

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2012	<b>Item no.</b> <b>12</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Proposal for the temporary installation of David Breuer-Weil 'Visitor I' sculpture at Golders Hill Park	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of: Superintendent Hampstead Heath</b>	<b>For Decision</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report sets out a proposal that has been received by David Breuer-Weil to install the temporary sculpture 'Visitor 1' into the Lily Pond at Golders Hill Park from July to mid November 2012, generating £3,500 income to support the management of the Heath.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Committee approve the proposal to install the temporary sculpture "Visitor 1" into the Lily Pond at Golders Hill Park from the first week in July to mid November 2012 in return for a fee of £3,500 and enter into a Licence with David Breuer-Weil.</li> <li>• Authority be delegated to the City Surveyor in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces and the Comptroller &amp; City Solicitor to settle all other necessary terms to protect the City's interests and that the Comptroller &amp; City Solicitor be instructed to complete any necessary documentation.</li> </ul>		

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. David Breuer-Weil is a talented award winning artist. Born in Hampstead, he attended the Central St Martin's School of Art, followed by Claire College Cambridge. After graduating he was awarded a bursary at Sotheby's. In 2010 he produced four bronze sculptures that were exhibited alongside works by Epstein and Moore at *the Human Figure in British Sculpture*, at the Boundary Gallery, to coincide with the Royal Academy exhibition *Modern British Sculpture*.
2. The inaugural Affordable Art Fair was held at Hampstead Heath in 2011 and attracted 17,000 adult visitors to the event over four and a half days. Much positive feedback was given by both visitors and exhibitors. The fair brought to life many of the rich traditions that exist between the Heath and the arts, incorporating community values. The addition of a temporary art

installation at Golders Hill Park would complement and build on the success of the art fair in 2011.

3. Previous temporary public art installations including *The Writer* have proved to be very popular on the Heath, raising the profile of the site.

### Current Position

4. The sculpture 'Visitor I' was first exhibited in 2010 at Sotheby's annual exhibition of monumental sculpture *Beyond Limits* at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. It was shown alongside works of other leading artists such as Damien Hurst, Ron Arad and Marc Quinn. The sculpture relates to the '*Philosopher*' paintings which show a large head creating immense reverberations in the soil surrounding it. The artist has said that he wanted to express '*the immense potential power of thought*' through the sculpture and '*by slightly submerging the image I wanted to suggest our connection with the earth*'.

### Proposals

5. A proposal (see Appendix 1) has been received to install 'Visitor I' in the Lily Pond at Golders Hill Park for the enjoyment of the community (see location map and image below). The sculpture would be installed on a temporary basis from July to mid November 2012, generating £3,500 income to support the future management of the Heath.

Figure 1: Map detailing location of 'Visitor I' and a photographic impression of the sculpture in situ (taken from enclosed proposal, see Appendix 1).



6. The sculpture will be made of a composite resin material, which has the same look and appearance of bronze but is considerably lighter allowing it to be manoeuvred by hand rather than crane. Its lightness means that the structure is not in danger of sinking into the silt at the base of the pond.

David Breuer-Weil's team have consulted with the London Borough of Barnet and have been informed that planning permission is not required for the sculpture due to the temporary nature of the installation.

7. The structure would be assembled in the staff yard, before being transported and lowered into the pond using a forklift (see photographs of this operation at Chatsworth House 2010 on p18 of the attached proposal). A small information plaque would be placed beside the work. This would state the artist's name, the title and details of the work, along with a short description of it.
8. Installation is proposed to take place at the beginning of July with the sculpture remaining in situ until mid November 2012, allowing the artwork to be accessible to the public during the Affordable Art Fair.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. Hampstead Heath's Management Plan: Towards a plan for the Heath, cites as one of its missions 'to maintain to a high standard the recreation and sporting facilities on the Heath for the enjoyment of all members of the community'. The installation of the temporary art structure would add additional interest to the formal park landscape increasing the recreational value of the space.
10. This proposal supports the City Together Strategy of being "vibrant and culturally rich". It also helps to support the Open Spaces Business Plan improvement objective of "Marketing our services and adapting events and education programmes to deliver opportunities particularly for young people."

### **Implications**

#### Financial implications:

11. The cost of the project and a full publicity campaign (promoting the Heath and the City as well as the sculpture and artist) will be privately financed by David Breuer-Weil's team. The City will receive £3,500 income for the use of the site and will be reimbursed for the operational costs of staff time, transport and materials associated with the installation.

#### Risk implications:

12. The security risk of vandalism, graffiti and/or theft is reduced due to Golders Hill Park being locked overnight. The Lily pond's close proximity to the staff yard means that the sculpture has to be transported a minimal distance when it is being installed with less disruption to park users.

13. Installation will be carried out in full consultation with Hampstead Heath staff. Method statements and risk assessments associated with the project have been received by Hampstead Heath and are currently being assessed by the City Surveyors Department. The sculpture will be insured by the artist and its installation is covered by the artist's own Public Liability Insurance.

### Ecological Impact

14. The structure is mounted on a metal frame with adjustable legs that will allow the installation to be lowered into the lake and adjusted to fit the contours of the bottom of the lake. No movement of earth or silt will be required. The installation of the structure may disturb the silt at the base of the pond, but no further ecological impact will be sustained. David Breuer-Weil's installation team will work with the Heath's ecologists to ensure that the Heath's wildlife is not affected during the project.

### Legal implications:

15. Under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 the City may do anything necessary or expedient for the development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts. The City may set apart any part of the Heath for these purposes and permit it to be used by any person on such terms as to payment or otherwise as it thinks fit.

### **Consultation**

16. This proposal was discussed by the Heath Consultative Committee at its last walk on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012. A copy of the detailed proposal has also been forwarded to the Committee and to date the views of the Committee including Heath & Hampstead Society, Highgate Society, Friends of Kenwood, Hampstead Conservation Area advisory committee and sporting representatives have been very positive in supporting this proposal.

### **Conclusion**

17. Art in the landscape has proved popular with the Heath's community as can be seen through the visitor numbers recorded at the affordable art fair and also the success of The Table and Chair. The installation of the 'Visitor 1' at Golders Hill Park would allow local people to view the work of a local, internationally celebrated artist.

## **Appendices**

Proposal to install Monumental Sculpture on Hampstead Heath

**Contact:**

*Simon Lee / Email: Simon.Lee@cityoflondon.gov.uk / Tel No: 020 7332 3322*  
*Lucy Stowell Smith / Email: Lucy.Stowell Smith @cityoflondon.gov.uk / Tel No:*  
*020 7332 3775*