

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 8 July 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, 8 July 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chair)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
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)

Officers:

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
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager
Alison Bunn	- Assistant Director Facilities Management, City Surveyors
Kate Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Carl Locsin	- Media Team, Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cindy Galvin, Ray Booth, John Weston, Mathew Frith, Harunur Rashid and Sharlene McGee.

The Chairman began the meeting with a number of notices for the Committee:

- Members were informed of the recent fatality of a swimmer at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond who sent condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. The Chairman confirmed support had been offered to the Lifeguards and Staff on duty and that a serious incident report had been submitted to the Health and Safety Executive and Charity Commission.
- The Chairman thanked Members for attending the 30th Anniversary visit.
- The Chairman congratulated the Heath Staff on the success of the Night of the 10K PBs on Saturday and the efficient clean-up operation that followed.
- The Chairman thanked Staff for attending the Consultative Committee Walk on 6 July, which was very informative.

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 additional comment concerning the Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial and a change of wording concerning the resurfacing of the Athletics Track.

4. **ACTIONS SHEET**

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

With regards to action 1, Members were advised that local schools would be approached in early September.

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

The public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 5 June 2019 were received.

A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) requested an update on the City of London Corporation's new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-23. Members were advised by the Chairman and Deputy Chair that the Strategy had received significant push back from Members at a recent breakfast briefing chaired by the Policy & Resources Committee Chair. A request has been made for a formal Working Group to be set up to discuss the Strategy and for the new Strategy to be brought back to all relevant Committees for approval.

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

The draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 10 June 2019 were received.

Members were advised that the Fundamental Review was considered a concern to the Forum who felt that the City Corporation needed to be convinced of the value of its Open Spaces to ensure that important capital works and projects were supported and funded. Members agreed that Open Spaces contributed to a flourishing society and health and wellbeing for all of London which needed to be prioritised.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

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

Green Flag Judging

- Members were advised that the Heath had been assessed against the Green Flag standards and the results would be published in July 2019.

East Heath Car Park (A DP5)

- Members were advised that the Capital Project had nearly completed Gateway 5 and would be resubmitted on the basis of the Health and Safety implications.

Planning

- **Jack Straws Castle, 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/P.** The Superintendent advised that an appeal would be heard on 23 July 2019 and that a planning representation had been submitted by the City Corporation.
- **North Fairground Site, 2017/4346/P.** It was noted that this Public Inquiry had been postponed until 3 October 2019.
- **South Fairground Site.** It was noted that this Public Inquiry had been postponed until 20 August 2019.
- **55 Fitzroy Park, 2018/3672/P.** Members were advised that more information had been submitted to the London Borough of Camden by the Applicant but that it still did not provide enough detail about the project.
- **The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent advised that a representation had been submitted concerning the construction of a boundary fence.
- **Parliament Hill William Ellis School, 2018/1270/P.** The Superintendent advised that the Operation Services Manager was continuing to participate in the Community Working Group and the project was going well.

- **Jack Straws Castle – change of use application.** The Superintendent advised that a decision would be made on the application in late summer.
- **Athlone House.** The Superintendent advised that a representation had been made against the proposed gate design.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

- Members were advised that the Team had identified 641 nests in 230 trees and work would begin tomorrow to remove nests, focussing on high risk areas. It was noted that technology was now being used to map nests.
- The Superintendent thanked Heath Hands for their continued help with the monitoring of OPM.

Grazing

- Members were advised that Historic England had granted permission for a small trial of grazing 6 sheep within the Tumulus enclosure at the end of August.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) suggested hosting a welcoming ceremony for the sheep as a good PR exercise for the trial which could also encourage school participation.
- In response to a query concerning fencing and protection of the sheep, the Superintendent stated that there would be double fencing with netting and that staff and volunteers would be permanently on site during the day with the sheep being moved to a secure location at night.

Playgrounds

- The Superintendent advised Members that planning applications were being prepared for the Adventure, Preachers Hill and the Vale of Health Playgrounds.
- It was noted that some additional CIL funding towards the Preachers Hill Playground had been verbally agreed and this was being confirmed.

Licencing (A DP 6)

- Members were advised that a focus group had been set up as part of the engagement and consultation exercise in relation to the dog walkers code of conduct and the personal training code of conduct. The focus group would be held on 4 August 2019 following two pop-up events on 20 July at 9am-12noon and 25 July at 5-8pm.

- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) queried when the Committee would have the opportunity to provide feedback. Members were advised that they could input into any of the public consultations and the Committee would be able to comment on the outcomes in the autumn.
- The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the link to the public consultation to Members.

Forest Schools

- Members were advised that there had been an enquiry from a Forest School to use the Heath on a daily basis. This would be considered through the Events Policy. Members would be consulted by email over the summer.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) noted that Into the Woods worked well at Kenwood House with minimal impact.

A Member (Friends of Kenwood) was slightly concerned by how the monetisation, competitiveness and commercialism of the Forest Schools would be perceived by the public and what was the saturation point. Members were advised that Highgate Wood was already at capacity and that this large Forest school application would need a full assessment before an agreement could be made.

- The Deputy Chair noted that local schools also used Open Spaces such as the Heath on top of these schools, which had an impact.
- A Member (Highgate Society) voiced concern that the financial implications of Forest Schools could offer a barrier and limit the diversity and range of schools using the Heath. It was agreed balance was needed between the different schools that used the Heath.

Events

- The Leisure and Events Manger updated Members on a number of recent events:
 - Affordable Art Fair – this event on 12 May 2019 saw a footfall of 15,000 attendees and a 3% increase in art sales.
 - Cancerkin Walk – this event on 9 June 2019 was run by a local charity and included 150 walkers.
 - Spring Bank Holiday Fair – this event took place on 25-27 May 2019.
 - Community Heath Festival – this event on 8 June 2019 was a success with a focus on health and wellbeing.
 - #ThisGirlCan – this event was the second national campaign and saw a slightly higher number of attendees.

- Race for Life – this event on 15 June 2019 has run for 20 years and the 10k race included 1,800 runners.
- Hampstead Summer Festival – Art Fair Day.
- Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests – this event was hugely successful and saw 54 new personal bests being set in Olympic and world qualifying times. It was noted that The Times newspaper dedicated its entire back page to the event.

Swimming

- Members were advised that the good weather during the last weekend in June saw the swimming facilities at maximum capacity which offered significant challenges. The most serious concern was members of the public entering other ponds, which are not Lifeguarded or safe to swim in. It was agreed that the City Corporation needed to rethink the management of these increasingly busy days to ensure visitors remain safe.
- The Chairman stated that there was clear pressure on staff and facilities during the summer months and saw waste as the biggest problem. It was noted that an education piece was being worked on encourage visitors to take their rubbish home with them in an attempt to deal with waste pressures.
- A Member (South End Green Association) noted that foxes and crows, etc, were also ripping up rubbish taken from the open/overflowing bins. The Superintendent stated that new closed bins were currently being trialled at the Heath along with a new waste collection system.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) suggested signage on bins for busy days. Members were advised that a campaign on litter was coming which would include messaging consistent with the London Borough of Camden.

Views

- In response to a query regarding Heath views, Members were advised that views were being analysed comparing winter and summer to map and identify the impacts. Following this, a report analysing the views would come to the Committee and the results would inform the AWP.

RECEIVED.

7.1 Appendix 1- Draft Annual Report 2018-19

Members considered the Annual Impact Report 2018-2019 and the following comments were made:

- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) stated that the Outcomes were not clear and were more inputs of processes rather than outcomes. He recommended changing the wording to describe what steps were needed to quantify what was trying to be achieved.
- With regards to “A - The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape”, a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) felt that this did not go far enough, and that emphasis needed to be on the natural environment. He felt that it would be helpful for the document to provide a high-level explanation of what is happening to manage the Heath and monitor this to demonstrate what is being achieved.
- Members felt that the survey was old fashioned looking with intrusive questions (particularly questions 4-6) and recommended more subtle and friendly questioning. The Superintendent confirmed that the survey was an early draft but stressed the need for good data to regularly test that the Heath remains inclusive for all users.
- A Member disagreed with the reference to the Heath's thriving aquatic planting and wildflower meadows noting that in recent years since the Ponds Project aquatic planting had become very patchy and that wildflowers were minimal in the grassland. The Superintendent advised that he had reviewed the developing meadows with the Heath's Ecologist and the sward were gradually improving. He confirmed that targeted work was happening at the Heath, e.g. haymaking, to encourage wildflowers. It was agreed the word “improving” would be a more accurate description than “thriving”.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) felt that Annual Report was trying to be too scientific. Members were advised that the aim was for the datasets to provide indicators of achieving the Outcomes to measure change. The Superintendent agreed that more work was needed to develop the process and give an evidence-based review.
- In response to a query from a Member (Highgate Society) regarding taking advantage of match funding to monetise the Heath, Members were advised that all tasks were led by the Heath Team.
- A Member (Highgate Society) that a survey question asking the public what the Heath means to them would be beneficial.
- The Deputy Chair suggested including a scale of 1-5 for each question.

RESOLVED – That Members give their views on the draft Annual Impact Report 2018/19 (appendix 1).

7.2 **Appendix 2 - Hampstead Heath Measurement Framework**

Members considered the Hampstead Heath Measurement Framework and the following comments were made:

- A Member (Highgate Society) noted that some people visit the Heath to get away from people with 81% of the public stating that they want peace and tranquillity.
- With regards to the outcome measure collective care of the Heath and the responsibility of individuals on the Heath, a Member (Highgate Society) stressed the importance of a visitor centre which was essential to providing public education.
- A Member (Highgate Society) noted that there was no mention of the ongoing work with Local Authorities. The Superintendent stated that the Heath's planning context would be covered and that the Corporation's comments on all licensing and planning applications were being tracked to provide data to measure impact.

7.3 **Appendix 3 - Map of proposed grazing sites**

Members noted the map showing the proposed locations for grazing.

8. **FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces providing Members with an update on the Fundamental Review. The following points were made:

- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) voiced concern over the way the report was written which he did not feel reflected a balance between the City and the Corporation's spaces outside of the City. It was felt that the focus on the Square Mile could negatively impact Open Spaces and Members queried how this would be managed. This view was endorsed by the Member for the Heath & Hampstead Society who were concerned that the Review would negatively affect the Heath's budget.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) highlighted the importance of health and wellbeing and regarded it as short-sighted to not include Open Spaces in delivering this.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) found the language in the report worrying and felt that substantial savings would need to be made to cover the cost of other big projects.
- It was noted that the report stated that the "importance of meaningful input from the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in the process is recognised" and a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) queried how meaningful this input would be into the

Review. The Member drew attention to the Corporate Plan stating that the basic vision and aims gave importance to contributing to a flourishing society, health and wellbeing, and shaping outstanding environments, all of which were supported heavily by the City Corporation's Open Spaces and contributed to London as a whole. Members agreed this was important and needed to be considered within the Review including meaningful input from the Committee and other relevant Committees.

- The Chairman and Deputy Chair confirmed that they had both become Members of the Policy & Resources Committee and Resource Allocation Sub Committee and would ensure the views of the Committee were reflected at these meetings. The Chairman noted that it was not clear how projects would be prioritised at this stage and that more information would be available by the next meeting.
- It was noted by a Member (Highgate Society) that if the focus of the City Corporation was to boost the international profile of the City, it would be counterproductive to make cuts to high profile areas in London such as the Heath.

RECEIVED.

9. CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME BID 2020/21

Members considered a report of the City Surveyor setting out a provisional list of cyclical works being considered for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Division in 2020/21 under the umbrella of the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP).

Members were advised that the cyclical works were all in line with the AWP and that the projects on the main list had funding and the other projects did not have funding.

A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) felt that the design of the report was helpful; however, he noted that it was difficult to know if reserve projects were more or less important to those on the main list.

Members felt that inspections and surveys were vital as a continued need and therefore needed to be on the main list. Members were advised that this need would be escalated up.

A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) was concerned that there was a build-up of projects and maintenance running behind schedule which all needed prioritising and worried that there was not sufficient capital to carry out this necessary work.

A Member noted that the Parliament Hill Men's Toilets desperately required work and were regularly complained about by the public. The Superintendent confirmed that work to the toilets was currently being planned.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group note the report and provide feedback on the provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Division in 2020/21;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.

10. **GENDER IDENTITY POLICY**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive concerning the City of London Corporation's Policy on Gender Identity, and the findings from independent analysis of an online survey conducted in 2018. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that the aim of the Policy was to provide a high-level Corporation-wide strategy with the flexibility to allow individual Departments to incorporate their own specific considerations. It was noted that this Policy had recently been discussed by the Grand Committee with particular reference to the single-sex Ponds.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt that the Policy was the right approach but that there was nothing regarding how this would be monitored.
- In response to a query regarding what was meant by the statement of someone who "consistently identifies with a different gender should be accepted by society in that gender", it was stated that there were no hard rules but that the Corporation were following advice and Equalities legislation. Members were advised that the Team had received gender awareness training which taught that people were to be treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- The Heath's Business Manager confirmed they were leading on developing values for the Ponds to support the Strategy. She confirmed there was ongoing dialogue and meetings to discuss trans issues at the Ponds and that guidelines were being drafted to provide to the public and assist staff including training and posters.
- With regards to the occasional media impact on the Ponds regarding gender identity, the Superintendent confirmed that the Team was working with the Media Team and Members were advised that any queries from the media must be directed straight to the Media Team for a response.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Consider the survey findings;

- Note the Gender Identity Policy and its implications for them.

11. **VOLUNTEERING UPDATE**

Members were shown a video from Heath Hands which was prepared as part of their 20th Anniversary celebrations.

The Deputy Chair advised Members that the Central Grants Programme had a category around enjoying green spaces and the natural environment and was a potential opportunity of funding for local groups. It was noted that the deadline to submit proposals was 21 October 2019 and the Town Clerk agreed to circulate a link to Members.

12. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

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

The Chairman reminded Members that the Give It A Go event would take place on Sunday 12 July 2019 and encouraged Members to attend.

It was noted that the Heath & Hampstead Society party would take place on 11 September 2019 at 5-8pm and an invitation would be sent to Members shortly.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 14 October 2019 at 7.00pm was noted.

The meeting ended at 8.56 pm

Chairman

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