

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	7 April 2014
Subject:	Public
Review of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary 2013	
Report of:	For Discussion
Superintendent Hampstead Heath	
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report reviews the work carried out by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during the period 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013, recording 1,792 occurrences/incidents 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>That the Consultative Committee notes the contents of this report and the work of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during 2013, in particular, the continued effort being undertaken to strengthen links with other agencies that helps to ensure that Hampstead Heath remains a safe, appealing and enjoyable place for millions to 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.
 - Educate users of the Heath on appropriate behaviour.
 - Engage with users and stakeholders and enforce byelaws.
 - Deter and prevent anti-social behaviour.
 - Reduce the fear of crime through visible high profile patrolling.

The approach adopted to achieve this objective is through engagement, education and finally enforcement, applying our available powers when enforcing the Heath byelaws to sanction activities which may impact on others' enjoyment of the Open Space. The Constabulary also provides a key role in ensuring the success and safety of all major events taking place on the Heath throughout the year.

Current Position

2. The Constabulary is currently operating with a full complement of staff; a Constabulary Manager, two Sergeants working across two teams and ten Constables. This resource includes four Constable dog-handlers with general-purpose-trained Police dogs.
3. The Heath Constabulary provide a service 365 days of the year, with patrols carried out throughout the day and night from a patrol base on Hampstead Heath.

Partnership Working

4. At the beginning of 2013, the Constabulary declared that they would be focussing on a number of projects and initiatives, many involving successful partnership strategies. These included youth engagement, outreach sessions on the West Heath Public Sex Environment, safety and security events for cyclists, and free micro-chipping events for dog owners. Metropolitan Police Cadets were involved in one of the youth engagement events, with the new recruits in particular learning public engagement and bike marking skills.
5. The outreach work on the West Heath continued the successful partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT). 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.
6. The Dogs Trust attended the Heath between 11am and 4pm on ten Saturdays during 2013. Staff from the Trust were on hand to offer advice on the welfare of dogs, responsible ownership and to provide free micro-chipping for dogs. It is proposed to introduce legislation from April 2016, under which all dog owners will be required to have their dog micro-chipped. The Dogs Trust has agreed to hold twelve events on Hampstead Heath during 2014 which (resource permitting) will be supported by Constabulary dog handlers, who have an expertise in the professional handling of dogs.
7. Although communication still flows between the Metropolitan Police (MPS) and the HHC, recent changes to the MPS Safer Neighbourhood Policing Model and the closure of Hampstead Heath Police Station have seen a change in the patrol style of Police Officers dedicated to serving the Hampstead Ward, part of which covers the Heath. The MPS is now operating a Local Policing Model with Integrated Neighbourhood Policing Teams. These teams will respond to 'Promises' (previously Priorities) which have been agreed with the local community. The HHC continue to attend Safer Neighbourhood meetings and liaise with the Camden Highgate and the Haringey Highgate Policing Teams as well as the Gospel Oak Team.
8. Through liaison with the Camden Highgate Team, the HHC were able to add the busy Lido as a Policing 'Promise', with an objective to reduce anti-social behaviour there over the summer period.

Providing an Effective Frontline Service

9. For a number of years the Hampstead Heath Constabulary have had access to the Metropolitan Police Airwave communication system. This has given advanced communication between the HHC and the MPS. Following a licence and procedure review, the City of London will now be required to provide its own Airwave radios and is currently in discussion with the MPS to draw up a revised protocol agreement. An interim arrangement is in place until this is resolved.
10. Hampstead Heath staff recognise the importance of a Constabulary Team and have shown their appreciation in various emails. One email received from a member of staff in September 2013 reads *'Yesterday a Sergeant and a Constable came down to the adventure playground to help us assist with three unruly and rude boys from William Ellis School I just want to let you know how grateful we were for their quick back-up and the way they dealt with the situation...Both the Constable and Sergeant instantly and accurately assessed the situation, and dealt with it brilliantly. Throughout they constantly checked with play staff to see if we were okay, and happy with what they were doing, at no point did we feel undermined or not involved with the actions'*. (email dated 26/09/13).
11. The public also recognise our assistance as we continue to rescue dogs on the Heath. An email dated 01/12/13 said: *'Yesterday two of your officers rescued our Jack Russell who had found his way into the Leg of Mutton pond enclosed area and we couldn't get to him. We would like to thank them for their prompt attendance and efficient action'*.
12. Another email from a member of the public received 09/05/13 – *'I am writing to send my thanks and appreciation to 'the constables' who were on duty the evening of Tuesday 7th May and incredibly helpful and considerate to the matter on hand. I am most grateful to them and impressed by their duties and deserve much praise'*.
13. Receipt of compliments 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.
14. In the spring of 2013, the Constabulary Manager and Sergeants produced a Lido Response Plan to improve management of the Lido swimming facility and reduce the threat of disorder and anti-social behaviour, making it a safer environment for staff to work in and for the public to visit. The plan was written with valuable input from Lido staff, the Leisure and Events Manager and with support from the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (Highgate), which had made antisocial behaviour at the Lido a local priority for the summer season. Over the summer period the extreme hot weather saw the Lido facility operating at capacity on a number of days, The attendance and support of the Constabulary ensured incidents of anti-social behaviour were limited. Searches upon entry were carried out by Constables on a number of occasions with prohibited items recovered (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Prohibited Items recovered from the Lido

Reports of Misconduct

15. Constables are employees of the City of London, and any complaint or disciplinary matter would be dealt with under the City's processes and procedures. 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 of our officers during 2013.

Constabulary Performance Objectives 2013

16. A number of key objective were agreed upon with the HHC at the start of 2013, including enforcement, Community Liaison, sustainability, security and safety, Constabulary profile and support at events. Individual objectives included youth engagement, wildlife crime liaison, Police Liaison, dog control and awareness, Public Sex Environment outreach, and cycle safety and security.
17. A number of cycle safety and security events took place in 2013. The City Of London Road Safety Team attended some of these events and were able to supply free gifts which were given to attendees, along with the offer of free cycle marking and pertinent advice regarding responsible cycling on the Heath. A number of similar events are planned for 2014.
18. The Heath Constables and Heath staff issued 345 angling permits. A number of meetings took place with the Constabulary Manager and the Hampstead Heath Angling Society. Free baseball caps were issued to encourage responsible angling and to assist with identification of anglers who had already obtained a permit.

19. The Constabulary dealt with 1,290 enforcement actions in 2013. An enforcement action is when a constable would have cause to speak with a member of the public regarding a byelaw offence or breach of a regulation and record the incident. This record of the offence may be by way of a formal warning or stop and account.

Constabulary Performance Statistics

Month	Incidents/Occurrences				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
January	40	38	51	126	128
February	65	39	64	147	110
March	103	77	114	199	134
April	134	87	174	125	170
May	101	100	142	210	151
June	119	122	142	163	169
July	149	177	170	198	308
August	152	88	150	228	134
September	135	61	157	178	148
October	111	107	151	165	108
November	53	57	113	134	80
December	28	50	107	120	92
TOTAL	1190	1003	1535	1993	1792

Incidents Recorded	January– December 2013
Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour	94
Byelaw	945
Miscellaneous	753
TOTAL	1792

Examples of Miscellaneous Incidents

- *Constables carry out a tasking patrol on the Public Sex Environment on West Heath 14.15 -15.00. Several lone males seen in the area, no offences.*
- *Call received from a member of the public stating there was a male near the Pergola 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.*

Miscellaneous Incidents	2013
Found / Lost Property	76
General Patrol Incident	156
HEMS Landing	2
Information	144
Personal Accident / Injury	60
Suspicious Occurrence	67
Intelligence	16
Missing Person	81
Proactive Tasking Record	151
TOTAL	753

Byelaw Offence	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Byelaw 2 – Damage, Graffiti	3	7	8	12	19
Byelaw 3 – Digging	3	7	8	16	21
Byelaw 5 – Entering Enclosed Areas	15	11	30	13	33
Byelaw 8 – Camping	25	25	42	63	44
Byelaw 9 – Remain in Area After Close	5	15	19	32	41
Byelaw 13 – Bicycles, Motor Vehicles	74	64	252	261	205
Byelaw 21 – Dog Control	45	47	101	113	72
Byelaw 26 – Disturbing/III Treatment of Animals	2	8	7	3	11
Byelaw 31 – BBQ's and Fires	53	43	60	49	48
Byelaw 32 – Public Decency and Propriety	33	75	96	170	167
Byelaw 34 – Fighting, Swearing or Betting	51	13	24	26	27
Byelaw 41 – Fishing, Bathing, Preparation to play games	10	11	22	97	93
Other	33	30	80	201	164
Total	352	356	749	1056	945

Date of Incident	Byelaw Offence	1st Court Date	Outcome
03/01/2013	41	11/04/2013	Found guilty in absence. Fine / costs £610
30/04/2013	13	31/10/2013	Guilty plea. Conditional discharge. Costs £310
25/05/2013	13	31/10/2013	Guilty plea. Fine / costs £405
27/06/2013	11/34/41	31/10/2013	Guilty plea. Fine / costs £895
04/08/2013	21	31/10/2013	Guilty plea. Conditional discharge. Costs £360
28/11/2013	21		Awaiting Outcome
03/12/2013	21		Awaiting Outcome
05/12/2013	21		Awaiting Outcome

Figure 2: Process by Summons Court Cases

Incidents and Events of Note

January 2013

Joint operation with British Transport Police in response to increase in graffiti Highgate Wood / London underground sidings.

February 2013

Assist with National X Country Event
Series of offences against car park cash machines, suspect disturbed by Constabulary Team and tools recovered from scene. Later arrested by MPS and offences stopped.

March 2013

April 2013

Called bomb squad to deal with a suspect car containing several gas cylinders left overnight in Lido car park. Deceased male found in undergrowth near Kite Hill. Support Easter Fair. Liaison with Highgate Police Safer Neighbourhood Team secured their agreement to treat anti-social behaviour at the Lido as a local priority for the summer season. 2 constables invited to take part in Kensington & Chelsea Parks Community event.

May 2013

Constabulary signs up to LGBT initiative CLASP and attends launch event. Whitsun Fair.

June 2013

Assist with Affordable Art Event.

July 2013

Heat wave led to intensive security operation at Lido facility.

August 2013

Team provide support at the Ladies Pond following sudden death.

September 2013

October 2013

New training provider installed for dog section. Surrey Police Dog School. Significant cost saving.

November 2013

Serious assault occurred on Sandy Heath, life threatening injuries. Assistance provided by Constabulary and Ranger located victim in woodland and possibly saved his life. Long-term rough sleeper finally provided with local secure housing after 2 months of joint working between Constabulary and Camden/Islington Housing Outreach teams.

December 2013

Conclusion of Ivan Leach trial. Constabulary role pivotal in his arrest and a Constable gave evidence at trial. Sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for series of serious offences committed late 2012.

Serious dog-on-dog attack where victim dog required life-saving surgery and spent 2 weeks in veterinary hospital. Prosecution pending.

Recommendations and Proposals for 2014

20. The Constabulary will focus on a number of projects in 2014 including the continued development of youth engagement, trying to engage with groups that are harder to reach, ongoing outreach work with PSE users, safety and security advice for cyclists, and free micro-chipping for dogs. The key task for the Constabulary in 2014 remains that of byelaw education and enforcement, ensuring that Hampstead Heath remains free from anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime.



Figure 3: Police Cadets on Hampstead Heath

21. The main focus of the Constabulary in 2014 will be dog control. Hampstead Heath Constabulary recognises that incidents of poor dog control have increased over recent times and now form a major concern to a large number of Heath visitors. This has coincided with a visible increase in the use of the Heath by commercial dog walkers. The City of London Corporation is currently unable to place any restrictions or controls upon dogs and walkers, other than pre-existing byelaws.
22. The Constabulary Senior Management Team is in the process of developing an Action Plan to combat this issue, which will go live in April 2014, to combat this issue. Four main topic areas will form the basis of the Plan; Data Collection, Engagement, Enforcement and Communication. The Constabulary will use this Action Plan to engage with the dog walking community in a supportive and proportionate manner.
23. The aims and objectives of the plan are to make the Heath safer for all, ensuring that the wide variety of user groups can enjoy their visit in harmony with each other.
24. To achieve this, the Constabulary will undertake activities to understand the scope of the problem, then improve the behaviour of dogs and walkers where such action is necessary.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. The work of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during 2013 continues to meet the City Together Strategy themes of *“protecting, promoting and enhancing our environment and [ensuring it] 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”*.
26. 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”*.
27. 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.”

Financial Implications

28. There are no financial implications arising directly from the report. The presence of an on-site uniformed Constabulary not only engenders a sense of well-being for the 7.2 million visits to the Heath but also helps to deter crime and anti-social behaviour. The Constabulary presence enhances the reputation of the City of London and protects the asset. Ultimately their services reduce the incidence vandalism and other anti-social behaviour,

thereby enabling resources from local risk budgets to be better used in the provision of services.

Legal Implications

29. The legal implications of the Constabulary's work have been included in the body of the report.

Conclusion

30. This report sets out the breadth of work undertaken by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary in 2013 in providing a professional, efficient and effective service for the 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.

Appendices

- None

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