



Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

Event application for the London Youth Games

Location	Parliament Hill Zone B Parliament Hill & Zone C the wider area of Hampstead Heath
Event days:	16 November 2019
Set-up days	2
Actual event days	1
Clear-up days	1
Total days required:	4

Context

The Officer Event Group (OEG) meets once a month to discuss event applications. This group is made up by the Leisure, Events and Communications Manager, The Operational Services Manager and the Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager. The OEG review all applications for the year 2019, to ensure applications meet the specific requirements of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 and specifically to manage event applications for Open Spaces Departmental Events Policy Part One and the Site-Specific Policy Part Two. The OEG met up on 28 March 2019 and went through the 8 Criteria to consider how effectively the proposal aligns. Below are the OEG findings which will be presented to the Consultative Committee for their consideration and views.

Requirements

A. Does the event align with the Heath Vision and Strategic Outcomes?

Having activities and events contributes to one of the themes of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy:

Outcome B "The Heath enriches lives". London Youth Games (LYG) is the largest series of youth sports participation events in the country. It also aligns with contributing to a flourishing society impacting on Priority 4 which looks to improve the physical health and mental health and emotional well-being of – in this instance - our young people. OEG also outlined that many of the youth runners and spectators might be first time visitors, and this may encourage them to discover more of the Heath and learn about the natural world.

Outcome C "The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors" – The LYG provide an inclusive and safe space that brings people together to participate in what is considered to be the "home of cross country running".

B. Is the event application high quality including an event plan which sets out minimum standards for achieving a successful, safe and well-executed event?

The LYG has been visiting the Heath for over 20 years and they have comprehensive risk assessments and method statements for the event. They liaise with the South of England

Cross Country Association to ensure the National Standards for timekeeping, stewarding and safeguarding are adhered to.

C. Is the event appropriate for the proposed location and does it comply with the Open Spaces Departmental Events Policy Parts One and Two?

The event locations are grouped into three broad zones and are considered by the OEG on an assessment of the suitability of the requested destination, including the local character of the location, the potential impacts on the site and on the experience of Hampstead Heath visitors and neighbours. LYG create a fenced start and finish within Zone B and the course then includes areas within Zone C, encompassing the wider area of the Heath. The event course is scouted by the Clerk of the course and is assessed for risk by both the Clerk of the course and Hampstead Heath Ranger Supervisor. They assess the course for ecological and grounds maintenance impacts and the Heath's Ecologist makes a site visit to assess the route of the course. Following the event the Heath staff assess the course to consider what reinstatement works are necessary.

D. Is the event sustainable and based on a strong business case?

The LYG has been operating continuously – with one break - for over 20 years, it has proved economically sustainable, but for the last two years it has been without a sponsor. The LYG works closely with the Heath to minimise any negative impact from environmental issues such as encroachment on specific wildlife and impact compaction on the cross-country routes. They place great emphasis of waste and recycling with each of the Boroughs taking an active role in helping to protect the Heath.

They will continue to ask teams to use public transport to access the event.

E. Does the event offer quality and memorable experiences for visitors and participants that connect people with Hampstead Heath and the local community?

The LYG has over 3,000 runners and spectators. The start and finish are regarded as sporting iconic views and are memorable for the great number of young people participating on the Heath. The sight of young runners improving their physical and mental wellbeing enriches the life of the Heath and our local community and is a key goal of contributing to a flourishing society.

F. Does the event identify and deliver added value for social inclusion?

LYG is the only one of the series of events that attracts representation from all the London Boroughs, as part of its attraction it appeals to significant BAME groups and a good mixture of different sexes.

G. Does the event promote the Heath Vision values of shared stewardship and collective responsibility?

LYG works hand in hand with Hampstead Heath Management Team to deliver an event that enriches the Heath and is welcoming. They also manage its build in a way that increases collective ownership and takes personal responsibility for managing the event itself and the environment outside, i.e. clearing up waste and keeping the site spotless.

Additional Information

The LYG is regarded as one of the most important youth competitions in Great Britain. The Cross-Country races are mass participation events that appeal to many different and varied communities. It showcases young people and promotes health and wellbeing. Therefore, the chance to promote youth wellbeing and to encourage physical activity is seen by the OEG as a positive outcome.