

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 29 April 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at
Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields,
Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 29 April 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
Ellen Solomons (Vale of Health Society)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Kate Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Dr Jeremy Ashbee	- English Heritage

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cindy Galvin (Robert Spigel attended to represent Heath Hands), John Etheridge (John Hunt attended to represent the South End Green Association), Harunur Rashid (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative) and Rezina Hakim (Leonard Cheshire Disability).

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment on page 6.

4. **ACTIONS SHEET**

Members noted the various outstanding actions and the update provided thereon.

The Chairman advised that all actions were complete or covered on the agenda. With regards to Action 1 to identify a representative to represent people with a physical disability, the Chairman confirmed that Rezina Hakim from Leonard Cheshire Disability had been appointed to the Committee but was unable to attend her first meeting.

Concerning Action 2, Members were advised that Officers would be approaching the Camden Learning and LaSWAP to establish a representative for schools on the Consultative Committee.

5. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

The public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 13 March 2019 were received.

In response to a query from a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) regarding Brexit, the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the Corporation was responsible for the supervision of container ports and Brexit potentially brought concerns regarding plant material and animals. The Corporation will continue to work with DEFRA to manage the risks associated with imports from Europe.

6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The public draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 4 February 2019 were received.

Members were advised that there was a push to increase the membership of the Forum to include a wider representation of sports taking place on Hampstead Heath.

It was noted that discussions focussed on the review of the Lido including difficulties caused by hot seasonal weather.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent and the following points were made:

Fundamental Review

- The Director of Open Spaces advised Members that the Corporation had a huge ambition for London as a world class city requiring significant investment. It was noted that due to the significant capital expense from a number of key large-scale projects currently coming through the

Corporation, all projects that were not yet at Gateway 5 would be reviewed under new criteria as part of a fundamental review of revenue and projects.

- Members were advised that central government would also be reviewing spending and funding over the next three years which was unlikely to be favourable for the City due to the rebasing of current business rates and a loss of government funding.
- The Director of Open Spaces stated that the Corporation was considering borrowing money for the first time and that the Fundamental Review would impact every capital project decision going forward which meant that innovation was required.
- In response to a comment from a Member regarding the difference between City Cash and City Funds, Members were advised that City Cash, which provides investment funds outside of Local Authority function, for Hampstead Heath for example and is under the same financial pressures as the City Fund. It was expected that both would further deplete over the next few years and the Chamberlain's Department was working on figures to accommodate the pressures.

Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial proposal – Kenwood Estate

- The Superintendent sought Member's views on a proposal to install a memorial sculpture within the grounds of the Kenwood Estate which would be visible from the Heath.
- This was discussed at the Committee walk on Saturday 27 April during which Members were shown the proposed site for the memorial.
- Dr Jeremy Ashbee (English Heritage) provided context for the consideration of the memorial. The criteria required that the memorial had good access from London, offered space for quiet contemplation and was non-denominational.
- Members were advised that the site - Stable Field – offered a good fit in terms of the tree line of the plot and the discontinuous circle concept.
- It was noted that English Heritage were supportive of the proposal; however, local stakeholders had raised concerns. Feedback regarding the materials, scale, colour and construction of the memorial would be sought.
- A Member (Vale of Health Society) said that she opposed the siting of the statues, which she likened to “gingerbread men”.

- A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) thought the location was completely inappropriate and noted that the memorial would potentially pose an activism risk. The site was also difficult to access in a wheelchair given the uneven nature of the site.
- A Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) said that such a development would have a critical impact on the Heath. He supported the worthiness of the cause, but suggested English Heritage needed to find a different site as the Stable Field was not suitable.
- A Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) drew a parallel between the aim of English Heritage to protect the historic landscape on the Kenwood side of the railings with the desire of the local community to protect the Heath's wild and open aspect on the Heath side of the railings. The Kitchen Garden at Kenwood was suggested as an alternative site.
- A Member (South End Green Association) said that the project was laudable, but the location was not.
- A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted that the site had minimal transport links. Members felt there were other more suitable sites closer to Central London which could be used.
- It was noted by a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) that the general policy towards artworks on the Heath had always been that they were temporary and occasional.
- A Member (Highgate Society) felt that it would have been helpful to know what the other proposed sites were, and why they were discounted. He opposed the use of the Stable Field. The aims of the memorial seemed confused: on the one hand the statues were for quiet contemplation, on the other the statues were intended to draw people across the Heath.
- The Deputy Chairman felt that the memorial provided a conflict of philosophy as a built object would impact the natural aspect of the Heath. Members had stated that they were advised during the Committee walk that the memorial would draw visitors to the site which was contradictory to what was being proposed at this meeting and contrary to the Heath's management of rural preservation.
- A Member (Ramblers' Association) suggested making the memorial a hollow figure to prevent graffiti. Members were advised that it was designed specifically to hold messaging as part of the design concept.
- The Chairman stated that whilst the memorial was a worthy cause, agreeing to it could open the Heath up to requests from other equally worthy causes which would be hard to manage.

- In response to queries regarding the proposed location of the memorial, Dr Ashbee advised that English Heritage considered other locations within the Estate but considered the proposed location to be the least intrusive to the site. He was personally not averse to placing the memorial in the Kitchen Garden.
- Members raised concerns that the memorial, due to the design and construction, could be the target of vandalism and graffiti. It was noted that the site was open to the public 24/7 and could not be policed by staff.
- A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted that the memorial would potentially pose a terrorism or activism risk.
- The Chairman stated that Member's concerns would be conveyed to the HHHWQP Committee for consideration, and that all Member feedback would be sent to English Heritage following the meeting on 5 June 2019.

Grazing

- Members were advised that a small-scale one-week grazing pilot of sheep was being proposed to take place in late summer. Grazing of sheep would provide ecological benefits and the pilot sites were being considered carefully. The project would also involve Heath Hands volunteers.
- A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) felt that this trial would be a great offer for children, providing them with an experience of country life.
- It was agreed that the pilot would require an enclosed site to protect the sheep from dogs and foxes.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) who owned sheep highlighted the expense of looking after and managing them, noting the extensive amount of paperwork needed to get them and significant practical risks involved.
- It was noted that a similar temporary grazing project was taking place at the Royal Parks
- Members were advised that there was an opportunity to liaise with colleagues who have experience from within the Corporation. A Member (Highgate Society) also recommended liaising with Bricket Wood.

East Heath Car Park (A DP5)

- The Superintendent advised that this capital project was currently on hold, but it was hoped this would be given the go ahead due to the health and safety implications.

Planning

- **Jack Straws Castle, 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/P.** The Superintendent advised that the developer had lodged an appeal against non-determination by the London Borough of Camden.
- **North Fairground Site, 2017/4346/P.** It was noted that this Public Inquiry would be reconvened on the 3 October 2019.
- **South Fairground Site.** Members were advised that a Public Inquiry went ahead on 12 February 2019 lasting four days and would be reconvened on 20 August 2019 for three days.
- **55 Fitzroy Park, 2018/3672/P.** The Superintendent noted that the London Borough of Camden had yet to determine the Planning Application.
- **The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent advised that construction was progressing. Further consideration of the boundary fence was necessary.
- **Parliament Hill William Ellis School, 2018/1270/P.** The Superintendent advised that the Operation Services Manger was continuing to participate in the Community Working Group.
- **Jack Straws Castle – change of use application.** The Superintendent advised that objections had been submitted in relation to this Planning Application.
- **Athlone House.** The Superintendent advised that a representation had been made against the proposed gate.
- Members were advised that the Lido had received planning consent and that planning applications for the three playgrounds and a stable at Golders Hill Park Zoo were being prepared.

2-3 Heath Passage

- The Superintendent noted that this land had sold at auction and the new owners were not yet known.

Mobility scheme

- The Superintendent was pleased that three new all-terrain buggies were available for hire by Heath users. A new hire system has been set up with the buggies available to hire from the Lido.

Licencing

- The Superintendent stated that an engagement and consultation exercise with Heath users was being developed regarding development of a dog walkers and a personal training code of conduct. A consultant was assisting with developing a questionnaire and communications strategy.
- Pop-up events to engage with dog walkers and trainers will take place during May and June.
- The Heath and Hampstead Society were concerned that dog licensing would not work if a cap on the number of licences issued was not introduced across all London open spaces. Members were advised that the Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager was a member of Parks for London (formally London Parks and Green Spaces Forum) which was a charity enabling the people that plan, design and manage London's parks and green spaces to share knowledge and experience. The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager agreed to talk with the Heath and Hampstead Society regarding their concerns.

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

- Members were advised that the Constabulary had increased its patrols and was continuing to work with the Metropolitan Police Service in response to the increase in robberies in and around the Parliament Hill area of the Heath.
- Body Worn Video Cameras (BWV) have been procured following support at the last Committee meeting and the Constabulary are undergoing training on using the equipment and updating its policies.

Waste & Recycling

- The Superintendent advised that they were awaiting the report from Keep Britain Tidy which would provide data and a further package regarding messaging and campaigning was to be commissioned.
- Co-mingled recycling will be initially trialled at facilities in Parliament Hill Triangle. A small number of the bins in housings will be trialled in a rural area of the Heath to gauge feedback on the visual impact.
- Members were advised that two workshops have been held inviting public engagement on messaging on littering.

30th Anniversary

- The Chairman advised Members that all Members of the Court of Common Council and the Lady Mayoress had been invited to attend a walk at the Heath on 25 June 2019. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate details regarding this event.

- A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) advised that since he proposed a rugby old legends event at the last meeting, he had met with the Wasps and Harlequins Teams. The Harlequins suggested a training camp idea but there would be costs involved.

RESOLVED – 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).

7.1 Appendix 1 - Hampstead Heath High Level Asset Management Plan

Members considered the Hampstead Heath High-Level Asset Management Plan 2018-2021 and the following comments were made:

- Members were advised that High-Level Asset Management Plans were being developed for all City of London Corporation properties.
- Emphasis was given to the ambition to ensure “buildings and facilities that are fit for purpose, sustainable, support effective delivery of services and optimise efficiencies and value for money” as key to the strategic framework.
- In response to a query from a Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) regarding retail spaces, Members were advised that something similar to the View at Epping Forest would provide an opportunity to sell merchandise that relates to the Open Space. A Member (Highgate Society) noted the great range of products on offer at the London Wetlands Shop.

- The Chairman felt that “retail” was the wrong wording and requested that the wording be changed to “visitor, engagement and education centre”.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) queried what site was planned for the relocation of Heathfield House office accommodation. Members were advised that the footprint at a number of sites were being considered, e.g. the stores area at Parliament Hill Staff Yard, which were not being fully utilised, and that there was real need to reconfigure spaces and buildings to make them fit for purpose. Members were pleased that there was no intention to increase the footprint.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) was concerned that the project concerning waste, which was very expensive, would not be considered a priority by 2021/22 due to the fundamental review and funding constraints. The Superintendent confirmed that managing waste more efficiently and providing recycling facilities remained a priority, and the Team would continue to progress with the planned schemes.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) felt that the format of the Plan was difficult to follow and did not like the red text.
- With regards to the East Heath Car Park asset transferring to the City Surveyors Department on completion of the capital works, Members were advised that there was a service-level agreement on managing this asset which required ongoing maintenance by City Surveyors Department.
- A Member (Highgate Society) voiced concerns regarding the wording concerning maximising opportunities for income generation “through events and third-party leasing opportunities” and felt this needed to be worded carefully to avoid headlines about commercialisation of the Heath.
- With regards to a concern (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) regarding the resurfacing of the Athletics Track, Members were advised that this would be on a like-for-like basis.

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7.2 **Appendix 2 - Open Spaces Learning Team Play Principles**

Members considered the Open Spaces Learning Team Play Principles and the following comments were made:

- Members were advised that the acronym SSOW stood for Safe System of Work.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt that a section was needed regarding safeguarding which was particularly important when discussing areas for children.

- A Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) felt the document was too wordy and recommended reducing the report content.
- It was suggested (Highgate Society) that the Principles should focus on providing children with a natural world experience.

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7.3 **Appendix 3 - Event application Review - Zippo's Circus**

Members considered an event application for Zippo's Circus concerning a proposed circus event at the Heath and the following comments were made:

- Members were advised that this proposed event to take place on 20-28 October 2019 had been reviewed and supported by the Officer Event Group (OEG) and was being brought to the Committee for consideration as per the Site-Specific Events Policy Part Two.
- In response to concerns regarding animals following protests in the past, Members were advised that the only animals which would be used within the programme were budgerigars.
- The South End Green Association were in general support for this event noting that the event managers had proven themselves in responding to concerns.
- Members were generally supportive of this event.

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7.4 **Appendix 4 - Event application Review - London Youth Games**

Members considered an event application for the London Youth Games concerning a proposed cross-country event at the Heath and the following comments were made:

- Members were advised that this proposed event to take place on 16 November 2019 had been reviewed and supported by the Officer Event Group (OEG) and was being brought to the Committee for consideration as per the Site-Specific Events Policy Part Two.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) voiced concern regarding the area being used for this event. It was agreed that future event application reviews would include a map of the areas included in the event.
- Members were advised that damage and erosion were being carefully managed and that the route could be moved slightly if required to minimise impacts.

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7.5 **Appendix 5 - Vale of Health Play Area Concept Design**

7.6 **Appendix 6 - Preachers Hill Playground Concept Design**

Members considered the concept designs for the Vale of Health Playground and Preachers Hill Playground. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that £35k in Community Infrastructure Levy funding had been awarded to fund the project management and materials involved with the play area improvements.
- Members were supportive of the improvements, the Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) suggested that the boulders should be replaced with logs to be in keeping with the Heath and that the open aspect should be maintained to provide sightlines across the play spaces.
- A Member (Vale of Health Society) suggested the introduction of picnic areas.
- Members were happy with the natural approach and reusing of existing play equipment rather than introducing a new, large statement pieces.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) was supportive of the planting provided that they were not too high preventing parents from seeing their children playing.
- The Superintendent stated that these were early concept designs and more developed designs would be circulated to Members by email for feedback.

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7.7 **Appendix 7 - Open Spaces Learning Team - highlights**

Members noted the highlights update from the Open Spaces Department Learning Team.

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8. **VOLUNTEERING UPDATE**

Members received a verbal update from Heath Hands concerning community Heath highlights and the following comments were made:

- Officers were thanked for their ongoing support.
- A record number of volunteers (245 people) joined Heath Hands in the last year.

- Heath Hands has worked to align itself with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy regarding increasing diversity and challenging the perception of the Heath being “old and white”. It was noted that 18% of volunteers were now under 26 years old and nearly 40% were under the age of 40. BAME volunteer representation had been tripled to 15%. A variety of outreach programmes had been developed especially for vulnerable groups, e.g. a recovery through nature programme and an all-women’s programme.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) suggested reaching out to the Extinction Rebellion group for volunteers.

9. **QUESTIONS**

There were two questions:

Parliament Hill

A Member noted that the view from Parliament Hill had disappeared due to a recent bloom of leaves on trees. The Superintendent advised that a project regarding views was included within the Management Strategy which involved mapping historic views and considering the impacts on ecology and the landscape to maintain the views. This project would be progressed once the OPM nest removal and spraying project was completed.

150th Anniversary

Members were advised that the 150th anniversary of Hampstead Heath Act 1871 would fall in 2021, and a Member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) had approached the Heath to host a cross-country event, likely in September to match other European Championships. It was noted that this would be an expensive event requiring significant sponsorship and support and the Leisure & Events Manager was awaiting a response detailing these factors.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was one item of AOB:

COL Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2019-23

Members considered a supplementary report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance providing Members with the proposed final version of the City of London Corporation’s Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-2023. The following points were made:

- The Chairman advised Members that the Strategy went to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 April 2019 who expressed disappointment.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt the Strategy was principally about the Square Mile and City of London residents.

- It was suggested by a Member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) that the Strategy was passive rather than reactive.
- A Member (Highgate Society) noted the vague economic comments regarding investment in sport and felt that quantification was needed to show the benefits.
- It was noted that the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum were not consulted in relation to the strategy.
- The Chairman confirmed that they would write to the report authors to express that the Committee did not feel the Strategy went far enough or adequately covered all of the Corporation's Open Spaces.

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11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting on 8 July 2019 at 7.00pm was noted.

The Chairman listed a number of other important dates:

- 8 – 12 May – Affordable Arts Fair
- 6 July – Night of 10,000m PB's
- 14 July – Give it a Go
- 11 September - Heath and Hampstead Society party at 5-8pm

The meeting ended at 9.14 pm

Chairman

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