

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 9 July 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 9 July 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Steve Ripley (Rambler's Association)
Ellen Solomons (Vale of Health Society)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Space
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Lucy Gannon	- Projects Management & Support Officer
Alison Hurley	- City Surveyors Department
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager, Hampstead Heath Division
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anne Fairweather, Ray Booth (represented by Carol Dukes), John Etheridge (represented by John Hunt), Mathew Frith, Cindy Galvin, Colin Gregory (represented by Tony Ghilchik), Richard Sumray, Simon Taylor, Ellin Stein and Harunur Rashid.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2018 were approved as a correct record.

4. **ACTIONS SHEET**

Members noted the various outstanding actions and the update provided thereon. The Chairman noted that all actions were complete except action 2, identifying a representative to represent people with a physical disability which was still to be progressed by the Chairman and Town Clerk.

5. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD, AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 23 May 2018 were received.

The Chairman advised Members that the opportunity to purchase the land bequeathed by the late Henry Hallows to the Centrepont and Shelter Charities had been discussed at length at the HHHWQPC meeting, as reflected in the minutes. This matter had generated a lot of press coverage. The Chairman confirmed that the joint bid from City of London Corporation and the Heath & Hampstead Society was unsuccessful and the land sold to a private bidder. The Chairman advised that she was communicating with the buyer to arrange a meeting to discuss the restrictions and responsibilities involved with managing the land. The Chairman voiced appreciation to the Chair of the Heath & Hampstead Society, Marc Hutchinson and Chair of the Heath & Hampstead Society, Heath Sub Committee, John Beyer, who had worked closely with Officers in relation to this matter.

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

The minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 14 May 2018 were received.

The Leisure & Events Manager provided Members with the following updates:

- Trim trail - Three new pieces of equipment have been installed following a £10K grant from the London Borough of Camden.
- 'This Girl Can' - Members were advised that the first week of events of the This Girl Can campaign had been successful.
- Highgate Harriers Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests 2018 event – Members were advised that this event had been a huge success and thanked the Highgate Harriers for their hard work in organising this event. It was highlighted that 47,000 people watched the event online via the BBC red button. The Men's European winner (Richard Ringer) had personally praised the event as the most exciting race of his life and that new world records for the 10,000m had been confirmed by the IAAF.
- 'Give it a Go!' – Members were advised that the annual event promoting sport and wellbeing would take place on Sunday 15 July 2018.

A Member requested that a short note regarding Croquet, mentioned in the minutes under AOB, be circulated to the HHCC for information. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the note to the Committee.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent and the following points were made:

Planning

- **The Water House, Millfield Lane, 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent advised that planning permission had been granted subject to a S106.
- **Parliament Hill & William Ellis School, 2018/1270/P.** The Superintendent advised works were progressing as programmed.
- **South Fairground Site.** Members were advised that the owner appealed against the Planning Enforcement notice issued by the London Borough of Camden and a hearing will be arranged by the Planning Inspectorate. The Comptroller & City Solicitor has instructed Counsel to submit representations.
- **North Fairground Site, 2017/4346/P.** Members were advised that the London Borough of Camden did not determine the case, and therefore, an appeal has been launched by the owner. Officers will instruct Counsel and make representations.
- **Jack Straws Castle, 2017/2064/P.** The Superintendent advised that London Borough of Camden have yet to determine this application.
- **Chester Court, Lissenden Garden, 2017/1353/P.** The Superintendent advised that the owners appealed against the decision; however, the decision was upheld.
- Members were advised that the Superintendent attended a Stakeholder meeting regarding a proposed development at 55 Fitzroy Park. It was noted that the Officers planned to submit representations as this proposed development is in contradiction with the 2017 Camden Local Plan, the Highgate Neighbourhood Plan 2017 and the Hampstead Heath Management Plan.

Trees and Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

- Members were provided with an update on the management of OPM across the Heath and were shown a map of trees where nests have been identified.
- Members were advised that the Tree Team would be inspecting for nests from May to August which was a huge undertaking as 1,200 nests have been identified on Hampstead Heath. A specialist contractor will carry out nest removal on high risk trees in late June to early July.

- It was noted that a nest had been found on the ground which could potentially cause issues in relation to dogs and have implications for staff carrying out routine tasks such as grass cutting. Members were advised that local vets and doctors surgeries had been contacted to ensure awareness of the symptoms to look for.
- Members were advised that the Heath was currently under a Plant Health Statutory Notice (SPHN) in relation to OPM. It is hoped that the rating would be downgraded in the near future. It was noted that the law might be changed next year making Local Authorities responsible for the management of OPM.
- The Director of Open Spaces advised Members that he Chaired the Forestry Commission's Committee for OPM. Currently there is no quick fix to eradicate this pest, but that a programme to manage and slow the spread is being developed.
- It was noted that the signs concerning OPM on effected trees were small and suggested bigger signs at the entrances to Hampstead Heath including information regarding the nests.
- Officers were asked to consider contacting local schools and leafletting local residents to ensure there was public awareness.
- Members queried why some countries took the threat of OPM more seriously than others and asked what the plan for the future was for the UK. Members were advised that fencing off trees temporarily was an approach already taken in other countries, such as Germany. However, research looking for a biological response/control was the main focus.

Swimming

- The Superintendent advised that the recent hot weather and resulting increase in visitor numbers had had a huge impact on Heath services, and notably at the swimming facilities. As a result, the Lido had been closed early due to reaching capacity on four occasions.
- The Chairman thanked Heath Staff for their hard work over the busy summer period.

It was queried what action would be taken in relation to licencing commercial dog walking and drones. The Superintendent advised Members these would be covered in the Divisional Plan update at the next meeting. A public engagement to seek the views of Heath users will inform options for licencing of commercial activities.

A Member enquired whether the public could be urged to take their litter home and suggested adding a notice to the website on this matter. Members were advised that this message was being proactively shared with members of the

public. It was noted that a review of the current waste and recycling collection operation was underway, as set out in the Divisional Plan.

8. **CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME BID 2019/20**

Members considered a report of the City Surveyor regarding the Cyclical Works Programme bid 2019/20 and the following points were made:

- Members were advised that the report detailed the Provisional List of projects being considered for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Division in 2019/20 under the umbrella of the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP).
- It was noted that the draft Actual Project List for 2019/20 totalled approximately £933,700. Members views were sought regarding whether the projects in the Actual List and Reserve List reflected the service requirements of the Division.
- A Member noted that two references to Sandy Heath actually pertain to the Heath Extension.
- It was noted that the refurbished toilets at Golders Hill Park were a significant improvement and requested that similar work take place at Parliament Hill. The Superintendent advised that toilets were a priority with the City Surveyor.
- In response to a query regarding netting on the bank, the Superintendent advised that the turfing used was reinforced with black netting, which had become visible in places due to wear and tear on the dam crest. Localised repairs and topdressing would take place in autumn. A Member recommended using green netting and eco-turf which was thicker, and the Superintendent agreed to discuss this with the Engineers.
- A Member felt that two structures near the Vale of Health were unsightly and queried if these could be softened by planting ivy. The Superintendent noted that discussions were taking place concerning how best to screen the pillars which are used for power. A Member suggested using hedges.
- Following a query regarding the frequency of de-silting the ponds at the Heath, Members were advised that there was currently funding available for de-silting on a three-year cycle but funding for a bigger programme was currently being explored. A full study of all ponds to work out the full cycle of desilting is planned as part of the Wetland Strategy to inform the ongoing project of work to be planned with the City Surveyor.
- A Member noted that the amount given in the top right text box in the Welcome to Hampstead Heath diagram was incorrect and needed edited to £65,000.

RESOLVED – that:-

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group note the report and provide feedback on the provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Division in 2019/20;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.

9. HAMPSTEAD HEATH SITE SPECIFIC EVENTS POLICY PART TWO

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the Hampstead Heath Site Specific Events Policy Part Two. The following points were made:

- Members were advised that Part One had been signed off and that Part Two would ensure that events were consistently managed across the Department; and that individual events were considered against the impact they could have on a specific Open Space.
- The Superintendent gave special thanks to Helen Payne, John Beyer and Nick Bradfield for their input into the site-specific Events Policy over the past six months.
- The Superintendent advised that there were three options for consideration regarding thresholds for mandatory consultation with this Committee, noting that Option 1 was the recommended option and sought Members views.
- It was noted that Richard Sumray had advised that he supported Option 1.
- A Member questioned how many extra events would require Committee consultation for Options 2 and 3 and felt that clarity should be given in the options regarding extra/new events. The Superintendent advised that the scale of an event was determined by both the number of participants and the duration of the event, noting that events that exceed two days would tip into the next threshold. It was also clarified that that applications for unprecedented or unusual events could be referred for consultation, irrespective of the scale.
- It was noted that John Beyer, Heath & Hampstead Society representative on HHHWQPC, had participated as a member of the events advisory group and was highly supportive of Option 3.

- A Member noted that his suggested wording for 6.4 had not been fully included. It was agreed that all suggestions would be incorporated, and the Superintendent would consult the Advisory Group before circulating to the HHHWQPC for approval.
- There was surprise at the size of 72 acres which was a tenth of the Heath. The Superintendent advised that this was quoted from existing legislation and was generally for larger sporting events.
- It was recommended that a larger map be used with clearly defined lines.
- A Member requested clarity on the scope of the policy which appeared to exclude some types of events that are popular on the Heath and sought clarification of the term 'unbuilt on' in the Open Spaces Act 2018.
- A Member suggested incorporating the word heritage to 6.1.
- It was felt that there was ambiguity regarding whether small events could be held on grass and recommended clarity.
- A Member questioned the use of the wording "high quality" in 6.5 and felt this was not the correct terminology.
- It was recommended that a point be added to the criteria listed in 6.5 that events will be reviewed after it has taken place and the quality/success will be used as a deciding factor for events in future.
- It was agreed that the Events Policy would be recirculated to Members after it was updated.
- The Chairman asked the Committee to vote on the three proposed options:
 - Option 1 – 8 Members
 - Option 2 – 1 Member
 - Option 3 – 2 Members

RESOLVED – that:-

- Members give feedback in relation to the final draft Events Policy (Part Two) for Hampstead Heath (Appendix 2) and in particular, section 6 which sets out thresholds for consultation and approvals;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 5 September 2018.

10. **REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME JANUARY 2017 TO MARCH 2018**

RESOLVED - *With two hours having elapsed since the start of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order No. 40 the Committee agreed at this point to extend the meeting by up to thirty minutes.*

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding a review of an extended 15-month Annual Work Programme (AWP) carried out on Hampstead Heath from January 2017 until March 2018. The following comments were made:

- In response to a query regarding putting the information online, Members were advised that the map could be populated but not the data.
- A Member noted the low percentage of cyclists being prosecuted. Members were advised that cyclists first receive an initial warning, then receive a second formal warning. If stopped on a third occasion they will be reported for the byelaw offence with a view to bringing a prosecution.
- It was noted that the survey needed upgrading to provide a more comprehensive list of species of butterflies and recommended working with other organisations or graduates. The Superintendent agreed to provide the Member with the list from three years ago. The Chairman suggested that a paper and/or a focus group was necessary to ensure consultation of the ecology.
- In response to a query concerning the availability of disability access, Members were advised that a report on this matter would be coming to the next Committee meeting.
- Members discussed the need for a policy regarding the use of drones at the Heath. It was noted that the Heath followed current guidance but that a new Air Navigation Order would be passed in November 2019 and this would allow a further update of the Hampstead Heath drone guidance.
- A typo was noted in Item 1 and Members were advised that that the date of the meeting discussed was 7 November 2016 not 2018.
- A typo was noted in item 58 and Members were advised that Hearth should read Heath.

RESOLVED – that:-

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee note the works undertaken in the review period and provide feedback;

- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their September meeting;
- Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee note the works undertaken in the review period and provide feedback.

11. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH 2018 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the progress to deliver the Hampstead Heath Management Plan 2018-2028 along with the final progress report on the 2007 Hampstead Heath Management Plan. The following comments were made:

- It was noted that Members had requested at the last meeting to extend the consultation of the management Plan and the updated timeline was highlighted.
- A Member felt the plan was more of a list of a list of aspirations with no priorities. An Officer clarified that the Divisional Plan provided the priorities and that the 10 Year Plan was more strategic. It was noted that the Management Plan was deliberately high level and still in a very early draft form to allow for engagement to flesh out the detail.
- Members were encouraged to provide comments via email and it was noted that the deadline to provide feedback for the revised draft document was the beginning of September. It was noted that the Projects and Management Support Officer was available to arrange a consultation meeting with interest groups and community organisations during August 2018.

RESOLVED - that:-

- Members note the final progress report on the 2007 Hampstead Heath Management Plan and the revised schedule for completion of the new Hampstead Heath Management Plan 2018 - 2028, as set out in paragraph 7;
- Members provide feedback on the first draft of the Hampstead Heath Management Plan 2018-2028;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 5 September 2018.

12. **HEATH HANDS UPDATE**

Members noted a report from Heath Hands regarding the Community Heath highlights for 2017/18.

13. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

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

The Chairman advised Members that the Committee Dinner was now being planned for early 2019 rather than late 2018.

15. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

16. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2018 were received.

17. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 29 October 2018 at 7.00pm was noted.

The meeting ended at 9.16 pm

Chairman

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