



Hampstead  
Heath

Registered Charity

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# Hampstead Heath Constabulary

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Engagement, Education and  
Enforcement Plan 2015

This is one of  
14 green spaces  
managed by the  
City of London at  
little cost to the  
general public.

# Welcome to the Engagement, Education, and Enforcement Plan 2013-2015 Hampstead Heath's Constabulary strategy to keep visitors, staff and the environment safe. This plan supports the City of London Corporate Plan 2013 -2017 and the Hampstead Heath Management Plan, 'Towards a Plan for the Heath' 2007 - 2017.

## About Hampstead Heath

Hampstead Heath is one of London's most popular open spaces, situated just six kilometres from Trafalgar Square. An island of beautiful countryside, the magic of Hampstead Heath lies not only in its rich wildlife and extensive sports and recreational opportunities, but also in its proximity and accessibility to millions of people. There is a zoo, an athletics track, an education centre, extensive children's facilities, three swimming ponds and a Lido.

### Biodiversity in the city

Hampstead Heath's mosaic of habitats provides a resource for wildlife just six kilometres from the centre of London. It is of national as well as regional importance. The City of London aims to maintain and extend the Heath's status as one of London's best places for wildlife. Hampstead Heath features a number of priority species identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

### Sport

Hampstead Heath provides excellent facilities for organised sport. With a lack of open space in surrounding densely populated Boroughs, Hampstead Heath has a crucial role to play in providing sporting opportunities and promoting good health.

Acts of crime committed on Hampstead Heath or behaviours by individuals that are in contravention of the byelaws and regulations of Hampstead Heath continue to remain low. This is achieved through effective Engagement, Education & Enforcement. During the months January – December 2014 the Hampstead Heath Constabulary recorded the following;

**Engagement** - Over 17,000 occasions of providing advice/assistance to the public were logged by Hampstead Heath Constabulary.

**Education** – Over 800 formal warnings were issued to individuals for contravention of byelaw offences.

**Enforcement** – The Hampstead Heath Constabulary made or assisted in 11 arrests and 3 individuals were formally prosecuted for byelaw offences. (data Jan - Dec 2014)

### Through Engagement, Education and Enforcement the role of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary is to:-

- Protect and ensure the safety of persons visiting Hampstead Heath.
- Protect and ensure the safety of persons that work within Hampstead Heath.
- Protect the wildlife and environment which makes up Hampstead Heath.
- Work with other Departments and Agencies both internally and externally to achieve the above objectives.





## What is the Hampstead Heath Constabulary

The 1989 Hampstead Heath Reorganisation Act allows the City of London to carry out functions under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967.

Constables are sworn in under Article 18 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967. A Local Authority may procure Officers appointed by them for securing the observance of the provisions of all enactments relating to open spaces under their control or management and of byelaws and regulations made thereunder to be sworn in as a Constable for that purpose but any such Officer shall not act as a Constable unless in uniform or provided with a warrant.

Operating 365 days of the year, The Hampstead Heath Constabulary was established in 1992, to protect the Heath and its users through a series of byelaws. The byelaws are covered by criminal law legislation. The Constabulary may be called upon to enforce Byelaws, Regulations, Common Law and Criminal Law, protect the City of London Corporation property and provide a response to any incident that may spoil the enjoyment of Heath users. More serious incidents of a criminal nature are dealt with by the Metropolitan Police Service assisted by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.



### The Hampstead Heath Constabulary is made up of:-

- 10 Constables.
- 2 Sergeants.
- The Constabulary is overseen by a Constabulary Manager who reports to the Hampstead Heath Superintendent.
- Two of the ten constables patrol and support the work of the Constabulary with trained working police dogs.

### The Constabulary has a number of duties that it has to undertake, these include:-

- Patrolling on a regular basis, on foot, mountain bike and when necessary in marked vehicle(s) covering the entire area of Hampstead Heath; this includes Golders Hill Park, The Hampstead Heath Extension, West Heath, Sandy Heath and Parliament Hill.
- Responding to incidents and calls made by staff on the Heath.
- Responding to incidents and calls made by members of the public using the Heath.
- Enforcing byelaws which may include or result in the arrest and prosecution of offenders.
- Providing reassurance, security and safety at planned events and activities held on the Heath.
- Working with the Metropolitan Police Service as a liaison point in relation to broader policing issues that may affect Hampstead Heath.

**“The Hampstead Heath Constabulary plays an important role in the overall management, maintenance and safety of Hampstead Heath.**

**Our key purpose is about ‘Keeping the Heath Safe & Protected’. We must do this in a visible manner and style that enhances the visitor experience.”**

# Vision, Values and Environment

## Vision

To be the very best at providing a timely effective and appropriate response when called upon by visitors, staff and other Departments or Agencies, internal or external.

The Constabulary team will achieve this through;

- Listening and working with our visitors to better understand their needs.
- Working with our committees to better understand their priorities.
- Working in partnership with internal Departments & external Agencies to solve problems together that support their own and the Constabularies priorities.

## Values

The values of the Constabulary define the way upon which we operate individually and collectively. To this end we will;

- Expect our Officers to be of smart appearance and trained and equipped to deal with all incidents and issues that arise.
- Expect our Officers to be visible and approachable.
- Expect our Officers to treat every interaction or engagement in a professional manner.

## Environment

The Constabulary patrol and respond to incidents and issues on a daily basis throughout the Heath. Within areas of the Heath where there is likely to be higher concentrations of visitors and staff, to ensure their safety and security and to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the committing of byelaw offences, the Constabulary will where necessary conduct effective targeted patrols. These areas include;

### 1. Parliament Hill

Tennis Courts, Running Track, Children's Play Areas, Lido, Adventure Play Area and One O'clock Club.

### 2. Golders Hill Park

Zoo, Café, Tennis Courts.

### 3. Ponds

Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Bathing Pond and angling ponds.

## Performance Highlights

The Constabulary is proud of the service that it provides to visitors and staff of the Heath and how it supports the protection of the Heath environment.

There are no two incidents that are the same and every day the Constabulary is expected to meet the ongoing challenges that are presented. Looking back during the periods under review, performance highlights include:

The Constabulary successfully prosecuted a number of people relating to dog control offences. In one case where a dog was fatally injured the walker of the offending dog was fined £80 and ordered to pay costs of £55 plus a victim surcharge of £15. In relation to this incident, the owner of the dog was fined £350 and was ordered to pay costs of £400 plus a victim surcharge of £15.

Weeks before the commencement of the 2012 Olympics, Constabulary Officers, the Metropolitan Police and City of London staff, through the use of good intelligence and speed of action, were able to evict peacefully Occupy London Camp activist within 24 hours of them setting up an illegal camp on Hampstead Heath.

In 2014 Constabulary provided a full complement of Officers, to the 'Give it a Go Event' at Parliament Hill. Attracting in excess of 7,000 visitors, the Constabulary undertook high visibility patrols, ensuring that visitor were safe throughout the event and presented a dog display with the teams police dogs.

Popular fairs at East Heath during Easter, Whitsun and August attract significant numbers of visitors. The high visibility presence of the Constabulary results in no reports of serious crime or anti-social behaviour.

The Constabulary regularly undertook pre-planned and spontaneous operations to combat the committing of cycling byelaw offences on the Heath. An issue with both environmental and safety implications, the Constabulary successfully prosecuted offending individuals. In one case a persistent offender received a fine and cost award against them of £490.

To better monitor and manage angling on the Heath, the Constabulary conducted a review of the existing angling permit system in place. As a result changes have been made to the system that will ensure both environmental improvements and reduction in the commission of byelaw offences in this area.

In support of responsible cycling by visitors using the Heath, the Constabulary held two Cycle Safety and Security events. Providing cycling advice and guidance, the events were also an opportunity for attendees to have their cycle security marked.







## Priorities

Our priorities provide the overarching framework for the Constabulary, which link to our Performance Indicators.

	Engagement	Education	Enforcement	Performance Outcomes
<b>Making every contact count</b>	Involve you more in keeping Hampstead Heath safe  Listen, understand and respond to you in way that best suits your needs Continue to work with neighbourhood & Heath groups to better understand the needs of those that we provide a service to	Continue to work with local schools and youth groups.  To hold and support events and activities on the Heath where education messages can be conveyed	To deliver enforcement activities in a professional, safe and ethical manner	Improve the satisfaction levels of users of the Constabulary services
<b>Quality of service</b>	Enhance existing performance management arrangements for Constabulary officers  Provide safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces and services for the benefit of London and the nation	To use different forms of media, including new media to convey Heath education messages  Undertake quality call backs on victims of crime on the Heath or those using the Constabulary services	Work with partners to secure sufficient resources to deliver an efficient and effective service  To present enforcement prosecutions to courts in a timely and professional manner	Reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour on the Heath
<b>Leadership</b>	Encourage and enable all staff to take ownership and lead change to make a positive difference every day  Manage, develop and empower a capable and motivated work force to achieve high standards of safety and performance	Provide focused learning opportunities for staff and volunteers to feel confident in meeting the changing needs of the Constabulary Work collaboratively with other stakeholders and public bodies to continue to improve service	Create an enforcement plan outlining specific proactive enforcement activities that augments the Engagement, Education and Enforcement plan	Provide leadership at all levels to support performance

## Performance Indicators

Linked to our Priorities our Performance Indicators are the specific priority activities that we will undertake:

	Priority Area	Action Area	Performance Target
1	Dog control	Targeted & intelligence led patrols in defined dog control areas	Minimum two patrols daily in dog control hotspots
2	Dog control	Dog control related incidents	90% conviction rate for all dog control related prosecutions
3	Dog control	Promoting responsible dog ownership	Hold 3 dog micro chipping and education Roads Shows
4	Cycling	Targeted & intelligence led patrols in defined non cycle areas	Minimum two patrols daily in cycle control hotspots
5	Cycling	Cycling related incidents	90% conviction rate for all cycling related prosecutions
6	Cycling	Promoting responsible cycling	Hold 3 cycle safety & security events
7	Youth Engagement (litter & anti-social behaviour)	Targeted patrols in areas where high concentrations of school children and young adults will be assembled	Minimum 1 patrol daily during peak periods when school children and young adults will be congregated on Heath
8	Youth Engagement (litter & anti-social behaviour)	Targeted engagement opportunities at youth events on the Heath	Attend youth events - 10 events on Heath with proactive plan to communicate litter & ASB messages
9	Youth Engagement (litter & anti-social behaviour)	Targeted engagement opportunities at schools surrounding Heath	Attend 3 assemblies at local schools with proactive litter & ASB messages
10	Lido	Targeted patrols during periods where there will be high concentrations of visitors to Lido	Frequency of patrols to be defined by Sergeants based upon risk assessment
11	Lido	Reducing instances of serious crime	Deployment of 'Knife Arch' during defined peak periods.
12	Public sex environments	Targeted patrols to reduce instances of anti-social behaviour, crime and litter	Frequency of patrols to be defined by Sergeants based upon risk assessment
13	Public sex environments	Attend LGBT stakeholder meetings	Attend 75% of all LGBT meetings held
14	Public sex environments	Supporting Outreach work	Support Terrence Higgins Trust outreach workers on 10 occasions per annum



### Contact Information

The Constabulary can be contacted on the following number: 020 8340 5260.

You should however always first consider whether dialling 999 is more appropriate if there is:

- Danger to life.
- Serious injury to property or person.
- A crime is in progress.
- An offender has been detained and causes a risk to other people.

### Face to face

If you would like to speak to us face to face please either phone or e-mail us on the numbers provided and we can arrange to meet with you at a suitable and convenient location on Hampstead Heath.

Email: [HH-Constabulary@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:HH-Constabulary@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Do You Have Feedback on our Plan? If you have any queries in relation to our plan please contact:

Constabulary Manager  
City of London  
Heathfield House  
432 Archway Road  
London N6 4JH  
Telephone: 020 7332 3322

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