

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	29 April 2019
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on management and operational activities across the Heath since February 2019. The report format has been updated to align with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028 Outcomes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members give their views on the Key Priorities as set out in the High-Level Asset Management Plan (appendix 1).
- Members give their views on the Open Spaces Learning Team Play Principles (appendix 2).
- Members give their views on the Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial, as detailed in para 15.
- Members give their views on the proposal to trial grazing on Hampstead Heath, as detailed in para 16.
- Members give their views on the proposed Circus Event (appendix 3).
- Members give their views on the proposed Cross-Country Event (appendix 4).
- Members give their views on the concept design for the Vale of Health Playground (appendix 5).
- Members give their views on the concept design for the Preachers Hill Playground (appendix 6).

Main Report

Management Strategy

1. The Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 was approved in November 2018 by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee. The Strategy has been prepared for the website to be downloaded in an accessible PDF format. A printed version of the will be available at the meeting.

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

Asset Management Plan – Hampstead Heath

2. The High-Level Asset Management Plan for Hampstead Heath 2018 -2021 is attached (appendix 1). This has been developed in conjunction with the City Surveyors Department to ensure the effective use and management of buildings and structures across Hampstead Heath. The Superintendent seeks Members views on the key priorities.
3. The draft Gateway 1 report for the Parliament Hill Feasibility Study has been prepared for consideration by the Director of Open Spaces and Corporate Projects Board. Project Sub-Committee.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

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

East Heath Car Park (A DP5)

5. The Superintendent will provide and update at the meeting.

Planning

6. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:
 - Jack Straws Castle 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/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
 - Jack Straws Castle – Change of use application

2-3 Heath Passage

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

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

8. Spaying commenced on site in mid-April. A target-based approach has been used to ensure that trees located near to high footfall areas, playgrounds and facilities are sprayed. A second spay will be undertaken at the end of April and beginning of May. Information about OPM has been placed at the main entrances to the Heath.

Storm Damage

9. During the week of 10 March, Storm Gareth swept across the Heath, felling 21 trees and damaging a significant number of canopy branches.
10. The following trees and species were lost; 3 veteran oaks, 4 birch trees, 3 hawthorns, 2 sycamores, 2 sorbus, 1 each of robinia, alder, lime, beech, willow, ash and cherry. These trees have been made safe and cleared where they had blocked access.

Programmed Tree works

11. The Tree Team are currently in the process of remodelling of the 45-year-old woodland walk in Golders Hill Park to become a Pinetum. This has involved the removal of over large, dead and dying conifers.
12. The Team have an ongoing project to map and record the presence and condition of the Heath's wild service population.

The Listening Wood

13. The Tree Team have collaborated with the University College London to deliver a three-month Project. 15 trees across Golders Hill Park and Sandy Heath have been selected and a map has been created to allow members of the public to interact digitally with the trees learning about their history with stories and poetry.
<https://thelisteningwood.com/about>

Veteran Tree Works

14. Further halo clearance has been undertaken around veteran oaks at Sandy Heath, South Meadow and the Vale of Health.

Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial proposal – Kenwood Estate

15. The Superintendent seeks Members views on the proposal to install a memorial sculpture within the grounds of the Kenwood Estate which will be visible from the Heath. Member of the Kenwood Landscape Forum discussed the proposals at their meeting on Monday 8 April 2019. Further information is being sought from English Heritage to share with Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. The Committee Walk on Saturday 27 April will commence at this location.

Grazing

16. The Superintendent has met with the Rare Breed Survival Trust, the Muddiford Farm Trust and the Heath & Hampstead Society. A small-scale trial grazing programme is being considered for late summer. The Superintendent is seeking Members views in order to progress the trial.

B: Improved quality of life for visitors.

Play Principles

17. In relation to Divisional Plan Project B DP2 to Develop a Play Strategy, the Open Spaces Learning Team have developed Play Principles (appendix 2) to promote inclusive play opportunities for a diverse range of visitors and to guide the future design of the playgrounds.

18. The Play Principles will be guide implementation of the Divisional Plan Project for the Adventure Playground (B DP5) and the Annual Work Programme Projects for the playgrounds at Preachers Hill (HR-PR4) and the Vale of Health (HR-PR5). The Superintendent seeks Members views on the Open Spaces Learning Team's Play Principles (appendix 2).

Events 2019

19. In accordance with the Events Policy, the Leisure and Events Manger is seeking Members views on following large and major event applications:
- Zippos Circus (appendix 3)
 - London Youth Games (appendix 4)
20. If agreed by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 5 June 2019, these events will be added to the 2019 Events Programme considered by Members at their meeting in February.

Adventure Playground (B DP5)

21. The Superintendent will provide an update in relation to the installation of new equipment and landscaping works at the Adventure Playground.

Preachers Hill Playground (HR-PR4)

22. The Superintendent will provide an update and seek Members views on the concept design (appendix 5).

Vale of Health Playground (HR-PR5)

23. The Superintendent will provide an update and seek Members views on the concept design (appendix 6).

Golders Hill Park Zoo - Phase 1: Wallaby & Donkey Paddock, 2018 - 2019

24. The infrastructure works at the paddock are now complete. New fencing has been added to the paddock to allow the donkeys more space when brought in for the evening and to create a separate area for the wallaby.
25. A new stable has been purchased and installed and the Golders Hill Park Gardening Team have assisted in the creation of a dead hedge within the enclosure which offers shelter, screening and enrichment.
26. In early Summer 2019 6 female wallabies will be introduced (an invasive introduced species) and Phase 1 will be completed.

Golders Hill Park Zoo - Phase 2: Deer Paddock, 2019 - 2020

27. A new standoff fence has been installed to limit public feeding of the deer and the paddock has been split into two separate paddocks. Three female reindeer will be introduced, and the existing fallow heard will be increased from 4 to 14 female deer.

28. Further works required to infrastructure works included a hard-standing area and an additional shelter.

Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

29. There are currently ten confirmed and three pending bookings for 2019, with number of viewings booked for 2020 ceremonies.

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

Mobility scheme

30. The Hampstead Heath mobility buggy scheme operates from the Parliament Hill Fields Lido. Three new buggies which are more suited to the open space environment are now available for hire by Heath users.
31. The booking arrangements have been updated and staff have received training into the issuing of buggies.

Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park

32. The questionnaire has been updated following feedback from Members and the Staff will engage with users over the spring and summer months.

Licencing

33. 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 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.
34. A pop-up event, facilitated by an external consultant, will take place on the 5 May 2019, adjacent to the Parliament Hill Café.
35. As well as a media/communications strategy, a questionnaire will be developed and the consultant will facilitate a number of workshops with stakeholders, these will support the delivery of the objectives of this project.

Learning Team

36. The Open Spaces Learning Team's application for ongoing funding from the City of London has been approved. This means that the Team will be able to continue to provide inspiring learning opportunities for Children, Young People and Volunteers. The provision will include:
 - School Programme – Hands on exploratory workshops for Primary and Secondary schools.
 - Green Talent – A work experience and skills development programme for young people.
 - Play Programmes – Developing more opportunities for nature-based play, connect to Hampstead Heath, based from the Peggy Jay Centre and Adventure Playground and Clubhouse.

- Learning volunteering – Creating opportunities to share skills and learn and develop as part of the Team.

37. Highlights of the Learning Programme from the last three years are attached (appendix 7).

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

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

38. The Constabulary Manager has procured Body Worn Video Cameras (BWV) for use by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary. The procurement of this equipment has been supported by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee.
39. The use of BWV equipment is known to improve safety, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour as well as improving the delivery of services through improved efficiency, and better management of complaints and investigations
40. Following an increase in theft from person offences in the Hampstead and Highgate area, the Hampstead Heath Constabulary have been working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police. A number of offences have been reported on or in close proximity to Hampstead Heath.
41. There has been an increase in patrols, both in vehicle and on foot in those areas where robberies have or are likely to occur. A visible presence and the response have seen a positive decrease in these offences taking place.
42. The Constabulary Manager has been in contact with stakeholders, including the Local Safer Neighbourhood Panels and groups who use the Heath later in the evening, e.g. Sports Groups, to ensure their users are aware of measures to take to remain safe when coming to and from the Heath and whilst using the Heath.

Volunteering

43. The Divisional Volunteering Improvement Group continues to meet quarterly. Key points from their recent meeting include the opportunity for staff from within the Department to receive training on the recruitment and management of volunteering staff, the development of a lone working policy for volunteers, and the collection of data as part of the Departmental Business Plan, data will be impact based measures as well as input based.
44. Recent volunteering activities include Phoenix Futures, Recovery Through Nature Woman's Group, continued wildlife monitoring programmes.
45. On the 8 June 2019 a Community Heath event will take place at Parliament Hill Fields. Community Heath is Heath Hands' community outreach project that gives groups of all backgrounds and abilities the opportunity to get involved in discovering and learning about our green spaces.
46. In 2018, Heath Hands volunteers completed 13,500 volunteering hours.

Waste & Recycling

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

Ultra-Low Emission Zone

48. The Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) came into force on 8 April 2019 and covers the same area as the Congestion Charge. Hampstead Heath has a road going fleet of 19 vehicles, comprised of a mixture of vans, pickups, cars and Land Rovers. These vehicles are also utilised across the wider Division.
49. Currently 7 of the fleet vehicles are compliant with ULEZ emissions standards. These are a combination of Euro 6 diesels, Petrol, Hybrids and an Electric van.
50. The ULEZ is being extended out to the North and South Circular on the 25 October 2021, by this date the remaining fleet vehicles will need to be compliant.
51. The the cost of these changes will be spread over the next three financial years and both leasing and purchasing will be considered according to the operational requirements.
52. The Operational Services Team are currently considering the options for installing electrical charging points across the Divisions staff yards and bases, with the aim of moving the majority of the fleet over to fully electric vehicles.
53. In addition, to the road going fleet we have a fleet of mowers, tractors and All-Terrain Vehicles operating across the Division. Whilst these are exempt from the ULEZ, these also need to be replaced and where possible electric powered equipment is being procured to help improve air quality.

30th Anniversary

54. The Superintendent invites the Chairman to provide an update on the events being arranged to celebrate this milestone.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – High-Level Asset Management Plan
- Appendix 2 – Open Spaces Learning Team Play Principles
- Appendix 3 – Event Application Review – Zippos Circus
- Appendix 4 – Event Application Review – London Youth Games
- Appendix 5 – Concept design for Vale of Health Playground
- Appendix 6 – Concept design for the Preachers Hill Playground
- Appendix 7 – Open Spaces Learning Team – Highlight of the last 3 years

Bob Warnock

Superintendent of Hampstead Heath

T: 020 7332 3322

E: bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk