

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	28 November 2018
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Decision
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee on management and operational activities across the Heath since September 2018.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members approve the proposed Events Policy (Part Two) for Highgate Wood (Appendix 2).
- Members approve the proposed Events Policy (Part Two) for Queen's Park (Appendix 3).
- Members approve the proposed Heath events for 2019, as detailed in paragraph 23 (Appendix 4).
- Members provide feedback on the Sports Licencing Scheme (Appendix 5)
- Members approve the draft Highgate Wood Woodland Management Plan, as detailed in Appendix 6.
- Members to consider a programme of events to mark the 30th anniversary of the City of London Corporations custodianship of Hampstead Heath.

Main Report

Divisional Plan 2nd Quarter Update

1. The Divisional Plan second quarter update is attached at Appendix 1. A full review of the Divisional Plan to align with the Management Strategy will be completed and presented to this Committee in March 2019.
2. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update on the Annual Work Programme second quarter progress monitoring.

Planning

3. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:

- The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P
- Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2018/1270/P
- South Fairground Site
- North Fairground Site 2017/4346/P
- Jack Straws Castle 2017/2064/P
- 55 Fitzroy Park 2018/3672/P

Golders Hill Park Disabled Car Park

4. The Superintendent will provide an update on a request to open the facility on weekends to facilitate Blue Badge holder parking. Currently the car park is open during the Park opening hours Monday to Friday.

Trees and Oak Processionary Moth

5. Strong winds associated with storm Ali (19 September 2018) resulted in 12 branch failures and the loss of two trees.
6. OPM nests are still being found in oaks that are being worked on for safety, management & Veteran tree work. The Tree Team are now equipped to remove these remaining nests prior to commencing works. This impacts on their programme of works as the nest removal is particularly time consuming.
7. The Tree Team have completed a site meeting with colleagues at Richmond Park sharing OPM management experience over 2018, and also attended a series of Forestry Commission OPM Seminars and workshops.
8. The Tree Team have pollarded 10 willows & one declining horse chestnut at Kenwood Ladies' Pond.

Constabulary

9. Over the summer months the Constabulary Team engaged proactively with members of the public and provided support to manage public behaviour issues such as unauthorised swimming and anti-social behaviour at the Lido.
10. The Constabulary have responded to 1,125 incidents between the 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2018.
11. They have been required to administer, or support colleagues to administer first aid on site on 21 occasions during this period.
12. 40 vulnerable missing persons have been reported, the Constabulary have assisted in the search and safe reuniting of these persons.
13. The Constabulary received reports of drones being used on five occasions.

14. Although no prosecutions have been carried out since the last meeting of this committee, the Constabulary Team have engaged with 849 people, handing them a formal warning.
15. With the support of Stewards, the Constabulary effectively managed a busy summer period at the Lido facility, on occasion having to deal with anti-social behaviour.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

16. The Superintendent will provide an update on current projects.

Capital Projects

East Heath Car Park (Divisional Plan Project 2.1)

17. The City Surveyor has secured Planning Consent from London Borough of Camden for the car park resurfacing. Tendering is underway, subject to affordability and consent, works are scheduled to commence in 2019.

Adventure Playground (Divisional Plan Project 3.10)

18. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

Swimming

19. The Superintendent will provide an update on the swimming facilities.

Events

Highgate Wood

20. To guide future events at Highgate Wood, a Part 2, Site Specific Events Policy has been prepared, see Appendix 2. Following consultation with the Highgate Wood Consultative Group, the Policy has been updated to reflect Members feedback. The Superintendent is seeking Members approval to implement the Policy.
21. Once approved the Policy will inform future usage of the site, including by Forest School groups. This activity has increased rapidly in the Wood over the last few years and staff are currently identifying other areas for activity groups to use to enable areas which have previously been used to be rested.

Queen's Park

22. To guide future events at Queen's Park, a Part 2, Site Specific Events Policy has been prepared, see Appendix 3. Following consultation with the Queen's Park Consultative Group, the Policy has been updated to reflect Members feedback. The Superintendent is seeking Members approval to implement the Policy.

Proposed 2019 Events Programme - Hampstead Heath

23. The Hampstead Heath Officer Events Group met on 17 October 2018 to review event applications received for 2019. Following this meeting Members views on the following Large and Major Events are being sought: -

- The Affordable Art Fair
- Race for Life
- Night of 10,000m Personal Bests

24. In accordance with the Hampstead Heath Events Policy Part Two, the Leisure and Events Manager has prepared a schedule of the proposed Major and Large events 2019 see Appendix 4 and seeks Members approval for these events to take place in 2019.

Update on recent events

25. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update on the recent visit by Zippos Circus and the London Youth Games and Greater London Cross Country Championships held on 17 November 2018.

Sports Activities on City of London Corporation Open Spaces

26. The Open Spaces Department is currently consulting on a licensing scheme which applies to sports activities involving up to 500 participants and spectators with no or limited infrastructure requirements. This scheme sits alongside the Events Policy for Hampstead Heath. The Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee have been consulted and were supportive of the approach. Members views are sought on the licensing application as detailed at Appendix 5.

Highgate Wood

27. The Highgate Wood Woodland Management Plan was presented to the HWCG in April 2018 and following their feedback and comments an updated version was presented to the HWCG in October 2018. Members were supportive of the Woodland Management Plan which is attached as Appendix 6. The Superintendent is seeking Members approval to implement the Plan.
28. The Friends of the Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK) are now focusing on a Vision statement which will be part of the HLF funding application. The Superintendent and the Highgate Wood Manager will be supporting FOHRK through the HLF process.

Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

Hill Garden and Pergola

29. The sites continue to be a popular venue for weddings and civil ceremonies, with thirteen having taken place this year. Ceremonies have ranged from 25 to 120 guests and the feedback received by staff continues to be excellent. Eight ceremonies are currently booked for 2019.

Queen's Park

30. A ceremony has taken place this year and a further ceremony has been booked for 2019. The Park Manager has received excellent feedback from the couple

and hopes to increase the number of ceremonies as the site builds its reputation as a location for outdoor Wedding and Civil Ceremonies.

Local Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

31. On the 30 March 2019, the City of London Corporation marks 30 years as the custodian of Hampstead Heath. Several suggestions emerged from discussions with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee including a photographic display of some of the key achievements and milestones. A guided walk for the Court of Common Council has also been suggested, culminating at the Hill Garden and Pergola. Members are invited to share their views on a programme of events to mark this anniversary.

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