

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	13 March 2019
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 Open Spaces since November 2018. The report format has been updated to align with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028 Outcomes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members provide their views in relation to the proposal to progress the Croquet Development Plan project initiative through developing a Capital Projects Gateway 1 & 2 report, as outlined in para 27.
- Members provide feedback on the proposal to introduce BWV cameras for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, as outlined in paras 31-35.
- Members support the existing policy to not permit dogs off a lead in the Pitch and Putt course at Queen's Park, as outlined in paras 39-41.

Main Report

A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape.

Tumulus

1. Following the restoration of the fencing around the Tumulus through the City Surveyor's Cyclical Works Programme the Ranger Team are now implementing the project to re-provision the benches around the Tumulus.
2. Following careful excavation in the areas around the new bench footings, initial finds were viewed by the Member for the Highgate Society. Following his report, Historic England have attended the site and have agreed that the works can continue as no items of significance were found.
3. In addition, the oak tree crowns have been lifted to improve the visibility of the Tumulus.

Constable's Branch Hill Pond

4. The Superintendent is working in partnership with Redington and Frogna Residents Association who have successfully secured funding for the restoration of Constable's Branch Hill Pond on Hampstead Heath (Appendix 1). The Project has been incorporated into the Annual Work Programme and Superintendent will keep Members informed as the project progresses.

Planning

5. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:
 - Camden Eruv 2016/1436/P
 - North Westminster Eruv 2016/2892/P
 - Jack Straws Castle 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/P
 - Garden House 2017/2885/P
 - North Fairground Site 2017/4346/P
 - South Fairground Site
 - 55 Fitzroy Park 2018/3672/P
 - The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P
 - Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2018/1270/P

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

6. Nests continue to be found in oaks that are being worked on for safety, management and veteran tree work. The Tree Team are now equipped to remove these remaining nests prior to commencing works.
7. The Tree Team are currently working with Heath Hands to develop a pilot volunteer programme to assist with OPM inspections during 2019.
8. The Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager has worked with the City of London Procurement Service to ensure that arrangements are in place for both OPM spraying and nest removal for summer 2019.

Tree Inspections

9. Since October 2018 the Team have inspected five high risk zones, five medium risk zones and one low risk zone. This equates to a third of the 32 annual zone inspections.
10. As a result of the inspections a mature silver birch was removed from the west side of North End Road and Massaria infected branches were removed from London planes along the Gospel Oak railway line boundary.

Veteran Tree Works

11. Halo clearance has been undertaken around veteran oaks at Sandy Heath and South Meadow.
12. The Tree Team supported the Ancient Tree Forum by leading a walk focusing on the Heath's trees in November 2018.

B: Improved quality of life for visitors.

Asset Management Plan

13. In conjunction with the City Surveyor a High-Level Asset Management Plan is being developed for Hampstead Heath. The priorities of the plan will form a discussion topic immediately prior to the meeting.

Events 2019

14. The Sporting theme for 2019 will continue with #thisgirlcan. A report setting out highlights of the 2018 programme and the proposed 2019 Events Programme is included in this agenda pack.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

15. The Superintendent will provide an update on current projects within the City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme.

East Heath Car Park

16. The City Surveyor has secured Planning Consent from London Borough of Camden for the car park resurfacing. Tenders are currently being evaluated and a Capital Projects Gateway 5 report prepared. Subject to affordability and consent, works are scheduled to commence in summer 2019.

Adventure Playground

17. Following consultation with users of the Adventure Playground a concept design has been prepared (Appendix 2) along with final technical designs which informed the tender documentation. Tenders are currently being evaluated and a Capital Project Gateway 5 report prepared. Subject to affordability and consents works are scheduled to commence in autumn 2019.

Cafés

18. The cafés on Hampstead Heath are currently leased until January 2021. An engagement and consultation exercise will be undertaken in 2020 to inform the outcomes of the tender exercise. In line with the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018, greater financial investment in the café facilities will be sought in conjunction with offering a longer lease period.
19. The Superintendent will provide an update in relation to the Café Working Group. A copy of the updated Terms of Reference for the Group is attached (Appendix 3).

Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

20. There are currently nine confirmed and three pending bookings for 2019, with a number of viewings booked for 2020 ceremonies.

C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.

Highgate Men's Bathing Pond Accessibility

21. The Superintendent will provide an update in relation to the project to make the facility accessible. The outline brief is attached (Appendix 4), this will inform the devolvement of a Capital Project Gate 1 & 2 Project Proposal.

Mobility scheme

22. The Hampstead Heath mobility buggy scheme operates from the Parliament Hill Fields Lido. The two existing buggies are reaching the end of their operational life and a procurement exercise has been undertaken to purchase replacement buggies, which are more suited to the open space environment.

Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park

23. 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.
24. The Superintendent will undertake an engagement exercise to consult with current users of the accessible car park and visitors to Golders Hill Park. A short questionnaire has been designed to facilitate this engagement (Appendix 5).

Licensing

25. The Superintendent is in the process of developing an engagement and consultation exercise with Heath users, the focus of this will be to support the development of a dog walkers code of conduct for all dog walkers and a personal training code of conduct. This is to inform the introduction of a licencing schemes for commercial dog walkers and personal trainers. These measures will enable the City of London to better manage dog behaviour and those who utilise the Heath for their commercial operation.

Sports

26. The Superintendent will update Members in relation to discussions with the Parliament Hill Bowls Club and Hampstead Heath Croquet Club regarding future arrangements to manage the Parliament Hill Bowling Green, Croquet Lawn and Pavilion.
27. The Hampstead Heath Croquet Club presented a Croquet Development Plan to both the Sports Advisory Forum and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Appendix 6). The proposal consolidates the Croquet offer at Parliament Hill Fields. The Superintendent seeks Members views on progressing this initiative by developing a Capital Projects Gateway 1 & 2 report, recognising the project would need to be fully funded by Hampstead Heath Croquet Club.

D: Greater number and diversity of people taking care of the Heath.

Waste & Recycling Strategy

28. The Superintendent will provide an update on this Divisional Plan Project, following a joint Keep Britain Tidy workshop with local Stakeholders on 2 March 2019. This will be a discussion topic immediately prior to the meeting.

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

29. Over the winter months, the Heath Constabulary, with support from the Keepers and Rangers, have encountered a number of people sleeping out on the Heath. These individuals have differing needs and the Constables work with external

outreach teams to support those individuals with an objective of moving them in to accommodation.

30. An estimated 6,000 – 7,000 people gathered on Parliament Hill on New Year's Eve. A combination of seven Keepers and Constables were on duty on the evening. The crowd were well behaved with no incidents of crime or antisocial behaviour being reported. The following morning a team of staff cleared the litter from Parliament Hill, collecting an estimated 1/3 tonne of waste and recycling.
31. The Superintendent proposes that Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras be introduced for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary for the purposes of evidence gathering, safety and reduction of crime.
32. BWV cameras are designed to be overt, including a label on the device illustrating that it is a video and audio recording device. The BWV camera will be 'incident specific' and not indiscriminately record an entire patrol.
33. Studies have shown that the use of BWV cameras reduces abuse, both physical and verbal that Officers could be exposed to and it better enables Officers to perform their roles by providing a contemporaneous, irrefutable record of events.
34. The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager is leading this project and is working in partnership with the Epping Forest Constables. Members feedback for the introduction of BWV cameras for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary is requested.
35. As part of the procurement process, a Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed. Prior to the deployment of the BWV, a Privacy Impact Assessment will be completed, and the relevant Privacy Notice Layer for Open Spaces will be updated.

Local Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

36. On the 30 March 2019, the City of London Corporation marks 30 years as the custodian of Hampstead Heath. To mark this anniversary the following initiatives are being progressed:
 - In conjunction with the Remembrancer an All Court visit to the Heath is being arranged for June/July 2019. Members will receive invitations for the visit in due course.
 - A photographic display to form a Heath timeline of notable events and achievements over the last 30 years. This will be used across a range of media and events to promote the Hampstead Heath Charity and the Outcomes of the new Management Strategy.
 - Members will be invited to participate in planting an orchard at the Athlone House Gardens. This will coincide with a Health walk prior to your September Committee meeting on 11 September 2019.
 - The 2019/20 Hampstead Heath Events Diary will provide a platform to promote the anniversary.

37. In addition, a range of merchandising is being considered to align with our waste & recycling strategy. i.e. re-usable cups and drinking bottles, as well as a re-useable bag. There is an opportunity to collaborate with the Heath Cafés to deliver this project.

Highgate Wood

Roman Kiln

38. The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) released their new funding framework at the end of January 2019. The Friends of the Highgate Wood Roman Kiln (FOHRK) are planning to apply for a single stage grant which can be up to £250,000. The intention is to submit an application in May 2019. Key focus now is to draft a Vision document, arrangement of a meeting with NLHF Development Manager, then develop the Outline Activity Plan and Outline Interpretation Plan. The FOHRK will be meeting again on the 5 March at Bruce Castle Museum to view the Roman Kiln and plan the next steps.

Queen's Park

Toilet and Sandpit

39. A Gateway 2 report for the Queen's Park Sandpit refurbishment and the Public Toilet rebuild was presented to Projects Sub Committee in February 2019. The Project was approved by Members and will progress to the next Gateway. A copy of the meeting minute is attached at Appendix 7.

Pitch and Putt

40. The byelaws for Queen's Park require dogs to be kept on a leash at all times. At the Queen's Park Consultative Group (QPCG) Meeting on 31 October 2018, the Chairman advised Members that an enquiry had been made by a member of the public for the Group to review the policy for dogs at Queen's Park. Specifically, the enquiry related to dogs being permitted off the leash in the enclosed Pitch and Putt area at the centre of the Park during dedicated time slots (early morning and late afternoon).
41. Members of the QPCG felt that it was not necessary to amend the Policy as owners could safely exercise dogs off the leash at Tiverton Green which is within a few hundred metres of Queen's Park. Members felt that visitors safe use of the Park over dogs should be maintained.
42. Officers recommend that Members consider the views of the QPCG and support the existing policy to not permit dogs off a lead in the Pitch and Putt course.

Farm Redevelopment

43. Good progress is being made with the redevelopment of the Farm. A majority of the Project has been delivered in house, with staff from across the Division assisting with the works. The Farm is due to re-open on the 18 March 2019 to the public. The Park staff will work with the Learning Team, delivering an event to launch the re-opening of this popular facility.

Income & Expenditure

44. Following a request from Members, information relating to income generation and expenditure for 2017/18 and 2018/19 is attached at Appendix 8.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Plans to restore Constable's Branch Hill Pond
- Appendix 2 - Adventure Playground concept design
- Appendix 3 - Terms of Reference for the Cafe Working Group
- Appendix 4 - Outline brief for the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond
- Appendix 5 - Draft Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Questionnaire
- Appendix 6 - Hampstead Heath Croquet Club - Croquet Development Plan
- Appendix 7 - Projects Sub Minute - February 2019
- Appendix 8 - Income and expenditure 2017/18 and 2018/19

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