

Registered Charity

Event application for Highgate Harriers Night of the 10k Personal Bests

Location	Zone A - Parliament Hill Athletics Track
	Zone B – Parliament Hill Fields environs
Event days:	Saturday 6 June 2020
Set-up days	1
Actual event days	1
Clear-up days	2
Total days required:	4

Context

The Officer Event Group (OEG) meets once a month to discuss event applications for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. This group is made up of the Leisure and Events Manager, Operational Services Manager, Highgate Woods Conservation and Trees Manager and the Queen's Park and Constabulary Manager. The OEG review all applications to ensure they meet the requirements of the relevant legislation and comply with the Open Spaces Department Events Policy Part One and the Hampstead Heath Site-Specific Policy Part Two.

Highgate Harriers have submitted an application to hold their 10,000 meters Personal Best running event at the Parliament Hill Athletics Track on Saturday 6 June 2020.

The Superintendent seeks views and comments from the Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee to inform further discussion with the HHHWQP Committee on the 11 September 2019.

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 our lives". The Night of the 10,000 meters Personal Bests is a prestigious international event which in 2020 provides the opportunity to host the Team Great Britain trials for the Tokyo Olympics and also the European 10,000 meters Cup. It is proposed that the event will comprise of nine 10,000m races with a circus atmosphere, with spectators uniquely viewing from the track.

This event also supports Outcome C "The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors" – The Night of the 10k PBs is an inclusive and free to attend event, that brings people together to view what is considered to be the best 10,000 meters running festival in Europe and has previously been broadcast by the BBC on the red button.

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 Night of the 10,000 meters PB's Race Director has a thorough and well thought out Event Plan and a comprehensive roles and responsibilities document outlining the partnership element with the City of London Corporation. In addition, the Race Director has a full set of Risk Assessments and method statements that are robust and cover all eventualities.

In addition, the event will be managed under UK Athletics and European guidelines. Their procedures ensure that national standards for timekeeping, stewarding and safeguarding are adhered to.

The OEG have reviewed the documentation and are satisfied with the proposed health, safety and welfare arrangements.

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. The Highgate Harriers proposal is to occupy the Parliament Fields Athletics Track (Zone A) and the upper section of the field above the Lido (Zone B).

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

The event has established itself as an import fixture in the international athletics calendar and the Race Director has secured sponsorship and regional grants to support the cost of running the event.

There will be further discussions with the Race Director to further improve the waste and recycling arrangements for 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?

In 2019 the event had over 6,000 spectators the event is regarded as the most anticipated athletics event in the UK calendar. The championship races include the European Cup with 28 nations bringing their best athletes to compete for this iconic cup. Sebastian Coe president of the IAAF has attended in 2016 and 2017 has said "It is the one event of the year I don't want to miss" The sight of this mass spectating event enriches the life of the Heath and our local community and supports a key goal of contributing to a flourishing society.

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

The event is free for spectators to attend and provides the opportunity for young athletes to interact with accomplished athletes from Team GB and UK Athletics.

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

The success of this event is entirely reliant on volunteers who support every aspect of the event. This includes timekeepers, stewards, coaches and club officials. Following the event, a large team of volunteers assist with litter picking and ensuring the Athletics Track is handed back to the City of London Corporation in good order.

As the event aligns closely with the outcomes in the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy the Superintendent proposes to waiver the hire charges associated with hosting the event. However, the City of London Corporation will recover their costs in relation to services provided in staging this event.