

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 17 July 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Directors Update	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 &amp; 12</b>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	<b>No</b>
If so, how much?	<b>N/A</b>
What is the source of Funding?	<b>N/A</b>
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Executive Director, Environment	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since May 2023.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

### Main Report

#### Management Framework

1. Progress on the annual plan for 2023/24 is attached at appendix 1.

#### Events

2. The Night of the 10k Personal Bests (20 May) was a great success. The 2023 event welcomed record athletic performances and record spectator and viewing figures, with approximately 8,000 spectators watching throughout the day. The Parliament Hill Athletics Track now proudly boasts a UK All-Comers Record time for women, no woman has ever run faster on any track within the UK. This was achieved by the winner who ran 29mins 59 seconds to record the 11 fastest time in global history.
3. The evening was complemented by incredible TV viewing figures. The event was watched by a global audience, from the BBC to European Athletics and British Athletics platforms, with over 50,000 watching live from European Athletics channel

alone. On the red button on BBC the last two races were covered live and lots of praise received for the investment the City has secured for our Athletics Track.

4. Shakespeare In the park performed at Queen's Park on 17<sup>th</sup> June. This years production was Twelfth Night, with performances taking place at 2pm and 7pm. Both performances took place in the quiet garden with audiences picnicking at both events. The perfect summer weather made it a magical evening of theatre, music, and dance in one of London's most beautiful gardens settings.
5. Other and upcoming events include:
  - 11 June – 27 August Sunday afternoon Summer music programme at Golders Hill Park and Parliament Hill Bandstands
  - 2 July, Kites on the Heath
  - 19 July, Give it a Go
  - 3 September, Duathlon
  - 2-3 September, Queen's Park Book Festival
  - 3 September, Natural Aspects Concert
  - 19-29 October, Zippos Circus
  - 3 September, Highgate Wood Family Heritage Day
  - 17 September, Queen's Park Day
  - 18 November, London Youth Games
6. More information on the music programme is available online: [Parliament Hill Bandstand Summer Concerts - City of London](#) and [Golders Hill Park Bandstand Summer Concerts - City of London](#)

### **Projects update**

7. A project on a page summary has been prepared in relation to the Ponds improvement works (appendix 2), and the Athletics Track improvements (appendix 3). The pond project is still green and the Athletic track is amber due to the high risk related to the tight timeline.
8. A change to the scope of the works at the Athletics Track has been approved under urgency powers. This has kept the project within budget and on time. Some of the additional Stakeholder requests have been postponed and external funding is being explored.

### **Parliament Hill and Queen's Park Improvement Plans**

9. Engagement plans in relation to the Parliament Hill and Queen's Park improvements are being prepared. Engagement exercises are planned for the summer months. This includes the development plans for the Woodland Walk at Queen's Park. Members of the Consultative Committee, Consultative Groups and this Committee will be advised on the plans.

### **Partnership Working**

10. Officers continue to support Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln to deliver the National Lottery funded project to reinstate the Roman kiln at Highgate Wood. In the startup

phase of the project, Officers from Natural Environment and City Surveyor's are conducting a survey of the Information Hut, which is the intended.

11. Partnership working with the Heath and Hampstead Society, Heath hands and the London Natural History society is very strong and allow us to conduct a number of surveys that inform our annual conservation plans. Surveys include the long running reptile surveys, plant classification, butterfly and dragonfly surveys and hedgehog surveys.
12. The Conservation Team, Tree Team and Heath Ecologist are working with a number of educational establishments to further research including biodiversity, conservation and tree management practices and participate in mutually beneficial studies that can provide important data to inform our management practices.
13. Work in partnership with Royal Free Charity to provide a view of the heath to patients is progressing well and is being piloted over the summer.

### **Constabulary Update**

14. The Constabulary continue to undertake general and targeted patrols of Hampstead Heath. The focus remains on enforcing the byelaws in relation to dog control, cycling, alongside anti-social behaviour. From April targeted patrols of the swimming facilities have been increased in line with season usage. Currently on average the Constabulary receives over 300 calls a month from Members of the public.
15. Recruitment for permanent posts planned under TOM phase 2 will continue over the summer, and additional staff resources have been brought in via Park Guard for the summer period to support engagements and patrols of the sites.

### **Nature Conservation**

16. The Heath Ecologist has been working with the Heath and Hampstead Society and several external partners to look at the possible impact and knowledge of pesticides used in pet treatments. A master's student from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine has been engaged and will be carrying out field work this summer to collect data on pesticide levels as well as conduct questionnaires on public awareness of the issue.

### **Good News**

17. Just Giving have confirmed the registration for both the Hampstead Heath Charity and the Highgate Wood & Queen's Park (Kilburn) Charity, and our website donation pages have been updated.
18. On the 17 May, the Tree Management Officer and Senior Arborist hosted the recent London Tree Officer seminar at the Lecture Theatre at Kenwood House. They presented on the evolution of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) Management at Hampstead Heath. The seminar was attended by 60 members and the presentation will also be delivered at the National Tree Officer Conference later this year.

19. Contractors have been appointed for the Queen's Park Playground improvement works. Works on site will commence in the autumn.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

20. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environment.

21. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

### Financial Implications

22. Donations are currently being sought for the following project:

- Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000). The project includes works to install additional reed beds and protect the island at the Model Boating Pond. £6,303.00 has currently been raised towards this project.

23. We are preparing to launch the phase 2 funding campaign for the Heath Extension Playground.

24. Donations can be made via the City of London website:

- Hampstead Heath <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>
- Queen's Park - <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/queens-park/donate-to-us>

### Resource Implications

25. No impact.

### Climate Implications

26. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 (appendix 1) are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

### Legal Implications

27. No impact.

### Risk Implications

28. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register, which forms part of the meeting agenda.

### Equality Implications

29. No impact.

### Security Implications

30. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Annual plan for 2023/24
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Athletics Track Capital Project)

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