

QUEEN'S PARK CONSULTATIVE GROUP
Wednesday, 9 October 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Queen's Park Consultative Group held at Park Manager's Office, Queen's Park, London NW6 on Wednesday, 9 October 2019 at 11.15 am

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Virginia Bonham Carter (Ark Franklin Primary School)
John Blandy (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)
Helen Durnford (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anne Fairweather, Ruby Sayed, Cllr James Denselow, Cllr Neil Nerva, Cllr Eleanor Southwood, Giovanna Torrico and Vicky Zentner.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and apologised that she had not been able to attend Queen's Park Day on 15 September 2019 but noted that she planned to attend Queen's Park Day 2020. The Chairman added that nearly 20,000 people had attended the day, and thanked the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association for organising the event.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Superintendent's Update - Operational Management

- The Park Manager noted that the two roles of Team Leader and Animal Keeper & Engagement Assistant had been recruited to. Great feedback had since been received from the general public on the operation of the Animal Farm.

- The Town Clerk agreed to circulate a pdf of the suggested Woodland Walk layout.

Questions – Planting in Staff Yard

- The Park Manager noted that conversations were ongoing regarding the potential planting of trees or shrubs in front of the barn in the Staff Yard.

Any Other Business – Friends of Queen’s Park Group

- The Chairman noted that any Friends of Queen’s Park Group would be best placed as a separate charitable group from the Queen’s Park Residents’ Association or the City of London Corporation – for example, it would make charitable grant applications more straightforward.
- A Member commented that it would be best to seek to build towards the formation of a formal Friends of group from a more informal working group.
- Members agreed that the proposal should be discussed at the next meeting of the Queen’s Park Residents’ Association to gauge appetite from local residents.

3.1 Minutes - Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee

RESOLVED, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee meeting held on 11 September 2019 be received.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding outstanding actions and the following points were made.

1 – Oak Processionary Moth Risk

- Members agreed that this action could be closed.

2 – Woodland Walk

- Members agreed that this action could be closed.

3 – Queen’s Park Café Christmas Tree

- Members agreed that this action could be closed.

4 – Friends of Queen’s Park Proposal

- Members noted that this had been discussed under Matters Arising and agreed that this action could be closed.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - QUEEN'S PARK**

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent regarding Queen's Park and the following points were made.

Operational Management

- The Park Manager noted that he had reviewed the draft consultant's report on the Woodland Walk and would share the report with the Group in early 2020.

Projects

- The Superintendent noted that the redevelopment of the Playground Toilet and Sandpit was now on hold due to the Fundamental Review. A new annual capital projects bidding process had been adopted by the City of London Corporation which the project would now be subject to, although projects with statutory implications such as health and safety would take precedence. The Sandpit would also be separated from the Playground Toilet project in order to save £90,000.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that he would liaise with the Town Clerk to establish how the project could be best monitored by the Group.
- The Superintendent noted that the project plan would identify where volunteers could add additionality to the project.
- The Park Manager noted that the tennis courts had been repainted and relined, but Court 6 required repair following the court being painted as cracking had been found, and would potentially not be repainted until Spring 2020.

Visitors and Community

- The Park Manager noted that two wedding ceremonies had taken place in the Park over the summer, and another wedding was scheduled for 2020. Work continued to promote the Bandstand as a Wedding and Civil Ceremony venue.
- In response to a question, the Park Manager replied that brass bands had been reintroduced at the Bandstand as the Park had been subject to complaints as a result of amplified music in previous years.
- The Chairman requested that the Park Manager consider contacting local schools to offer the use of the Bandstand to young musicians. The Park Manager noted that Brent would be the London Borough of Culture

2020 and a member of the local community was seeking funding from Brent Borough of Culture fund to hold an opera in the Park in 2020.

- A Member noted that she would contact a local music educational establishment in Kensal Rise to highlight the potential for artists to play at the Bandstand.
- Members discussed the proposal to host John Parnham Children's Funfair for ten days (including two weekends) in May 2020. A Member was wary of the length of time the funfair would be present in the Park and queried whether its presence would detract from overall public enjoyment of the open space. Another Member proposed including the funfair in the forthcoming playground consultation. The Park Manager reminded Members that the income from the funfair would be reinvested back into the Park. The Superintendent undertook to review the application in light of comments made, when the application was submitted to the City for consideration.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

6. **HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK CAFÉ UPDATE**

Members agreed to vary the order of items on the agenda so that Item 7 – Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Café Update was considered next, and the following points were made.

- The Park Manager noted that the Urban Leisure Group had terminated their lease with effect from 2 October 2019, and that Groundwork London were now undertaking user engagement and consultation. Their report would be submitted to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in November 2019, with a planned timeline of call-for-tenders in mid-November 2019, and a tender report to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in March 2020. As a temporary solution, Hoxton Beach were currently operating the café under a tenancy at will. A similar programme for retender was being carried out for Highgate Wood Café.
- The Park Manager concluded by noting that he would welcome engagement with the Group on the tenders received in January 2020.
- In response to a question, the Park Manager noted that Officers from across the City of London Corporation would review and evaluate tenders received. These could be anonymised and shared with the Group.
- Members cautioned against taking marketing material submitted during the tender process at face value, noting that previous tenders had advertised services such as ice cream delivered by bicycle, which had not materialised.

- The Superintendent noted that a generic questionnaire for tender applicants could be developed, and that once tender scores had been compiled, the four highest scorers could be invited to present to officers and representatives of the Group.
- The Superintendent noted that under the Open Spaces Act 2018, the City was now able to offer a longer lease for the café which could encourage investment by the successful tenant. The City would also focus its appointment on quality and service outcomes, rather than a property-based lease.

RESOLVED, that the revised tendering timeline be noted, and the report be received.

Karina Dostalova left at this point of the meeting. John Blandy was in the Chair.

7. **FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21& 2021/22**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent regarding Fees and Charges 2020/21 & 2021/22 and the following points were made.

- The Superintendent noted that all charges would increase by 2.6% in line with Retail Price Index (RPI) apart from the Pitch & Putt.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted he was reviewing the use of the Park by physical training instructors as part of his review into commercial activity, which included commercial dog walkers.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent agreed to review the potential for allowing marquee receptions for weddings within the Park.

RESOLVED, that the comments made by submitted to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at its 13 November 2019 meeting.

8. **QUESTIONS** **Woodland Walk**

In response to a question, the Superintendent agreed to consider the potential to provide name-tags on trees along the Woodland Walk.

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

There was not other business.

10. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Members noted the provisional dates of the next two meetings, on 1 April 2020 and 7 October 2020.

The meeting ended at 12.27 pm

Chairman

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