

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee	28 th January 2013
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	11 th March 2013
Subject:	Public
Review of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary 2012	
Report of:	For Information
Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report reviews the work carried out by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during the period 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2012, recording 1,993 occurrences/incidence in the year, together with information on the progress made in the development of partnerships with other agencies and achievements on key objectives.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to note the work of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during 2012, in particular, the continued effort that is being undertaken to strengthen links with other agencies that helps to ensure that Hampstead Heath remains a safe, appealing and enjoyable place for millions who visit each year, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. The overall objective of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary (HHC) is to provide a professional, efficient and effective constabulary service for Hampstead Heath, to educate users of the Heath on appropriate behaviour, to enforce byelaws, deter and prevent antisocial behaviour and reduce the fear of crime through visible high profile patrolling. The approach adopted in achieving this objective is through engagement, education and finally enforcement, utilising the Heath byelaws to sanction activities which may impede others enjoyment of the site. The constabulary also provides a key role in ensuring the success and safety of all major events taking place throughout the year.

Current Position

2. The constabulary currently has one vacancy for a dog handler which when filled early in 2013 will mean the return to a full a compliment of twelve constables; this includes two sergeants working across two teams and four constable dog handlers.
3. Advance planning for operational needs is carried out and performance is recorded and reported to senior managers on a regular basis. Productivity of

constabulary officers continues to improve and this has been evidenced in the number of process files and formal warnings issued in 2012.



Constable on Bike at Hampstead Heath Event - Sept 2012

Partnership Working

4. A number of successful partnership strategies took place in 2012 including the continuation of outreach work with the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) on the West Heath. As in previous years this has taken the form of volunteers and sessional workers from THT co-patrolling the West Heath in the evenings with The Hampstead Heath Constabulary.
5. A member of the Constabulary team made contact with the Dogs Trust; this is the largest dog welfare charity in the UK. His work has led to the start of a number of events on the Heath where free micro chipping can be offered to dog owners. Further advice on dog welfare and responsible ownership is available at these events. Six members of staff in the Constabulary team have been trained to micro-chip dogs and have supported the Dogs Trust at the events. Events have already been planned for 2013 and will be published on the website, via social media and locally on site.
6. A good working relationship continues with Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) in the area. The HHC regularly attend SNT meetings and work with SNTs. One of the Heath Constables had been tasked to improve relationships with the MPS at Haringey and Barnet Boroughs. These links are being developed and although not as strong as those with the Camden Borough we are keen to develop sharing of information and intelligence.

Providing an Effective Frontline Service

7. Providing an effective frontline service to Heath users is an important day to day function of the HHC and this has been recognised in the receipt of letters of compliment from members of the public who have contacted the City of London to express their gratitude and thanks for the service they have received.

Comments received from members of the public, staff and stakeholders include:

Received via email 29/11/2012

Dear Hampstead Heath Constabulary,

On Saturday 3rd Nov [REDACTED] (Manchester Terrier) escaped off his harness in North Road Highgate. He was lost for several hours from around 2pm until after nightfall at approx 7pm. We only found out that he was possibly running around on the heath when one of Rangers stationed near Kenwood mentioned a black whippet ? that had been on the run for a few hours. After radioing through to your department it was clear that Ham had been under the watchful eyes of Constables Mike & Dave (we think are the names of the officers) all this time. Thankfully with your guidance we were reunited with [REDACTED] not far from Highgate Ponds (his favourite place for fetching the tennis ball)

[REDACTED] and I just wanted to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for their efforts in doing such a great job in reuniting us with [REDACTED].

Many Thanks

Email received from GMI Partnership (West Heath Outreach)

'Thank you to both of you for the great session last week. I think it went very well! Even if the cold meant not tons of guys were around, there were definitely enough to make it worthwhile in my opinion. At least it give us an idea, and we can plan for a regular presence starting in spring so guys know who we are and that we'll be around.

Thank you for the opportunity to get involved. I look forward to more planning over the winter months.'

Email received 10/06/12

Dear

I wanted to say a huge thank you for your support at yesterday's Race for Life event. We could not have got the course set up in time, safely, without you so thank you so much. It was unfortunate that it took much longer than usual due to the new hazards created by the high winds and rain.

Perhaps you could update me on the situation with the dog attacks too? I spoke to both ladies last night and they were fine but shaken. They mentioned that the police would be coming round to collect statements.

As discussed, let's definitely work together in the lead up to next year's event. My contact details are below.

Many thanks again for your invaluable support.

Best wishes

8. Receipt of these emails and plaudits confirm that Heath visitors and stakeholders appreciate and recognise the good work which is carried out by the Heath Constabulary on a daily basis in providing a safe environment for visitors to enjoy the Heath.
9. Over 26,000 interactions between the Constabulary and members of the public visiting Hampstead Heath took place in 2012. Further examples of comments are given in Appendix 1.

Constabulary Performance Objectives 2012

10. As part of the annual Performance Development of staff, constables undertook a number of performance objectives, these included;

Cycling

11. During July 2012 a week of research by the Constabulary was undertaken to identify the hotspots on the Heath for illegal cycling. Following this a 2 week enforcement campaign at those locations took place. The method used by constables was a mixture of engagement, education and enforcement.
12. The lead constable gained support from City Police Cycle Team to deliver 2 cycle awareness events at the end of the summer. Constables utilised a gazebo to attract public and offered security marking free of charge and security advice with giveaways such as flashing lights and water bottles. A smaller similar event was held at the Lido in autumn.
13. Plans are now in place to continue these events through 2013. All will be advertised in advance and will include events at cycle park areas at all swimming facilities.
14. The Constabulary purchased security marking equipment to enable the marking to be carried out. The system used (Selectamark) is used by a majority of Police services across the country. During 2012 over 140 cycles were marked.

Dogs

15. Members of the dog handling team undertook local visits and low key police dog displays were delivered to a local school, a scout group and a community group by handlers.
16. Six constabulary members attended a one day training course delivered at the Dogs Trust centre in Harefield. This training was delivered free of charge and the Constabulary have been supplied with free equipment and are qualified to carry out dog micro-chipping.
17. Dogs Trust assisted in the delivery of a dog event in October and December where advice on all aspects of dog ownership was given. 20 dogs were micro chipped in 2012.
18. Three further events are already planned for the first quarter of 2013.

Fishing

19. A review of the fishing permit process was undertaken and a new system introduced for the 2012/13 season.
20. All fishing permit applications are now accompanied by a passport style photo of the applicant.
21. Upon issue of a permit the holder is also given a welcome pack. This comprises of a watertight plastic pouch containing the permit, a copy of the Angling Regulations, a Heath diary, a Heath fishing leaflet and the lead constabulary officers contact details.
22. Improvements to the permit system are currently in development for introduction in 2013. The new permit will run for 2 years and the future welcome pack will be further enhanced.

Reports of Misconduct

23. Constables are employees of the City and any complaint or disciplinary matter would be dealt with under the City's processes. It is possible that the City of London may call upon the City of London Police to assist with any investigation into a complaint made against a member of the Constabulary. There have been no formal complaints made against any officers during 2012.

Constabulary Performance Statistics

24. During the period 1 Jan 2012 to 31 December 2012, the HHC recorded a total of 1,993 incidents.
25. This total is made up of the following occurrences:
 - 130 Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour occurrences
 - 1,056 Byelaw related occurrences
 - 807 Miscellaneous occurrences



Member of the Public Disposing of Litter

Miscellaneous Incidents:

• Found / Lost Property	64
• General Patrol Incident	180
• HEMS Landing	4
• Information	149
• Personal Accident / Injury	69
• Suspicious Occurrence	89
• Intelligence	33
• Missing Person	87
• Proactive Tasking Record	132

TOTAL 807

Examples of Miscellaneous Incidents:

- *Call received from a member of the public stating that there is a male near the Pergola who was acting in a strange manner. When she turned to look at him he said "Don't look back!" We carried out an area search with no good result. Male described as 30-40 years old, olive skin, wearing a navy jumper.*
- *Call on Airwave regarding a pit bull type dog that had recently had pups that was sitting, apparently abandoned on West Heath Road opposite Reddington Road, on West Heath.*
- *Following the report of an absconder from prison who was believed to be in the Hampstead area, support was given in October/November 2012 to the Metropolitan Police for the search of this individual.*

Incidents and Occurrences Recorded

26. Following a review of performance data and how information and data is captured, performance expectations were agreed with constables. The Constabulary have demonstrated an increase in their reporting of incidents and occurrences as well as an increase in the number of prosecutions initiated from 14 in 2011 to 17 in 2012. Changes in the patrol style, a more rigorous approach to performance management and being more proactive to demands placed upon the service has seen a further increase in the number of incidents responded to and recorded compared to previous years.

Month	Incidents/Occurrences			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
January	40	38	51	126
February	65	39	64	147
March	103	77	114	199
April	134	87	174	125
May	101	100	142	210
June	119	122	142	163

July	149	177	170	198
August	152	88	150	228
September	135	61	157	178
October	111	107	151	165
November	53	57	113	134
December	28	50	107	120
TOTAL	1190	1003	1535	1993

Table 1 – Incidents and Occurrences by Month 2012

27. Constables have specific objectives set within their annual Performance Development Review, improved performance monitoring and regular reviews with their Sergeants all achieving positive results.
28. Areas of the Heath are known to attract higher visitor numbers such as Parliament Hill Fields. Constable will be tasked to carry out foot patrols in this area on a more frequent basis and especially at times when we know there to be a higher usage, such a school break times and the end of the school day or on the evenings when the running track is open.
29. Seventeen prosecutions were initiated by Constabulary officers in 2012 for offences under the byelaws. Two were withdrawn prior to the case being heard, 9 progressed to court with the defendant being found guilty and 6 are due in court in January 2013.

Date of Incident	Byelaw	Outcome
30/01/2012	Dog Control	Withdrawn locally
06/04/2012	Dog Control/Fouling	Withdrawn locally
09/06/2012	Dog Control	Guilty - fine and costs £400
16/06/2012	Removal of Wildlife	Guilty - fine and costs £220
16/06/2012	Removal of Wildlife	Guilty in absence fine and costs £265
16/06/2012	Removal of Wildlife	Guilty in absence fine and costs £265
23/06/2012	Cycle Related	Guilty - fine and costs £490
01/07/2012	Cycling/Public Decency	Guilty - fine and costs £415
07/07/2012	Dog Control	Guilty - fine and costs £150
07/07/2012	Dog Control	Guilty in absence - fine and costs £765

21/07/2012	Dog Control	Awaiting Court
09/08/2012	Cycle Related	Withdrawn at request of District Judge after 18 hours in police custody. Maintained refusal to provide details
14/08/2012	No Fishing Permit	Awaiting Court
29/08/2012	Dog Control	Awaiting Court
22/09/2012	No Fishing Permit	Awaiting Court
29/09/2012	Cycle Related	Awaiting Court
17/12/2012	Cycle Related	Awaiting Court

Table 2 –Summons Issued in 2012

Byelaw Offence	2009	2010	2011	2012
Byelaw 2 – Damage, Graffiti	3	7	8	12
Byelaw 3 - Digging	3	7	8	16
Byelaw 5 – Entering Enclosed Areas	15	11	30	13
Byelaw 8 - Camping	25	25	42	63
Byelaw 9 – Remain in Area After Close	5	15	19	32
Byelaw 13 – Bicycles, Motor Vehicles	74	64	252	261
Byelaw 21 – Dog Control	45	47	101	113
Byelaw 26 – Disturbing/ill Treatment of Animals	2	8	7	3
Byelaw 31 – BBQ's and Fires	53	43	60	49
Byelaw 32 – Public Decency and Propriety	33	75	96	170
Byelaw 34 – Fighting, Swearing or Betting	51	13	24	26
Byelaw 41 – Fishing, Bathing, Preparation to play games	10	11	22	97
Other	33	30	80	201
Total	352	356	749	1056

Table 3 – Main Byelaw Offences Committed in 2012

30. Others include; Byelaw 11 (structures, tripods and tents) = 14, Byelaw 14 (Speed/endanger public) = 11, Byelaw 17 (vehicle parking) = 95, Byelaw 27 (litter) = 15, Byelaw 36 (Sale of Articles/leaflets) = 12.

31. Constabulary officers issued 860 formal warnings, completed 442 stop and accounts and assisted in the detention and arrest of 22 individuals.
32. The Constabulary responded to a number of events and occurrences in 2012, the information contained on the next page gives an outline of some of those attended.

Incidents and Events of Note

January 2012

A live handgun was found hidden on West Heath and passed to the Metropolitan Police.

February 2012

Constabulary support was provided for a Cross Country event including overnight security of site.

March 2012

An elderly lady reported missing from Haringey was found by staff in Athlone Gardens having committed suicide through an overdose.

April 2012

A male was arrested for indecent exposure near Kenwood House Estate. He was convicted the next day and given an ASBO banning him from Hampstead Heath.

May 2012

Hampstead Heath Constabulary's first community dog team event at local scouts and first Cycle Safety event

June 2012

The Heath Constabulary assist with the eviction of Occupy London protestors who had set up camp on the Heath

Heath Constables supported the Jubilee event at Golders Hill Park Constables arrest a male at the Bank Holiday Fair after he had made a hoax bomb threat. Constables launch a new style permit for fishing season A dog owner is prosecuted for an attack by dog on two runners at the Race for Life event.

July 2012

Male arrested for byelaw offences and possession of

an adapted stolen TfL 'Boris' bike. The male was cautioned by the Metropolitan Police for theft.

Following a dog attack where a dog was killed the dog owner and walker were successfully prosecuted (October 2012).

A public disorder incident occurred at the Lido where two males were stabbed during a 'gang' fight. Prosecutions launched by Metropolitan Police and Crown Prosecution Service.

August 2012

The constabulary purchase a metal detection arch and deploy it for the first time at the Lido. A missing female is located on Parliament Hill having left a suicide note and taken a quantity of pills and alcohol.

She was handed to the Ambulance Service and subsequently survived the ordeal.

A male was arrested after exposing himself towards the Children's Play Area near the East Heath Fairground. He was remanded into custody by Metropolitan Police.

Constables provided additional cover to deal with impact of Olympics across the open space.

Officers arrested a male who breached a cycling byelaw. He continually refused to provide name and address details to constables, the Police or Magistrate. He appeared in court next day.

September 2012

Six officers attended the Dogs Trust and received training to implant microchips. Two micro chipping events have taken place since the training was delivered.

October 2012

Eight cases presented at Magistrates Court. All cases resulted in convictions.

November 2012

A spate of low level sexual offences were reported on the Heath leading to a joint operation between the Metropolitan Police and the Heath Constabulary concerning the manhunt for a wanted absconder from prison.

December 2012

Commence parking charge enforcement process for management of Heath car parks

End of year recorded a record number of calls requesting constabulary assistance together with a record number of enforcement actions and prosecutions.

Proposals

33. A Constabulary Performance Plan is currently being prepared and will be presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in March 2013 and your Committee in April 2013. The Plan will demonstrate our continuing commitment to provide an efficient and effective Constabulary service that delivers a safe environment to the several million people who visit Hampstead Heath during the course of each year.
34. The Constabulary will focus on a number of projects in 2013 including the development of Youth Engagement, on-going outreach work with PSE users, safety and security advice for cyclists and free micro chipping for dogs. Key task for the constabulary in 2013 remains that of byelaw education and enforcement, ensuring that Hampstead Heath remains free from anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

35. The work of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary meets the City Together Strategy themes of *“protecting, promoting and enhancing our environment and is safer and stronger”*. It links to the Department’s Improvement Plan objective of *achieving high quality and accessible open spaces and involving communities in the care and management of our sites*.
36. The work of the Constabulary meets with the Departmental Strategic Aim for Inclusion - *Involve communities and partners in developing a sense of place through the care and management of our sites and Quality to provide safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces and services for the benefit of London and the Nation*. It also meets the Strategic Aim for People, *Manage, develop and empower a capable and motivated work force to achieve high standards of safety and performance*.
37. Two strategic aims in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan also apply to the work of the Constabulary, namely:
 - Provide modern, efficient and high quality local services and policing within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors with a view to delivering sustainable outcomes.
 - Provide valued services to London and the nation.

Policies 100, 101, 110 and 111 of the Interim Management Plan state:

- “Dogs will continue to be allowed to be exercised on the Heath subject to the animals being kept under proper control”.
- “Advice and information on responsible dog ownership will continue to be provided”.
- “Uniformed constables are charged with enforcing the bylaws and regulations relating to the health and the safety of its users. In undertaking their duties all City staff shall act in a fair and equitable manner which does not unfairly discriminate on grounds of sex or sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origins, colour, creed,

disability, marital status, age or on any other grounds that cannot be justified.”

- “The City will continue to work closely with the Metropolitan Police Service on the basis of regular meetings to discuss problems of mutual interest.”

Implications

38. There are no implications arising directly from the report; the presence of an on-site uniformed Constabulary not only engenders a sense of well-being for the estimated 7.2M visits made by the public to the Heath each year, it also helps to deter crime and anti-social behaviour. The constabulary presence enhances the reputation of the City Corporation and protects the asset. Ultimately their presence helps to deter the incidence of vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, thereby enabling resources from local risk budgets to be better used in the provision of services.

Legal Implications

39. The legal implications of the Constabulary’s work have been included in the body of the report.

Conclusion

40. This report sets out the breadth of work undertaken by the Heath Constabulary in 2012 in providing a professional, efficient and effective service for Hampstead Heath. The relatively low level of serious crime and anti-social behaviour on Hampstead Heath demonstrates the effectiveness of the uniformed presence of the Constabulary in reassuring visitors and deterring crime.
41. A change of patrol style and improvements in performance management is seeing a positive change in how the Hampstead Heath Constabulary performs their function on a daily basis.

Background Papers:

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park management Committee – Public Sex Environment Outreach Work – January 2012

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Emails and letters expressing gratitude and thanks for the service received from the HHC

- Letter of thanks, dated 18 September 2012
- Email of thanks dated 1 August 2012

Contact:

Richard Gentry

Constabulary and Queen’s Park Manager

T: 020 8969 5661

E:richard.gentry@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Heathfield House
432 Archway Road
London
N6 4JH

CORPORATION OF LONDON	
RECEIVED	
DATE	19 SEP 2012
ACK'D	

18 September 2012

Dear Sir,

Re: Donation to Hampstead Heath Charity

This letter expresses my wife's and my sincere thanks to your Constabulary Team for their high degree of professionalism and patience displayed on 13 and 14 September 2012. We reported our dog "Blackie" missing on the Heath at around 4 pm on 13 September. The Constabulary Team members on duty that evening and the following morning were pro-active in co-ordinating her eventual recovery at 10.30 am.

As a token of our appreciation, please accept the attached cheque for £100 as a donation to the Hampstead Heath Charity.

Yours faithfully,

Email - 01 August 2012

Sent: 01 August 2012 13:11

To: HH - Constabulary

Subject: Thank you

Hi,

Please can pass on my thanks to Police Officers Ian McGowan and Paula Casey for all of their help on Saturday 21st July, when my dog Chester and I were attacked by another dog. Thank you for all of your help and advice and for your kindness in driving us to the vets.

It was a very scary incident, and both [REDACTED] and I are very happy that you were passing by and were such fantastic help.

Many Thanks,

(Dog owner) and [REDACTED] (ginger spaniel)