8
Discrimination - Other	1
Public Order Offences	3
Inappropriate displays	1
Theft	2
Burglary	1
Road Traffic Offence	2
Wildlife Crime/Incidents - All	3

Crime - females by age



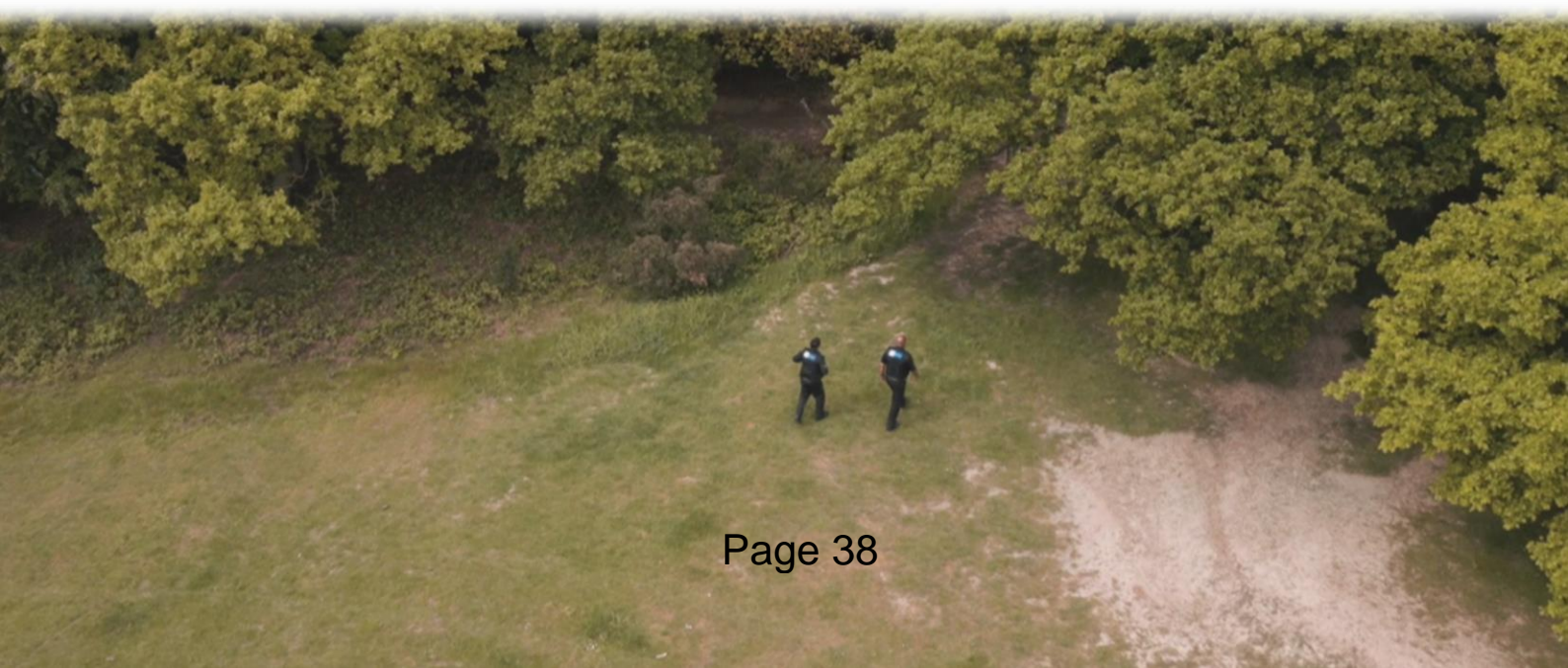
Crime - males by age



Enforcement Action Taken - Occasions	Occasions
Police called to attend due to offences detected	7
Item/property confiscated by Patrol Unit	3
Person Identified with name and address - CSAS Powers used	84
Stopped Cycles - CSAS Powers used	3
Disposal - CSAS Powers used	3
Discrimination – Racially Aggravated	3
ASB Warning Letter Served	1
ASB Warning Form Issued	87
Suspects, Offenders and relevant issues brought to the attention of the Police for appropriate action to be taken	8
Person arrested by the Police	3
Occasions where nuisance individuals were directed to leave to prevent harassment, alarm and distress	94
Occasions where individuals were warned about their conduct with the purpose of managing impact on local residents, members of the public and/or businesses	223
PG Unit successfully served court papers	1
Use of force by PG officer	3
Handcuffs used as a last resort	1
Use of any person powers by PG officer	83
Occasions where officers used their appointed powers	203

Harm Reduction Activities Undertaken - Occasions	Occasions
Area Search – For suspect or witness appeal	64
Area Search - For missing person	8
Dog Related issues	14
Occasions where a park is locked outside of the standard opening hours for the purpose of safety for the public	2
Identified area of potential risk to be monitored in future	551
Request to monitor a specific area carried out and reassurance provided	443
Offensive Weapons Recovered	1
Weapon Sweep completed	7
Person check and/or Suspect person monitored	25
PG Unit received Call/ Information	8
Individuals referred to support services	2
Rough sleeper site identified	15
Incidents of Homelessness	5
PG Unit patrols of a body of water to monitor swimmers	11
Underage Drinking	3
Identified potential adult safeguarding issues	8
Identified potential child protection issues	10
Welfare check on a person(s) carried out	40

Engagement & Liasion - Occasions	Occasions
PG Unit attended public engagement event	2
Gathering Young People where no ASB were found	139
PG Unit liased with another department/ partner agency	86
Liased and supported Client / Client Staff	195
Liased and engaged with Victim/Informant for the purpose of collecting intelligence against a crime or incident.	12
Liased and engaged with the public for the purpose offering reassurance, promoting community safety and building public confidence in the service	412
Liased with parents for presence and reassurance	19
Liased with local residents	79
Liased with young people for the purposes of engagement, prevention, education and diversion from ASB and Crime	156
PG Unit attended meeting	1

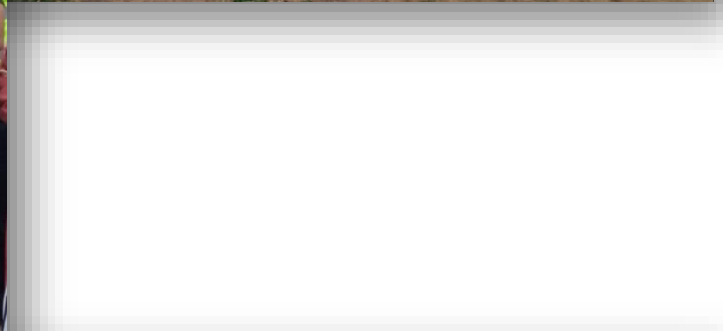




Joint Working & Partnership Support - Occasions	Occasions
Ambulance called to deal with illness and injury	2
Relevant Person Informed	130
PNC Check completed on person - CSAS Powers used	1
Intel on an identified Address	12
Intel on an identified Person	85
Intel on an identified Vehicle	36
Police Joint Patrols	34
Liaised with Police officers at various levels	120
PG attended to police request	54
Known police nominal detected, Monitored & Reported	3

Supportive Action & Promotion of Safety - Occasions	Occasions
Assisted member of public in need	128
Dealt with an animal welfare incident	4
Body Cam Footage made available to appropriate parties	118
Crime prevention advice given to persons in a vulnerable position	33
Fire identified by PG unit	3
First aid provided by PG Unit	2
Health and Safety Concern identified – environmental which could affect the public	49
PG Unit recovered lost property	6
Property found and handed in	1
Thanked for assistance by the public	428
Persons(s) found to be locked in car park	3
Suspicious Vehicle seen in and around parks	15

Total Directed Attendance - Occasions	Occasions
Assisted partner agency with lock-up of an area	84
Patrol unit called away by client to another location	30
Patrol unit called by client	4
Patrol unit called by control room	2
Patrol unit called by Police	13
Patrol unit called by the public	2
Patrol unit called by another PG Unit	8
Joint patrols undertaken with another PG Unit	81
PG Unit attended to non-police tasking request	306
PG attended to police Tasking	107



Company Overview

Parkguard provides a wide range of community safety services, predominantly on behalf of Local Authorities and Police, as well as in partnership with various other statutory providers.

Parkguard is a National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) approved company under their Crime Prevention Initiatives and a Police accredited company under the Police Reform Act 2002 for the Metropolitan Police Service, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Essex Police. This Act allows Chief Constables to accredit certain organisations that work within a community safety remit and can meet extremely strict Police criteria. As such, we have become a well established part of the extended policing family under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). As an accredited organisation since 2005, Parkguard was the first private sector company and is currently the only organisation to hold multiple area accreditations which facilitates cross-border working.

By being part of the wider Police family our services are sanctioned by state and our staff have to pass National Police Personnel Vetting and receive enhanced training above the standard industry requirements currently in the private sector. Our staff hold a number of delegated Police powers, not normally available outside of the Police service. We have maintained this standard and exercised these powers appropriately and consistently for just shy of two decades across our service areas. Having a lawful right to act within the public domain, and the ability to exercise these powers means that we deliver tangible, effective action against offenders and our services operate within their own right, generating legitimacy and public confidence.

Parkguard has a proven track record of delivering consistent partnership services, which hold value to local communities. By performing these roles collaboratively with the Police, Local Authority and other agencies through information sharing and established processes as a recognised partner, we are able to provide supportive roles that compliment local policing and the work done by partners. This aids in the reduction of a broad range of local issues and provides greater promotion of community safety when responding to public concerns. Due to these services being delivered in this way, as part of the wider Police family, we are subject to statutory control and afforded inclusion, which is often not found with private companies. We deliver our services in line with public service controls, ensuring transparency and accountability which allow protection in terms of delivery standards to the public that our Local Authority clients serve.

Generally our services fall into two main areas:

1

The design, implementation and subsequent delivery of public services on behalf of the Local Authority, such as Community Warden Schemes, Parks Patrol Services, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Response Teams, outreach support and Night Time Economy policing support.

2

The second is alternative approaches for specific local concerns such as gang exit programmes, youth diversion, outreach/harm reduction, education-based responses and dealing with irresponsible dog ownership and dangerous dogs.

Our main activities within these areas include high-visibility patrolling to deter and disrupt offending and to gather information and intelligence to aid in efficient wider action. These patrols promote community safety by providing early intervention, prevention and by actively targeting and prioritising lower level nuisance and other forms of Anti-social Behaviour. The overall aims of our services are to enable, facilitate and support wider action by the authority and Police to then collaboratively achieve longer term solutions to community issues and also elevate service demand. This enables the Local Authority and Police to address higher priority calls, improve response with appropriate use of resources and also focus on their core responsibilities without being abstracted to action tasks that do not require a Police or higher level response.



Parkguard Ltd

Service provider to Local Authorities & Police
www.parkguard.co.uk

Our Local Authority and Police support services are regulated by the authorities for whom we work to ensure accountability and transparency. As a result many are integrated within existing Local Authority or Police teams in order to deliver tangible results in a complimentary way - as one service, in which all members of the community have open and equal access.

Parkguard is an innovative company, which covers all areas of crime prevention, specialising in partnership approaches to solve problems. Parkguard is not an opportunistic product of austerity or diversifying focus, to capitalise on current perceived fear of rising crime and reductions in policing by the public. Parkguard continues, as intended to be from the start, a community safety service provider. Our core services have been delivered for many years with little change to delivery or role type and are well established within our areas of work.

The company also has a General Security Division which compliments our specific and unique approach outlined above. We have selected a pricing structure for the General Security Division that is competitive within the security industry, placing us in the low to mid-range pricing bracket. However, due to our Police Accredited status, this division is of a higher standard than the industry average to prevent any negative impact on the primary company focus and our reputation. This means clients using our General Security Division are afforded high quality staff and equipment, combined with specialist area policing knowledge, while maintaining low industry prices.

From our unique ways of working, Parkguard has achieved numerous awards. In 2010 we were recognised by Hertfordshire Police for our significant contribution to community safety. In 2012 we received an award from Essex Police for our commitment to community safety and being the longest serving accredited organisation and we also achieved BS ISO 14001.

In 2013 we were awarded by the Metropolitan Police as Partner of the Year and during 2014 we achieved ISO 9001 status and awarded the London Living Wage Mark. In 2015 we achieved BS ISO 18001 and we developed a supportive policing role to aid in managing Night Time Economy issues in partnership with Islington Council & the Metropolitan Police; this type of approach was a national first.

In 2016 we were awarded by the Metropolitan Police Service for partnership & engagement in London at the Police & Security Awards and also received a certificate of appreciation from Ealing Police for our hard work and continued support to the Police and the people of Ealing.

Community Safety Accredited Company

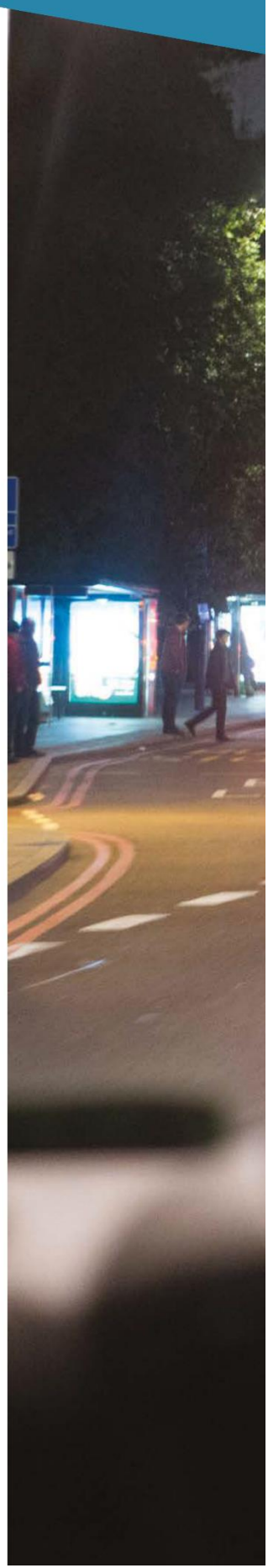
- National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Approved Company
- Police Crime Prevention Academy "Endorsed"
- Accredited by Essex Police
- Accredited by Hertfordshire Constabulary
- Accredited by Metropolitan Police
- Awarded by Essex Police - Longest servicing CSAS organisation and contribution to Community Safety
- Awarded Metropolitan Police Partner of the Year (NI)
- Awarded by Ealing Borough Commander "For continued work and supporting the Police and people of Ealing"
- Winner of the Vinci Facilities Social Value Generation Award
- Winner of the Metropolitan Police and Security (PaS) Awards for Partnership Working
- Awarded London Living Wage Employer Mark
- Member of City of London Crime Prevention Association
- Armed Forces Covenant Bronze Award – "Proudly Supporting Those Who Serve"

Company Information

- Company Registration Number: 6157958
- VAT Registration Number: 906598196
- Registered with the Information Commissioner's Office
- BS EN ISO 14001:2015
- BS EN ISO 9001: 2015
- BS EN ISO 45001:2018
- FORS Bronze Accredited 2021 - Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme
- FORS Silver Accredited 2022 - Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme



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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 30 October 2023
Subject: Parliament Hill Masterplan proposal public consultation	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Interim Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the public consultation carried out in July on proposals for the Parliament Hill Masterplan. The proposal focuses on six areas within the Parliament Hill area; a new wetland area, improvements to the café, improvements to the children's play area (under 5s), playground improvements, a new ball games court, and a new splash park.

The public consultation received 382 responses on the six proposals. The responses were generally supportive and positive, but there were significant concerns about design, appropriateness, value for money and funding. A report by MTW Consultants Limited accompanies this short report, providing a full assessment of the survey and results.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

Main Report

The purpose of the Parliament Hill Masterplan

1. The proposals produced by the consultants Land Use Consultants were presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee during the public consultation period in July for their comments. Comments on the proposals were also received in a written statement from the Heath and Hampstead Society.

2. The proposal is intended to be a first draft of a more detailed developed plan which could then be put forward in a future funding bid. The individual proposals could also be delivered as individual standalone projects if funding was insufficient for the full programme. There is no immediate plan to apply for capital funding from central City of London Corporation funds.

Comments on the survey results

3. Although the six individual area proposals received generally positive responses as shown on the histogram charts in the accompanying report from MTW Consultants, the written comments provide a more full understanding of community reaction, with concerns about design, value for money, and impact on the natural aspect of the Heath. The comments section provides an interesting counterpoint to the higher-level results. The proposals for the play spaces generally received more support but the wetland and café proposals generated less positive responses.

Review of the proposals in light of the feedback from the consultation

4. What is clear from the responses is that there needs to be a further series of design iterations in response to the comments, with possible sets of options for particular areas like the play spaces and the café. Many Heath users are very sensitive to 'appropriateness' in landscaping and general design and prefer a minimalist approach. This view is strongly rooted in what so many Heath users would describe as the naturalness of the Heath, and the importance of protecting this from 'parkification'. The attempt to introduce new pathways and boardwalks in the wetland proposal generated a number of negative comments, where respondents have sensed an attempt to introduce features that they associate with a more formal landscape or a country park.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

5. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environment.
6. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

Financial Implications

7. No impact

Resource Implications

8. No impact.

Climate Implications

9. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

10. No impact.

Risk Implications

11. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

12. No impact.

Security Implications

13. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Public consultation report

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MTW Consultants Limited
**Leisure and Regeneration
Consultants**



**A Public Consultation on
improvements to the Parliament Hill Area
in July 2023**



MTW Consultants Limited

Leisure and Regeneration Consultants

Prepared for:

the City of London



A Public Consultation on improvements to the Parliament Hill Area in July 2023

DRAFT REPORT

28th August 2023

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Vol 2: APPENDICES

1. Detailed list of comments on new Wetland Area
2. Detailed list of comments on Café improvements
3. Detailed list of comments on Children’s Play Area
4. Detailed list of comments on Playground improvements
5. Detailed list of comments on new Ball Games Area
6. Detailed list of comments on Splash Park
7. Other comments, questions or concerns about other spaces in the Parliament Hill area
8. Submission from Heath & Hampstead Society
9. Copy of Survey Questionnaire

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction and Method

The City of London is looking to carry out a programme of improvements to the Parliament Hill Area (PHA) of Hampstead Heath subject to funding. Six areas were selected from the Masterplan and drawn up and visualised by Land Use Consultants. The areas selected were:

- A New Wetland Area
- Improvements to the Café
- Improvements to the Children's Play area (under 5s)
- Playground improvements
- New Ball Games Court
- New Splash Park

MTW Consultants carried out a public consultation exercise in July 23 to get the views of PHA users and test out these initial ideas. An outdoor exhibition of the plans was held on Sunday 16th July in PHA. A link to an on-line survey was handed out to visitors on the day and subsequently the QR code link was advertised around the Heath and circulated to Stakeholder groups.

2. Sample details

In total 382 completed responses to the questionnaire were received by the cut-off date, 3rd August, and a separate submission was subsequently received from the Heath & Hampstead Society. The vast majority of respondents visited the PHA once a week or more (82%). The main reason for visiting selected by most was 'Quiet time/reflection' (19.6%), followed by 'Children's activities' (18.3%), and Swimming (13.6%). Dog walking attracted just under 11% which is fairly standard as a proportion of visits across most parks. Most travelled on foot and the main postcodes where visitors lived were NW5 (30%), NW3 (27%) and N6 (11%).

3. Views on proposed improvements

Respondents were shown the visuals of each area as they are now and after the improvements, and asked to rate them. The results for all 6 areas are summarised below:

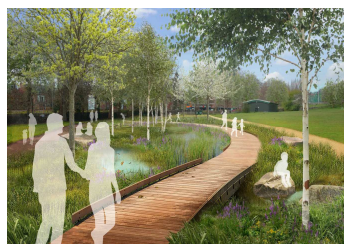
Rating	New Wetlands Area %	Café improve %	Children's Play Area %	Playground %	New Ball Games Area %	Splash Park %
Excellent	24.8	21.9	18.0	24.5	24.0	35.0
Very good	31.7	36.9	39.1	36.3	39.7	33.4
Average	20.3	29.6	20.1	19.9	20.8	15.9
Poor	7.2	5.3	5.6	5.6	2.1	4.5
Very poor	11.2	5.5	9.5	6.4	3.5	6.1
Don't know this area	4.8	0.8	7.7	7.3	9.9	5.0
Excellent or Very good	56%	59%	57%%	61%	64%	68%

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

The area that scored the highest in terms of 'excellent' or 'very good' ratings was the Splash Park (68%) and the more contentious was the new Wetlands Area (56%), which was also rated poor or very poor by the highest number of respondents (18%).

Respondents were asked if they would like to make any other (open ended) comments about the proposals. Many comments were received ranging from 188 comments on the new Wetlands Area to 120 for the new Ball Games Area. The respondents put forward many ideas and suggestions. It should be noted that the respondents expressing comments represented only 30-50% of the sample and were sometimes weighted more toward detractors from the ideas than those in favour.

Comments on new Wetlands Area (188 comments)



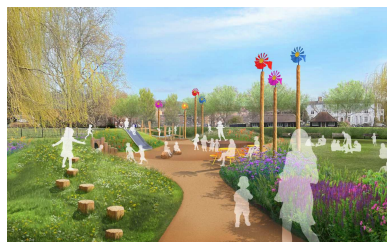
The proposed new wetlands area on the frequently flooded area of open space near the Lido stimulated a variety of opinions. While some appreciated its potential benefits for biodiversity and water management, others felt that the existing natural beauty of the area should not be tampered with. Concerns were raised about the impact on the wild and serene atmosphere, the potential for over-engineering and high maintenance costs, the intrusion of boardwalks and paths, and the need to preserve open spaces for children's sports and games. Accessibility, seating options, and considerations for wildlife were also points of discussion. While some saw the proposal as unnecessary and costly, others welcomed the opportunity for positive change that could balance both human use and nature.

Comments on the Café improvements (180 comments)



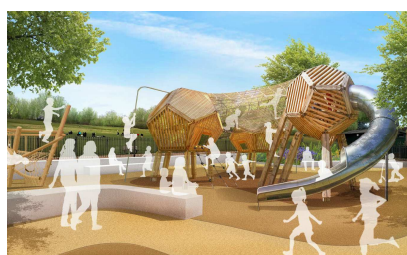
Some individuals were supportive of improvements, highlighting the need for updates and welcoming additional seating, better facilities and healthier food options. There were 35 comments broadly in favour of the proposals (19%). Others were critical of the proposed changes, expressing concern about the potential destruction of greenery, loss of character and unnecessary alterations. 31 comments came from respondents wanting the Café left as it is (17%). Many accepted the café needed a revamp but felt it should be kept low key and not turned into a crowded 'hot spot'. There were 37 comments on the design (20%) and 16 comments on the food/catering (9%).

Comments on new Children's Play Area (167 comments)



The comments highlighted a range of opinions, with some emphasising the need to maintain open spaces for picnics and quiet enjoyment, while others questioned the purpose of specific elements such as windmills and towers. Many expressed the importance of striking a balance between introducing new play features and preserving the area's natural charm. There were calls for inclusive play equipment, seating for parents, and considerations for wildlife, with a preference for natural materials. Concerns were raised about overstimulation, maintenance, and the impact on the peaceful environment. Overall, the comments emphasised the desire for thoughtful updates that enhance children's experiences while respecting the area's existing character.

Comments on the Playground improvements (162 comments)



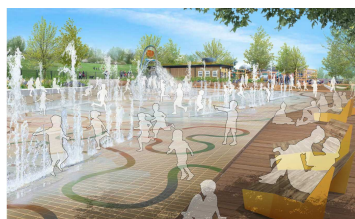
The comments regarding proposed improvements to the playground for older children reflected mixed views. While some expressed concerns about potential safety hazards, others acknowledged the need for updates due to the current playground's state of disrepair. There were calls for preserving elements that work well, ensuring visibility for supervising parents, and maintaining a variety of play options. Many commented on the importance of considering different age groups and the potential impact on the surrounding environment. Some emphasised the need for more seating and shaded areas, as well as accessibility for disabled children. Concerns about the size of the proposed structure, the potential disruption during renovations, and the balance between existing features and new additions were also mentioned. Overall, opinions varied on the necessity and design of the improvements, with some advocating for changes and others preferring the playground's current state.

Comments on the Ball Games Area (120 comments)



Some respondents expressed concerns about the bright colours and urban design, suggesting a preference for a more natural and subdued aesthetic. Others appreciated the idea and potential improvements, such as increased seating and better fencing to prevent balls from going over to the railway. Some emphasised the need for variety in sports and games, including basketball and netball, while others mentioned the potential for noise and safety issues. There are suggestions for better accessibility, longer opening hours, and consideration of different sports like padel or beach volleyball. Overall, the comments reflected support for the proposed ball games area.

Comments on the new Splash Park (152 comments)



Respondents generally expressed enthusiasm for the new splash park. Some, however, believed that the current paddling pool is well-liked and should be maintained, emphasising its suitability for babies and toddlers. Many would like to see a splash park and a paddling pool. Concerns about maintenance costs, accessibility, safety, and hygiene were raised. Some welcomed the idea of fountains and additional seating, while others argued for maintaining the tranquillity and natural aspects of the Heath. There were suggestions for more shade and non-slip surfaces, and a balance between playfulness and calmness. Some questioned the necessity of the project, its cost, and its seasonal nature.

4. Comments, questions or concerns about other spaces in the Parliament Hill Area (157 comments)

Finally respondents were asked for any comments, questions or concerns they might have about other parts of the PHA.

Overall, there was support for enhancements as long as the natural character of the space was preserved. Concerns included the potential impact on the wildness and tranquillity of the area, the need for more benches, better signage, lighting, and facilities like toilets. Some suggestions included focusing on children's facilities, upgrading tennis courts with floodlights and water fountains, enhancing accessibility, and maintaining a balance between developments and preserving nature. There were calls for improvements to be sustainable, practical, and sensitive to the environment. Some questioned the need for certain changes and expressed concerns about potential fees, privatisation, and the overall impact on the unique character of the Heath.

5. Submission by Heath & Hampstead Society

The Society supports proposals for improvement of sports facilities and grounds, playgrounds and facilities at and around the Parliament Hill Café, including a nature interpretation centre at the Café. Although it strongly supports the idea of establishing a wetland for drainage and biodiversity, it is opposed to the proposed location and favours a corridor of wetland and woodland along the east side of the football pitches from the Broad Walk to the Lido area.

1. INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

1.1 The City of London is looking to carry out a programme of improvements to the Parliament Hill Area of Hampstead Heath. Together with their landscape architects LUC, they have drawn up a Masterplan for the area and identified 21 different areas and facilities that need investment. Six of these have been drawn up in more detail and visualised by LUC. They are:

- A New Wetland Area
- Improvements to the Café
- Improvements to the Children's Play area (under 5s)
- Playground improvements
- New Ball Games Court
- New Splash Park

1.2 MTW Consultants Ltd was commissioned by the City of London in June 2023 to carry out a Public Consultation among visitors to the Parliament Hill Area (PHA) to get their views on these initial ideas and other comments on what is needed in the PHA.

The Public consultation consisted of two elements:

An outdoor exhibition of the LUC Masterplan and visualisations in the PHA (opposite the Café) in a City of London gazebo inviting views and comments.

An on-line survey questionnaire to gather people's views asking them to rate the 6 visualisations and give their comments on them as well comments about other spaces in the PHA.

1.3 The two methods were closely interlinked as the exhibition day was used as a primary means of distributing leaflets with a link to the questionnaire¹. Every visitor to the stand was given a leaflet. The questionnaire link and / or leaflet were also circulated to the Stakeholder committee members involved in Hampstead Heath for them to cascade down to their members. Finally the leaflet was posted up on notice boards around the Heath.

¹ A copy of the questionnaire is shown in Volume 2, Appendix 9

Visitors could browse visualisations on A1 boards showing the improvements to the 6 areas that had been worked up by LUC from some 21 areas designated as needing improvement in the Masterplan. Staff from the City Corporation and LUC were on hand to answer any questions asked.

It was made clear to all visitors that these were ideas only, rather than funded proposals; and that their views would help to refine them and assist with raising the funds need to implement them.

Leaflets with the link to the on line survey were also handed out to people visiting the Café and the All Dogs Matter Bark Off show by MTW's team.



2.3 The large majority of verbal responses received from visitors and their children who visited the public exhibition on the day, were positive and supportive. A small minority expressed doubts on the need for such changes and a desire to leave the Heath as it is. This dichotomy is reflected throughout the survey results.

3. SURVEY CHARACTERISTICS

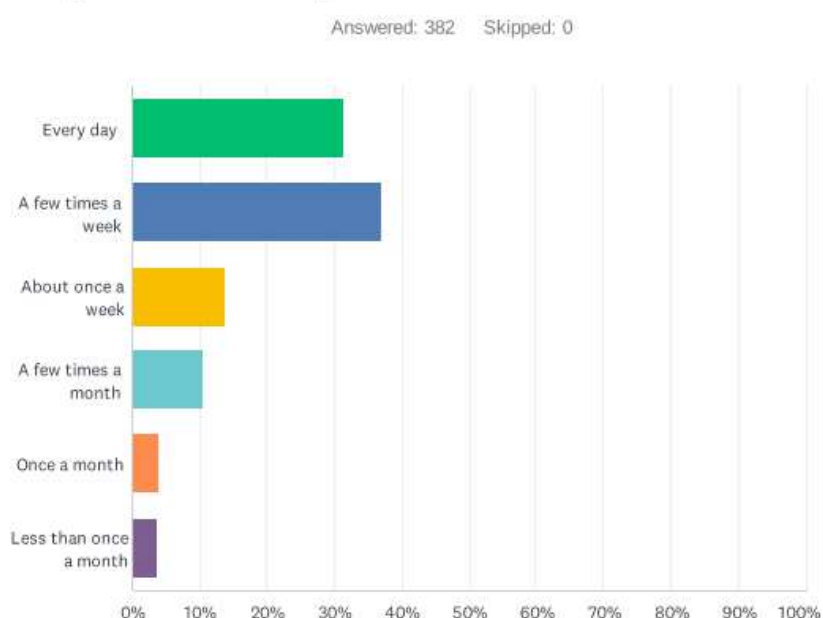
3.1 SIZE OF SAMPLE

In total, 382 completed responses were achieved between the 16th July and the 3rd of August, the date chosen to close the survey. Peak collection days were 16th July, the day of the exhibition itself (45), the day after (38), 2nd August (63) and 3rd August (131), the last day of the survey which closed on 3rd August. Details were published in the Hampstead & Highgate News on 2nd August, undoubtedly causing this spike in responses on the last two days.²

3.2 FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO PHA

The vast majority of respondents visited the PHA once a week or more (82%) with 31% visiting it every day and 37% visiting a few times a week. The sample therefore contains primarily *regular and frequent users* who will know it well.

Q1 How often do you visit the Parliament Hill area?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every day	31.41%	120
A few times a week	36.91%	141
About once a week	13.61%	52
A few times a month	10.47%	40
Once a month	3.93%	15
Less than once a month	3.66%	14
TOTAL		382

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

² Details of the survey appeared in the Hampstead & Highgate News on 2nd August 23.

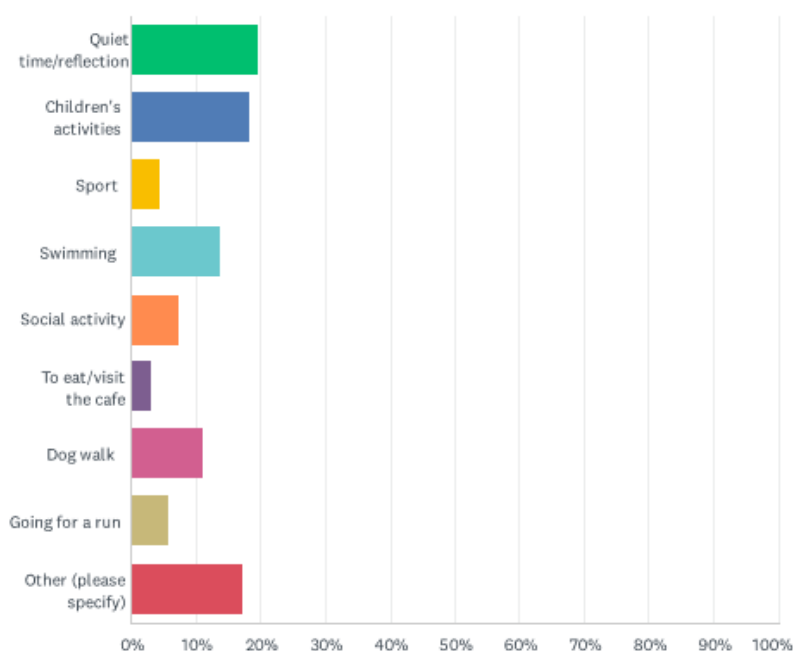
<https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/23696296.consultation-hampstead-heath-parliament-hill-plans/>

3.3 MAIN REASON FOR VISITING THE PARLIAMENT HILL AREA.

Respondents could only give their primary reason from the selection provided, but could enter other reasons in the 'Other' part of the question. The main reason selected by most was 'Quiet time/reflection' (19.6%), followed by 'Children's activities' (18.3%), and Swimming (13.6%). Dog walking attracted just under 11% which is fairly standard as a proportion of park visits across most parks. A further 11.5% cited going for a walk in addition to the other reasons. 1.6% were volunteering.

What is your main reason for visiting the Parliament Hill Area?

Answered: 382 Skipped: 0



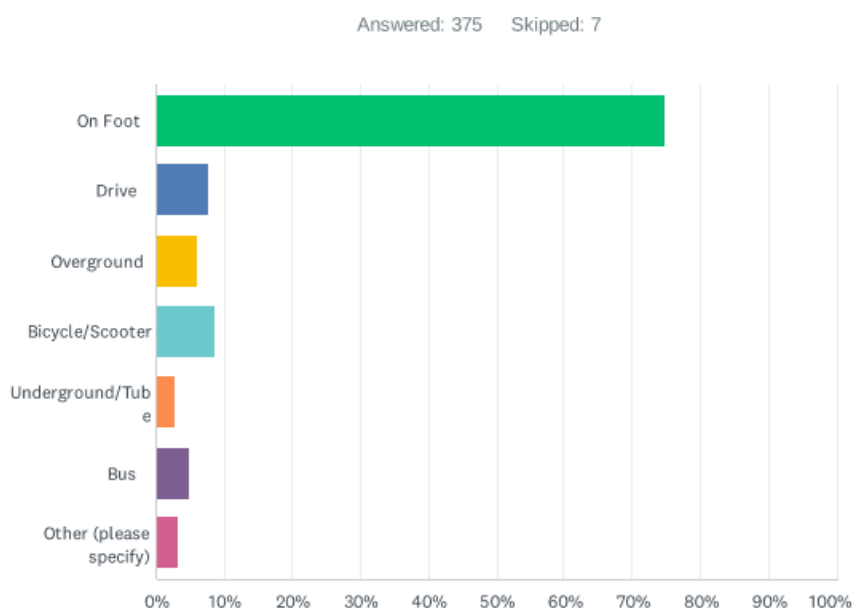
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Quiet time/reflection	19.63% 75
Children's activities	18.32% 70
Sport	4.19% 16
Swimming	13.61% 52
Social activity	7.33% 28
To eat/visit the cafe	2.88% 11
Dog walk	10.99% 42
Going for a run	5.76% 22
Other (please specify)	17.28% 66
TOTAL	382

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

3.4 MODE OF TRANSPORT

Respondents could choose a combination of transport systems. 75% of all respondents travelled on foot to the PHA

How did you travel to the Parliament Hill area today?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
On Foot	74.67%	280
Drive	7.73%	29
Overground	5.87%	22
Bicycle/Scooter	8.53%	32
Underground/Tube	2.67%	10
Bus	4.80%	18
Other (please specify)	3.20%	12
Total Respondents: 375		

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

3.5 POST CODE

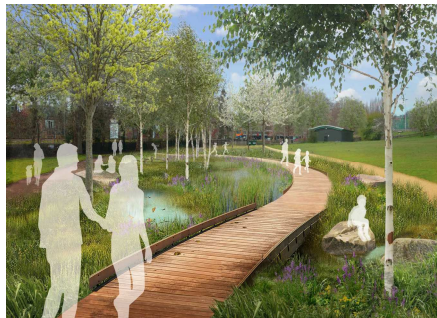
Respondents were asked to give the first part of their postcode. This was answered by 98% of the sample.

NW5	30%
NW3	27%
N6	11%
N19	6%
NW6	3%
N2	3%
NW11	2%
NW1	2%
Other North London	12%

4. VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

4.1 NEW WETLAND AREA

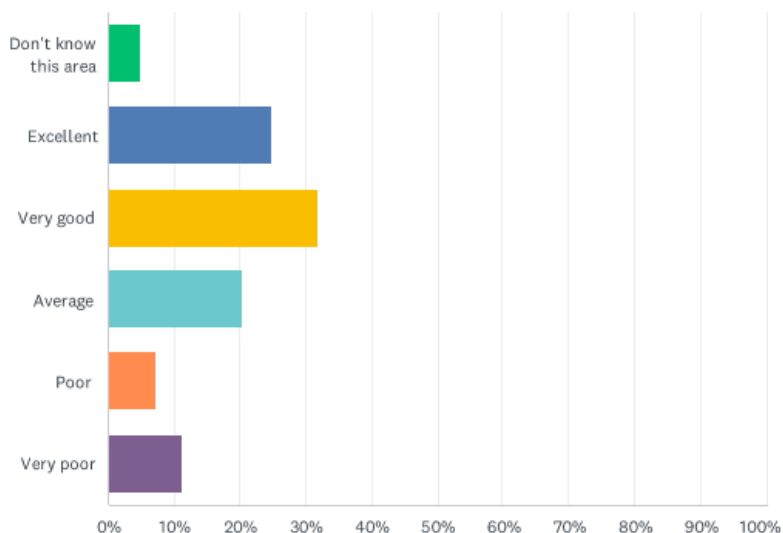
4.1.1 Respondents were asked for their views on improvements to the often saturated ground near the Lido which would include better management of storm water with boardwalks and rain gardens. They were shown the before and after images below:



4.1.2 56.5% said the proposals were excellent or very good (24.8% and 31.7% respectively); however 20% said they were average and 18% said they were poor or very poor. 4.8% said they didn't know this area.

Rate the Wetland Area idea by ticking one of the boxes below

Answered: 375 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don't know this area	4.80%	18
Excellent	24.80%	93
Very good	31.73%	119
Average	20.27%	76
Poor	7.20%	27
Very poor	11.20%	42
TOTAL		375

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

- 4.1.3 Respondents were then invited to add any additional comments they would like to make. This was one of the more controversial ideas and 188 comments were received which are shown verbatim in Appendix 1.

Summary of Comments

- 4.1.4 The comments expressed a range of opinions regarding the proposed improvements. Many who commented were against any changes that would affect the wild and open character of the Heath or detract from the current use of the area by children for sports and games. In total 71 comments (38%) argued that the area should be left as it is, while 39 (21%) were generally in favour or very supportive. There were 25 comments (13%) concerned with the proposed design, such as it not looking natural enough or not catering enough for children or the disabled or dogs. Other comments were concerned with the loss of this amenity for sports and games for children or picnicking. There was agreement by some that drainage of the area was necessary in order to improve its use as an open space. The cost of on-going maintenance of the new Wetlands area was also raised by several respondents who felt it could fall into disrepair in the future or the money could be better spent elsewhere. The key issues that came up can be grouped as follows:

Main issues raised about the New Wetlands proposals

- 4.1.5 ***Preservation of natural character:***
Many comments emphasised the importance of preserving the natural and wild character of Hampstead Heath. There were concerns that the measures would make the area too managed or organised, too much like a 'Park' and there was a strong desire to maintain the existing open space. Typical of the comments were:
- 4.1.6 ***Impact on wildlife***
Several respondents expressed concern about the impact of the proposals on local wildlife and biodiversity. The need to protect and enhance the habitat for various species is highlighted.
- 4.1.7 ***Drainage issues***
Drainage problems during wet weather are mentioned in multiple comments. Some see the proposed wetland features as a way to address these issues, while others question the necessity of the changes in addressing overall drainage problems in the area..
- 4.1.8 ***Access and accessibility***
Access for various groups including disabled, families and dogs was a concern. Some comments mention the need for the boardwalks to be wider, non-slip or to include seating at regular intervals.
- 4.1.9 ***Sports & Recreational activities***
Some respondents were concerned about the loss of a recreational area expressing worries that the proposed changes might limit access or interfere

with existing activities such as kid's football training and ball games and dog walking.

4.1.10 ***Design & aesthetics***

Opinions on the proposed design of the new area varied. There were conflicting comments about the boardwalks with some wanting them bigger and some unhappy with them. Others questioned the design's compatibility with the natural landscape of the Heath. Typical comments were:

4.1.11 ***Community engagement and information***

Some participants expressed a desire for more information and engagement with the local community regarding the proposed changes. The importance of involving existing groups working on biodiversity and environmental preservation is highlighted.

4.1.12 ***Maintenance and long term viability***

Several comments mention concerns about the long term maintenance costs of the proposals. There were worries that certain features such as boardwalks might require ongoing expensive maintenance.

4.1.13 ***Prioritisation of expenditure***

Questions were raised about the allocation of funds for the proposed improvements. There are worries that other priorities, such as improving drainage or facilities, should take precedence.

Mixed support

4.1.14 Clearly the comments only reflect the views of those who answered this additional open ended question. Half did not and the earlier histogram shows a majority (58%) in favour of the idea. However, they provide a useful insight into the reasons for opposition as well as some constructive contributions on access, design, maintenance etc.

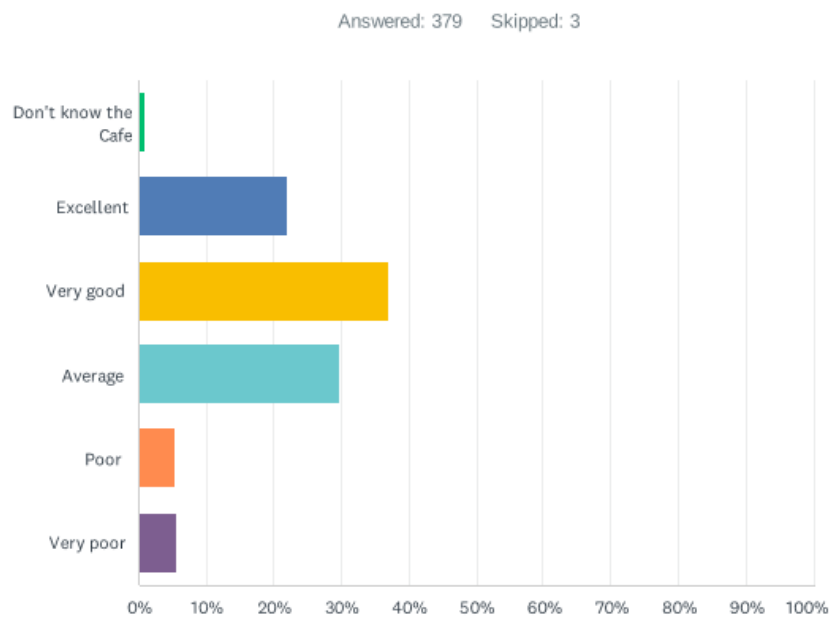
4.2. CAFÉ IMPROVEMENTS

4.2.1 Respondents were asked to comment on **improvements to the existing café** including its refurbishment, extended area, an information hub and new enlarged outdoor seating area. They were shown the before and after images below:



4.2.2 Just under 59% thought the proposals were excellent or very good (21.9% and 36.9% respectively). 29.6% thought they were average and 10.8% thought they were poor or very poor.

Rate the Café area improvements



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don't know the Cafe	0.79%	3
Excellent	21.90%	83
Very good	36.94%	140
Average	29.55%	112
Poor	5.28%	20
Very poor	5.54%	21
TOTAL		379

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

- 4.2.3 Respondents were then invited to add any additional comments they would like to make. This also raised quite a few issues among respondents. In all 180 comments were received which are shown verbatim in Appendix 2.

The comments provided highlight a range of opinions regarding the proposed improvements to the café area. (These comments must be seen in the context that *overall* 59% of the sample thought the proposals were excellent or very good). The main points and themes that stand out from the comments are:

4.2.4 ***Mixed reactions to changes***

Some individuals are supportive of improvements, highlighting the need for updates and welcoming additional seating, better facilities and healthier food options. There were 35 comments broadly in favour of the proposals (19%). Others were critical of the proposed changes, expressing concern about the potential destruction of greenery, loss of character and unnecessary alterations. 31 comments came from respondents wanting the Café left as it is (17%). Many accepted the café needed a revamp but felt it should be kept low key and not turned into a crowded 'hot spot'. There were 37 comments on the design (20%) and 16 comments on the food/catering (9%).

4.2.5 ***Seating and space***

Many comments emphasised the need for more seating, both indoor and outdoor, while maintaining a balance to avoid overcrowding and preserve the natural feel of the Heath. Some suggested specific improvements like covered outdoor seating areas for various weather conditions.

4.2.6 ***Food and service***

Numerous comments mentioned the importance of improving food quality, diversity of menu options and affordability of the café. Some called for better food and drink offerings, better catering and potential partnerships with local suppliers. A better café offering was more of a priority with some than the physical improvements.

4.2.7 ***Nature preservation***

Several comments expressed concern about maintaining the natural state of the Heath and not encroaching on green spaces or altering the landscape. A recurring theme was the desire to strike a balance between improvements and preserving the unique character of the Heath, avoiding overdevelopment.

4.2.8 ***Ownership and chains***

There is a desire to keep the café under the existing management and prevent corporate chains from taking over, emphasising the importance of community and affordable pricing.

4.2.9 ***Design and aesthetics***

Opinions on the proposed design varied with some finding it appealing and others considering it unnecessary or lacking innovation. The small thumbnail

visual in the questionnaire made it difficult to see the changes and this was reflected in quite a few answers such as:

Others felt the accent should be more on improving planting around the café, a small wildlife garden perhaps. Other design ideas included more indoor space, more thought for cyclists, a sensory area with aromatic plants, and space for pop-up stalls

4.2.10 ***Community and accessibility***

Comments highlighted the café's role as a social hub and the need for a diverse range of visitors to access and enjoy the space. There were calls for accessibility improvements, including better seating for families, dog friendly spaces, and facilities for the disabled.

4.2.11 ***Engagement and transparency***

The difficulty of seeing the changes properly among the many who couldn't attend the public consultation day, led to dissatisfaction with the consultation process and the need for clearer explanation of the proposals and detailed plans.

4.2.12 ***Visitor experience***

Suggestions for enhancing the visitor experience included play areas for children, educational boards, a visitor centre, a hatch serving drinks, a tie up place for dogs, more recycling bins, and more shade for hot weather conditions.

4.3 CHILDRENS PLAY AREA

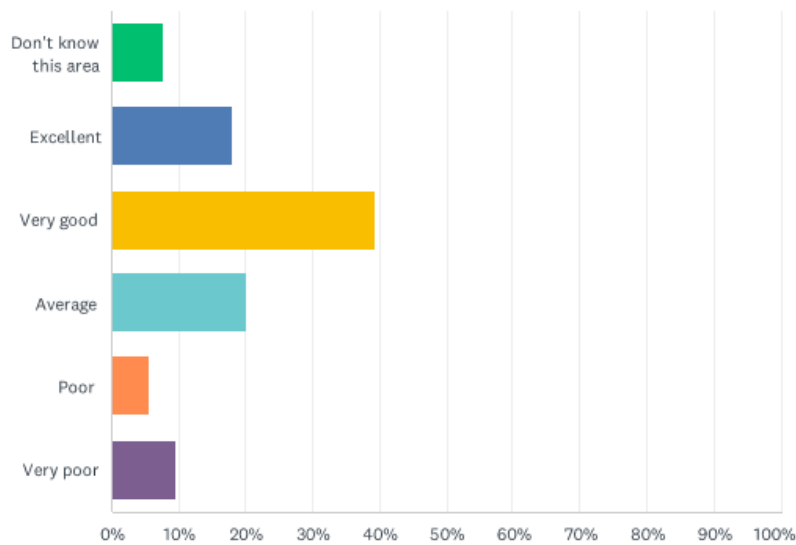
4.3.1 Respondents were asked to comment on the renewal of the Under 5's Children's Play area and were shown the following before and after images:



4.3.2 57% rated the proposals as excellent or very good (18% and 39% respectively). 20% rated them as average and 15% rated them as poor or very poor. 7.7% didn't know this area.

Rate the new Children's Play area.

Answered: 378 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don't know this area	7.67%	29
Excellent	17.99%	68
Very good	39.15%	148
Average	20.11%	76
Poor	5.56%	21
Very poor	9.52%	36
TOTAL		378

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

4.3.3 Other comments

Respondents were then invited to add any additional comments they would like to make. This also raised issues among some respondents. In all 167 comments were received which are shown verbatim in Appendix 3. Of these 35 were positive, 15 were negative

The main issues and concerns raised by those who added a comment regarding the Children's Play Area (44%) are grouped under the following headings:

Preserving open space: Many comments emphasise the importance of maintaining open spaces for picnics, gatherings and imaginative play.

Balancing nature and development: Several respondents expressed concerns that the changes might compromise the natural and peaceful atmosphere of the area.

Overcrowding and noise: There are worries that the proposed improvements might lead to overcrowding, increased noise and loss of tranquillity.

Nature and biodiversity: Some comments highlight the need to consider biodiversity and the impact of changes on the local ecosystem.

Design and aesthetic: Aesthetic concerns included the use of certain structures like windmills and bright colours which are seen as not fitting in well with the natural surroundings.

Accessibility and safety: Several comments raised issues about ensuring the safety, visibility and accessibility for children of varying ages and abilities.

Equipment & play features: There is a desire for improved play equipment, inclusive play structures and creative play features that cater to a variety of age groups. Many comments suggested using natural materials and designs that blended well with the surrounding environment.

Specific requests for additional swings, play structures, water features, shade, and seating areas were mentioned.

Concerns about the long term maintenance of new structures and play features were also raised.

Community input: Some comments suggested involving the community in the decision-making process and considering various preferences

Usage and popularity: The current popularity and usage of the area are acknowledged with some calling for updates to meet evolving needs.

The comments reflected a range of opinions and concerns, including a desire to maintain the unique character of the play area, while also improving its features for children and families.

4.4 PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

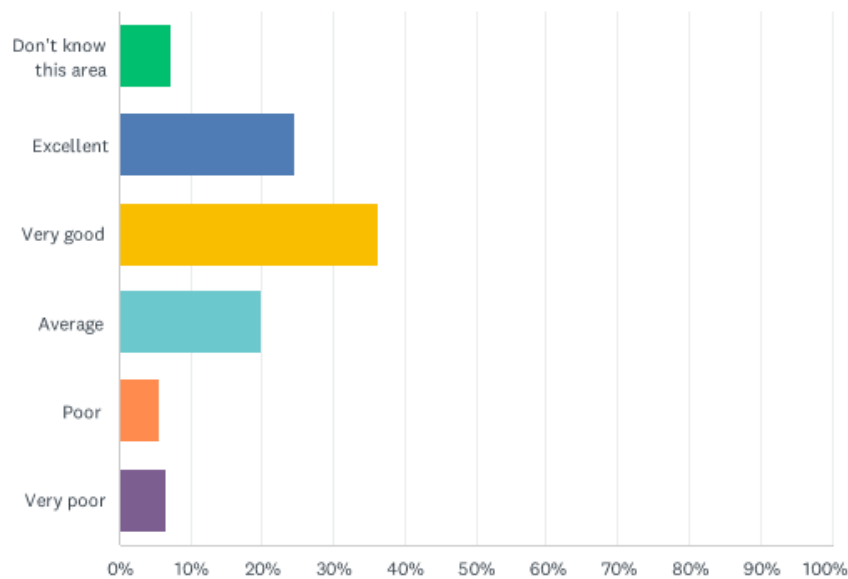
4.4.1 Respondents were then asked to rate the improvements to the Playground for older children and were shown the following before and after images:



4.4.2 60.8% of respondents rated the improvements to this Playground as excellent or very good (24.5% and 36.3% respectively). 20% rated them as average and 12.1% rated them as poor or very poor. 7.3% didn't know this area.

Rate the Playground improvements

Answered: 372 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don't know this area	7.26%	27
Excellent	24.46%	91
Very good	36.29%	135
Average	19.89%	74
Poor	5.65%	21
Very poor	6.45%	24
TOTAL		372

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

4.4.3 Other comments

Respondents were then invited to add any additional comments they would like to make. In all 162 comments were received which are shown verbatim in Appendix 4.

The main issues and points raised by respondents making comments regarding the playground improvements were as follows

Safety and accessibility: Concerns about ensuring the safety of children, avoiding hazards, and making the playground accessible for children of all abilities. Requests to include elements that cater to disabled children, older kids, and teens, ensuring that the playground is inclusive for all age groups and remains engaging and relevant.

Aesthetics and design: Opinions on the design of the new structures, included comments about aesthetics, size, and integration with the natural environment. They emphasised the importance of maintaining or enhancing the variety of play opportunities.

Requests were made for visibility and supervision points for parents and carers. Suggestions were made for additional seating for parents and carers, as well as amenities like shade, toilets, and refreshments nearby.

Current state and maintenance: Criticisms were made of the current playground's condition, emphasising the need for maintenance, repairs, and improvements.

Space and utilisation: Concerns were expressed about the proposed design potentially reducing available playing space or not accommodating multiple activities simultaneously, leading to overcrowding and longer queues. Observations were made that the playground was frequently busy, prompting considerations for managing increased usage resulting from improvements.

Engagement and consultation: There were calls for involving children and parents in the decision-making process to ensure that the proposed improvements met their preferences and needs. There were multiple calls for engaging directly with children for input and ideas.

Natural materials and environment: Requests for the use of natural materials and incorporating more green elements in the design to enhance the playground's appeal and blend with the park's environment. Voices for sustainability, utilising environmentally friendly materials and considering the ecological impact of the improvements

Existing play equipment: Some felt that the current playground was functional and well-liked by children, suggesting that improvements may not be necessary or should be minor. Some respondents expressed satisfaction with the current playground and questioned the need for significant changes.

Cost and Funding: There were concerns about spending money on unnecessary improvements, while other areas or facilities might have more pressing needs.

Integration with Park and Community: There were calls for ensuring that the improvements aligned with the park's character, views, and existing activities.

Usage when works are being carried out: There was concerns about the disruption caused by playground improvements and its impact on families using the park.

4.4.4 Summary of Comments

Overall, the comments covered a range of opinions on the proposed playground improvements, highlighting the complexity of addressing safety, aesthetics, age-appropriate activities, community engagement, and other considerations in creating a successful and beneficial upgrade.

4.5 NEW BALL GAMES AREA

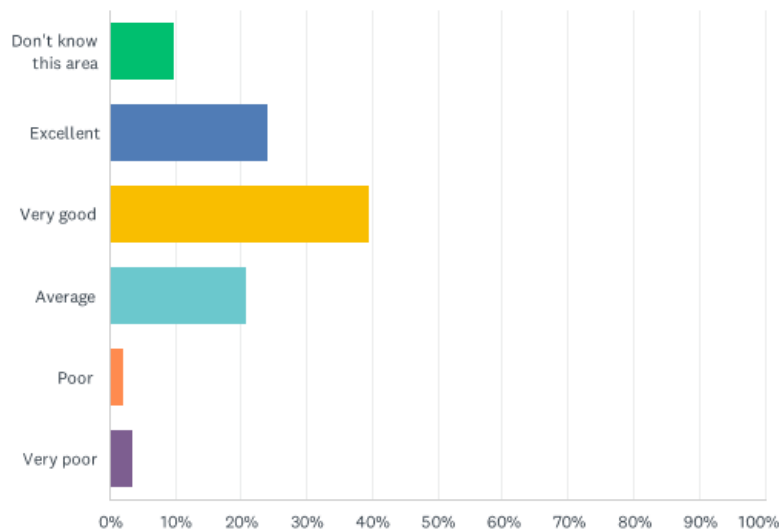
4.5.1 Respondents were then asked for their views on a new Ball Games Area and were shown the following before and after images:



4.5.2 63.7% of respondents rated the improvements as excellent or very good (24% and 39.7% respectively), 20.8% rated them as average and 5.6% rated them as poor or very poor. 9.9% didn't know this area.

Rate the Ball Games Area improvements

Answered: 375 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don't know this area	9.87%	37
Excellent	24.00%	90
Very good	39.73%	149
Average	20.80%	78
Poor	2.13%	8
Very poor	3.47%	13
TOTAL		375

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

4.5.3 Other comments

Respondents were then invited to add any additional comments they would like to make. In all 120 comments were received which are shown verbatim in Appendix 5. Of these 53 were broadly supportive and 17 negative.

The main issues and points raised in the comments regarding the Ball Game Area improvements include:

Colour choice and aesthetics: Concerns about the use of bright colours for the ground, with comments suggesting that the colours are unnecessary, jarring, or not in line with the natural environment of Hampstead Heath.

Design and integration: Comments on the design's urban feel and the need for a design that fits in with the ethos of Hampstead Heath. Suggestions for more subdued colours and a design that blends better with the surroundings.

Accessibility and usage: Questions about who will have access to the area, whether it will be open to the general public, and if there will be any restrictions or booking requirements.

Fencing and Safety: Mixed opinions on the proposed fencing, with some in favour of higher fencing to prevent balls from going over, while others express concerns about the potential for an oppressive or unsafe feeling due to fencing.

Additional Features: Requests for additional features such as more seating, football goals, and mat-based activities like yoga. Some suggestions for more sports to be included beyond basketball.

Integration with nature: Calls to keep the improvements more natural-looking and to ensure that the area remains in harmony with the Heath's natural environment.

Safety and Lighting: Concerns about the safety of the area, suggesting good lighting and potentially cameras to enhance safety and discourage potential trouble.

Location and Accessibility: Comments on the remote location of the area, challenges with access points, and suggestions to consider adapting existing tennis courts for the ball area.

Usage and appeal: Questions about the potential usage of the area and whether it will attract people. Some express that they didn't know the area existed or that it wasn't being used much.

Multi-functionality and inclusion: Suggestions for multi-purpose usage to accommodate various sports and activities beyond just basketball. Concerns about the accessibility and inclusivity of the area, especially for female users.

Natural look and feel: Emphasis on maintaining a natural appearance for the area and keeping it in line with the Heath's character.

Positive reception: Positive reactions to the idea of the improvements, expressing support and excitement for the addition of designated ball game areas.

Noise pollution: Concerns about potential noise pollution affecting nearby residents.

Sports nets: Suggestions to ensure sturdy sports nets, especially for basketball. Mention of basketball's popularity and the lack of funding for such facilities.

Specific sports requests: Requests for specific sports like football, beach volleyball, and paddle to be considered for the area.

Curiosity and lack of awareness: Comments from those who weren't aware of the existing ball game area and express curiosity about the improvements.

Integration with the Park's Name: Comments about the name "Parliament Hill Fields" and the association of fields with open grassy spaces rather than hard-surfaced game areas.

Use of space: Some view the space as underused and support the idea of repurposing it for ball games.

Critique of Colour Scheme: Criticisms of the proposed colour scheme as not appropriate for a sports area and suggestions for resurfacing with sports markings.

Support for Basketball: Expressions of support for basketball and netball, noting their popularity and positive impact on the local area.

4.5.4 Summary of comments

Overall, the comments reflected a range of opinions on the proposed improvements, with discussions covering aesthetics, accessibility, usability, and integration with the park's natural environment, safety concerns, and specific sports preferences.

4.6 NEW SPLASH PARK

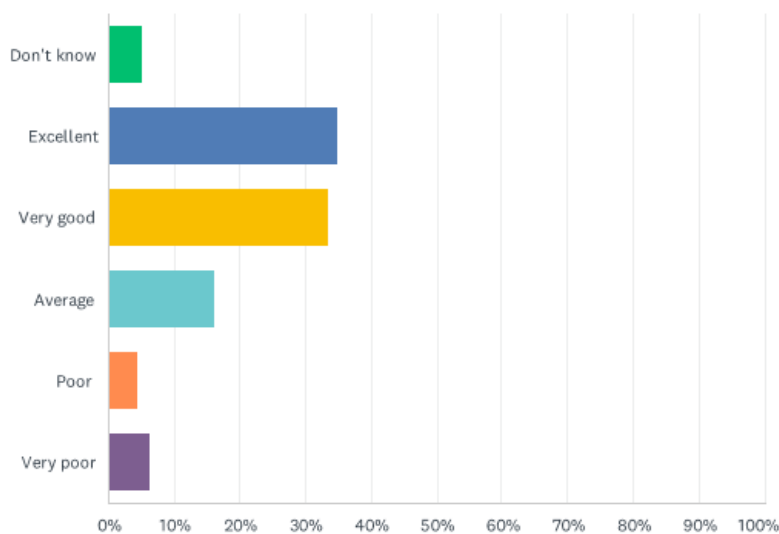
4.6.1 Respondents were asked for their views on a new Splash Park to replace the existing children’s paddling pool and were shown the following before and after images:



4.6.2 68.4% thought the Splash Park idea was excellent or very good (35% and 33.4% respectively), the highest positive score of all the ideas. 15.9% thought it was average and 10.6% thought it was poor or very poor. 5% said don’t know.

Rate the Splash Park improvements

Answered: 377 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Don't know	5.04%	19
Excellent	35.01%	132
Very good	33.42%	126
Average	15.92%	60
Poor	4.51%	17
Very poor	6.10%	23
TOTAL		377

Source: MTW Consultants Ltd: Survey of views on Parliament Hill Area improvements Aug 23

4.6.3 Other comments

Respondents were then invited to add any additional comments they would like to make. In all 152 comments were received which are shown verbatim in Appendix 6. In all there were 62 comments supportive of the proposals and 41 wanting to retain the status quo. The others were mixed with many favouring a hybrid scheme including both a Splash Park and paddling pool. These comments should be seen in the context of the high level of overall support for the Splash Park project from the whole sample, with over two thirds believing it to be excellent or very good (35% and 33% respectively).

The main Issues Identified in the comments about the Splash Park improvements was as follows:

Maintenance and Functionality: Many comments highlighted the importance of proper maintenance and keeping the splash park in good working order to ensure its continued enjoyment by children.

Design Preferences: Opinions varied on the design, with some preferring a deeper pool without fountains, while others advocated retaining the existing paddling pool or introducing fountains for added excitement.

Suggestions were made to maintain a mix of options, such as retaining the paddling pool and introducing fountains for variety.

A few comments mentioned the need for the design to be eco-friendly and sustainable.

Preservation of Current Pool: Several comments expressed attachment to the current paddling pool and its uniqueness, suggesting that it remains a beloved facility for children and families. Some preferred the simplicity of the current pool and expressed concerns about excessive features detracting from the natural experience. Some comments appreciated its role in introducing young children to water and providing a familiar, safe space.

Integration with the Heath environment: Concerns were raised about maintaining the calm and natural atmosphere of the Heath and avoiding overly flashy or urban designs that could disrupt the tranquillity.

Safety and hygiene: Safety and hygiene considerations were raised, including the need for shallow areas for toddlers, supervision, and proper water quality.

Environmental Impact: A few respondents questioned the environmental impact and water wastage associated with fountains, especially in light of ecological concerns. The amount of water usage and potential conservation measures were mentioned. A few comments expressed concern that the proposed changes could introduce urban elements that don't align with the Heath's natural environment.

Sustainability: Questions arose about the seasonal nature of the splash park and its usage during the rest of the year, as well as the potential for noise and disruption during construction.

Seating and Shade: Many respondents appreciated the addition of more seating and suggested the importance of shaded areas for parents and carers. The need for sufficient shading and comfortable seating for parents and caregivers is emphasised.

Children's Preferences: Different views are expressed regarding whether children prefer fountains or sitting in a pool of water, highlighting the diversity of preferences. Many comments expressed positivity about the improvements benefiting young children and offering a safer and more engaging experience.

Cost and allocation of funds: Several respondents questioned the cost-effectiveness of the project and suggested allocating funds to other areas. Some raised concerns about the allocation of resources for the splash park versus other amenities such as the ponds.

Community engagement: Some comments expressed dissatisfaction with the survey design, stating that it does not adequately represent the current usage of the space.

Year-round usage: The concern about the limited seasonal usage of water-related facilities like the splash park was mentioned, with some advocating for more year-round usability.

Hygienic and safe use: Hygiene and safety are mentioned as important considerations, particularly with regard to the behaviour of children near water.

Integration with playground and facilities: Suggestions are made to integrate the splash park with nearby playground facilities and provide adequate seating and amenities for carers.

Supervision and Access Rules: Ideas included having supervision rules and age restrictions for entry, as well as prohibiting dogs from the area.

Accessibility: Questions are raised about access for individuals with disabilities, toilets, and whether the attraction will remain unticketed.

4.6.4 Summary of comments

Overall, the main issues revolved around design preferences, the preservation of the current paddling pool, maintaining the Heath's natural atmosphere, safety, sustainability, equitable access, and the inclusion of shading and seating. There are also concerns about cost-effectiveness, noise, and seasonal usage patterns.

5. COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER SPACES IN THE PARLIAMENT HILL AREA

Respondents were invited to add any other comments, questions or concerns about any of the other spaces in the PHA. In all 157 comments were received. These are shown verbatim in Appendix 7.

A summary of the main issues and concerns expressed in the comments regarding other spaces in the PHA is shown below:

Preservation of natural beauty: Many respondents expressed a strong desire to maintain the natural beauty and open spaces of Hampstead Heath. There are concerns that proposed changes could negatively impact the unique atmosphere and biodiversity of the area.

Overdevelopment: Concerns were raised about potential over development and commercialisation, with worries that new facilities or structures might alter the character of the Heath and lead to increased congestion and litter.

Biodiversity and wildlife: There was a consistent emphasis on protecting wildlife habitats and promoting biodiversity. Some suggested creating managed wildlife areas or wildflower meadows as part of any improvements.

Maintenance and safety: Many comments addressed the need for better maintenance, including repairing broken equipment, upgrading paths, and addressing safety concerns in playgrounds and other areas.

Accessibility and facilities: Some respondents requested improved facilities, such as more improved toilets, benches, drinking fountains, water bottle refill stations, and cycle paths. Others emphasised the importance of accessible paths for pedestrians, cyclists, and families with children. Others are worried about the imposition of charges for new facilities.

Consultation and transparency: Several individuals expressed a desire for more inclusive and transparent consultation processes with the local community and stakeholders before implementing any changes to the Heath.

Specific Suggestions: There were specific suggestions for enhancements, including floodlights on the tennis courts and a water fountain, additional seating areas, cycle paths, improved toilets and signage, a fenced area specifically for dogs to run around in, a clubhouse for the Rugby Club, improvements to the PHA entrance from Highgate Road and the Hive building.

Cafe and Visitor Centre: Opinions varied regarding the proposed cafe improvements or visitor centre, with some welcoming the idea for improved amenities and others cautioning against potential commercialisation.

Community and Family-Friendly Spaces: Many comments focussed on creating safe and enjoyable spaces for families and children, including playgrounds, picnic areas, and events.

Balance and integration: Respondents highlighted the need for any improvements to strike a balance between enhancing the Heath's offerings and preserving its natural, peaceful character.

It's important to note that while some respondents expressed concerns and reservations, others welcomed certain improvements and enhancements, reflecting a diversity of opinions and priorities among the users of Hampstead Heath.

6. SUBMISSION FROM THE HEATH & HAMPSTEAD SOCIETY

6.1 Introduction

The Heath & Hampstead Society submitted a written response to the consultation after the on-line survey had closed due to not being aware of the link and the deadline. It was felt that the views of this key stakeholder must be taken into account so the main points they have raised are summarised here. Their full submission is shown in Appendix 9. Some of their comments related to the wider Masterplan in addition to the 6 selected areas.

6.2 General comments on the Masterplan and selected improvements

The Society supports proposals for improvement of sports facilities and grounds, playgrounds and facilities at and around the Parliament Hill Café.

Playgrounds

They would like some of the playground area to be allocated to outdoor exercise facilities for adults, including older adults.

Café

They would like to see a dedicated nature interpretation centre integrated with the café to educate visitors on the biodiversity of the Heath.

The Hive

They would support the improvement of the Hive and its facilities but feel these should support the work of Heath Hands rather than a new café.

The Broad Walk

We would like to see in the Master Plan the re-instatement of the planting of a line of oak trees along the Broad Walk. This proposal had been accepted by the City of London but was not included in the Masterplan.

6.3 The New Wetlands Area

The Society strongly supports the idea of safeguarding playing fields and adapting to climate change by establishing a wetland that serves as both drainage infrastructure and a biodiverse habitat in a nature-deprived section of the Heath. However, the specific proposed plan is not endorsed. Previous talks with the City of London led to the identification of a wetland and woodland strip along the east side of football pitches from the Broad Walk to the Lido area, where drainage is particularly problematic. This corridor is recognized as vital for local biodiversity. A nature recovery network connecting Heath, Parliament Hill, and other Camden SINC's was backed by the City of London in anticipation of increased foot traffic due to the proposed "Heath Line."

Although the initial plan changed due to a gas pipe concern, the new wetland location on the north side of the Lido lacks the same biodiversity potential and

connectivity. Instead it creates a strip of wetland that runs west to a low quality railside woodland not managed by the City of London.

The artist's depiction emphasises recreational rather than conservation value, raising concerns about foot traffic impact. A request is made to discuss the gas pipeline issue and the purpose and design of the wetland, with the goal of preserving the habitat corridor either within this development or as a separate component of the Master Plan.

Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

Parliament Hill Masterplan - a vision of the future

The map below shows the ideas set out for the Parliament Hill Masterplan. These are just ideas at the moment and a budget needs to be found to deliver them.

Landscape Masterplan Concept proposal



Example of low level lighting which could be used to improve safety and accessibility. Map key - 21.



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