

HIGHGATE WOOD JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHGATE WOOD JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held at HIGHGATE WOOD OFFICES, HIGHGATE WOOD, MUSWELL HILL ROAD, N10 3JN on WEDNESDAY 2 MAY at 12.00 noon.

Present

Members:

Michael Welbank (Chairman)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy John Barker

Marguerite Clark

Lucy Roots

Alison Watson

Michael Hammerson

Jan Brooker

Councillor Bob Hare

Peter Corley

Muswell Hill Friends of the Earth

Friends of Queen's Wood

Highgate Society

Highgate Conservation Area Advisory
Committee

London Borough of Haringey

Tree Trust for Haringey

Officers:

Edward Foale

Simon Lee

Jonathan Meares

Town Clerk's Department

Superintendent of Hampstead Heath

Highgate Wood Conservation Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Dennis Cotgrove, Barbara Newman and Stephanie Beer.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

The Highgate Society representative advised that they knew an individual who had undertaken work on the earth works in Queen's Wood, and advised that it may be useful to approach him about undertaking similar work in Highgate Wood.

Hive (item 5)

In response to a Member's query, the Highgate Wood Conservation Manager advised that the North London Beekeepers Association had been approached, and there were plans to place beehives within Highgate Wood.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE REPORT – HIGHGATE WOOD**

A report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing an update on matters relating to the management and enhancement of the Wood, was considered.

Members noted that the likely date of the Heritage Day in Autumn 2012 was 2 September, rather than 4 September, which was displayed within the report.

Sustainability

The Highgate Wood Manager reported that a preliminary proposal for the installation of photovoltaic cells on the machine-shed roof was being prepared.

Waste

The Highgate Wood Manager advised that efforts were being undertaken to reduce the volume of general waste within the Wood. One option being explored was to use a process to convert general waste from the site into Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). In response to a Member's question, the Highgate Wood Manager confirmed that plastics could remain in the waste to be converted into RDF, whereas metals would be extracted.

Staffing

The Highgate Wood Manager reported that they were currently preparing for staffing changes to accommodate budgetary reductions. Members noted that the City Bridge Trust funding would expire in March 2014. It was noted that the new staffing structure would need to be in place by April 2014.

Oak Decline Survey

In response to a Member's query, the Highgate Wood Manager advised that it would be possible to create a general guideline document based on the approach used in Highgate Wood to identify the factors leading to oak tree decline.

Local Nature Reserve

The Highgate Wood Manager clarified that the discussions between the London Borough of Haringey and the Highgate Wood Management Team over the possible designation of Highgate Wood as a Local Nature Reserve was ongoing. The Superintendent noted that it would be a point of interest that could prove useful when promoting the wood as a visitor destination.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Superintendent advised that it was currently unclear as to whether Local Nature Reserve status would conflict with the Hampstead Heath Act, and legal advice would be sought before any decisions were made. The Chairman affirmed that in principle the pursuit of

Local Nature Reserve status would be beneficial, but advised that further information would be required before any decisions could be made.

Highgate Wood Conservation Management Plan Draft 2

The Highgate Wood Manager invited Members to provide comments and suggestions on how to improve the Conservation Management Plan. During the discussion, the following points were made:

- The Chairman confirmed that any further comments following the meeting could be sent either directly to the Highgate Wood Manager or the Chairman.
- Chapter 10, “Vision and Policies” could be more concise.
- Chapter 7 “Built Environment” was very useful, but seemed disjointed from the flow of the Plan. Members agreed it may be prudent to turn this chapter into an appendix, and move it to a more appropriate section.
- The Superintendent advised that there was an industry standard for a Conservation Management Plan and expressed concern that, if the appendix option were pursued, the prominence of the overall document vision could be marginalised.
- The Superintendent advised that either a more concise version of the document or an executive summary could be written that could be circulated to the public.
- The Highgate Wood Manager acknowledged that there were no timescales within the report,
- A Member advised that policies could be condensed into more focused areas including defining whether objectives were “essential actions” or “aspirational goals.”
- The Superintendent acknowledged that several summary documents, including topics such as recreation, heritage and education, could be published and be made available to the public.
- In response to a Member’s request, the Superintendent undertook to circulate the document electronically for further comment.
- The Highgate Wood Manager advised that additional photographs could be inserted into the document text.
- The Chairman drew attention to the diagram labelled “Figure 10.1 Masterplan,” and asked for Member’s comments. During the discussion the following points were made:
 - The Chairman did not believe that the diagram was clear enough.
 - A Member suggested “blurring” the area around the Wood as it was largely contextual.
 - The Chairman suggested the Wood itself could be on a white background, rather than displayed over an aerial photograph.
 - The Superintendent recognised point of interest, such as the café, could be displayed better.
 - A Member believed that the title of the diagram should be displayed at the top of the page.
 - A Member believed that the key needed to be clearer and more accurate. Particular attention was drawn towards the difficulty in locating the “option for carpark relocation.”
 - The location of Queen’s Wood should be illustrated.

- The size of the diagram should be larger, and either stretched over two pages or onto an A3 sheet.
- The Superintendent advised that consultation with the wider community would be completed by Autumn 2012.
- The Highgate Wood Manager advised that there would be a further Conservation Management Plan workshop.

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5. OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2012-2015 – KEY PROJECTS

A report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath relative to key projects with the Open Spaces Business Plan 2012-2015, which was currently being compiled.

The Superintendent drew Members' attention to the appendix, which displayed the section of the Business Plan relevant to Highgate Wood. A Member queried whether the City Bridge Trust was an overarching project.

The Superintendent advised that recent estimates had demonstrated that the City currently received 22 million visits a year to all of its Open Spaces, 7 million of which were at Hampstead Heath. Highgate Wood received 500,000 visitors each year.

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6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Welbank's Last Meeting As Chairman

Members noted that this was Michael Welbank's last meeting as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee expressed thanks to the Chairman for his Chairmanship during his term of office.

7. QUESTIONS

8. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 November 2012 in Guildhall, starting at 12 Noon.

The meeting closed at 1:13pm

CHAIRMAN

Contact Officer: Edward Foale
tel. no. 020 7332 1426
e-mail: edward.foale@cityoflondon.gov.uk