

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	27 June 2016 18 July 2016
Subject: Annual Report on Hampstead Heath Constabulary for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016	Public
Report of: Superintendent Hampstead Heath	For Decision
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Summary

This report reviews the performance and effectiveness of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. During this period the Constabulary attended 2,406 occurrences/incidents and completed 1,751 enforcement actions engaging with users who were breaching or were suspected of breaching a bylaw. The details of this work, along with many other aspects of the Team's work will follow in this report. The Team achieve their success through the development and nurturing of a partnership approach drawing upon the talents of a number of stakeholders.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report regarding the work of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during 2015/16 and, in particular, recognise the continuous development and improvement of its performance across a range of activities. You are further asked to acknowledge the part played by the Constabulary in helping to ensure that Hampstead Heath remains a safe, appealing and enjoyable place for millions to visit each year, by reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Views of Committee are sought in regard to the continuation of outreach work on our Public Sex Environments.
- Views of the Committee are sought with regard to the Constabulary Priority Activities for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19.

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 its visitors and users on appropriate and responsible behaviour, to engage with users and stakeholders, and to enforce byelaws, deter and prevent anti-social behaviour, and reduce the fear of crime through a range of tactics of which visible high-profile patrolling is the most prominent. The approach adopted in achieving this objective is through engagement, education and ultimately enforcement. They provide a vital role in the safe management of large events across the Open Space and also maintain an excellent relationship with the Metropolitan Police, London Ambulance Service, The Air Ambulance (HEMS) and London Fire Brigade enhancing the effectiveness of all those organisations when attending incidents within the Open Space.

Current Position

2. One vacancy has recently been filled following a successful interview process. The candidate is undergoing reference checks and hopes to join the HHC within the next 3 months. The Team would then be at its full establishment strength for the first time in 4 years. Until the new recruit starts their service the HHC is operating with a reduced compliment of staff; a Constabulary Manager, who also manages Queen's Park, two Sergeants working across two teams, and nine Constables. This resource includes two Constable Dog Handlers with general purpose-trained police dogs.
3. During this reporting year the number of Constables has fluctuated. One Constable resigned to take up an alternative career path and a further Constable retired on grounds of ill health after a serious road accident. In the same period three new Constables were selected and are now in post.
4. All recruit training has been delivered in house by the Sergeants who deliver a bespoke training package. Additionally a Sergeant has qualified to train other City of London staff in conflict resolution. They have delivered several short sessions across other Corporation sites.
5. HHC has continued to provide on-site policing for larger events, including the annual funfairs, the Affordable Art Fair, Grow London and the Circus where animal rights activists once again attended in 2015. HHC also represents the City of London with a managed presence on Parliament Hill during New Year's Eve celebrations thereby preventing the negative impact suffered by other similar sites across North London. Although numbers are difficult to ascertain, the Metropolitan Police have estimated that there were 7,000 people in attendance at Parliament Hill on New Year's Eve.
6. HHC continues to provide a service 365 days of the year, with patrols carried out throughout the day and night from a patrol base on Hampstead Heath.

7. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) have been contacted in writing in order to seek clarification on CAA Regulations and the use of drones with surveillance cameras on Hampstead Heath. We are aware of CAA guidance and are considering a policy on the use of drones in our Open Spaces. We are aware of public concern and the need for public safety.
8. A recent spate of robberies on Hampstead Heath led to an increase in patrols by the Constabulary in the Parliament Hill area. Following one reported robbery a suspect was chased and arrested by a member of the HHC. Following the arrest, he was conveyed to a Metropolitan Police Station. Currently there are no further updates on the outcome of his arrest at the time of writing this report.

Partnership Working

9. HHC continues to work closely with, and seek support and advice from, the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and the Camden LGBT Forum with regard to the West Heath Public Sex Environment (PSE). A change in personnel at THT has delayed the City of London in moving forward at this stage with outreach work. The views of the Committee are sought on the continuation of Outreach work on the PSEs.

Aims and objectives of THT Outreach

- Promotion of “Bin-it campaign and disposal of sex litter.
 - Encouraging the reporting of crime - experienced as well as witnessed.
 - To discourage drug misuse.
 - Encouraging safer sexual behavioural activity.
 - To sign PSE users to support networks including substance misuse projects, mental health teams, counselling, the police and sexual health clinics.
10. Outreach workers suggested a perceived increase in drug paraphernalia in the PSE area, e.g. needles, GBL bottles and small snap bags used for carrying drugs were seen. Users were actively encouraged to bin their sex litter and understood why it was necessary to do so. There were few adverse responses to this intervention. Assumptions of why the users were on the Heath were not made and - on a number of accounts - other users of the Heath (such as local residents, joggers and dog walkers) had a very positive response to the workers after an initial explanation of the project. Sexual health knowledge and awareness and HIV prevention and transmission were good amongst many PSE users. The sex litter seen in the PSE indicated that safer sex is usually practised.
 11. The Dogs Trust continues to attend the Heath once a month and also attended the ‘Give it a Go’ event at Parliament Hill Fields in July 2015. These monthly events took place on Saturdays between 11am and 4pm, and a trial event was also arranged within the grounds of Kenwood House. Upon a request from English Heritage the Constabulary do offer occasional support to Kenwood House staff in cases of emergency and are also often able to pass through the grounds to provide a reassuring presence. This does not detract from their work on the Heath.

12. Communication between the Metropolitan Police (MPS) and the HHC remains at the forefront of the Team's work. HHC were afforded the privilege of being the only outside body to ever be given access to MPS radio transmissions. Such transmissions are regulated by the highest levels of security and allowing HHC this access is clear proof of the professionalism of the Team and the benefit to the MPS of the support they receive from our Constables. In addition to Airwave links are kept strong through engagement in local Safer Neighbourhood Panels and residents meetings.

Providing an Effective Frontline Service

13. HHC continues to provide an effective and efficient policing service on Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood. During 2015/16 officers dealt with 2,406 incidents, including dealing with medical emergencies and fatalities. This can be extremely stressful for officers but, as ever, they demonstrated their resolve and professionalism. A Sergeant has recently completed training in the facilitation of Critical Incident Debriefing allowing them to work with colleagues who deal with traumatic events in an early, supportive and structured way.
14. In April 2015 officers were called upon to deal with the tragic case of a young man who drowned in the Men's Pond. The victim's community leaders were full of praise for the sensitivity displayed and support given by the Constables. Constables are also the first responders in cases of collapse and cardiac arrest. On 3 separate occasions Constables needed to deploy a defibrillator and assist with CPR procedures.
15. The Lido Response Plan is reviewed by a Sergeant each year and continues to be used by the HHC and Lido staff to manage visitor behaviour within the facility. Effective use of this plan prevented any incidents of serious anti-social behaviour throughout this reporting period.

Reports of Misconduct

16. There have been no formal complaints made against any HHC officers during this reporting period.

Constabulary Performance Objectives

17. The Performance Development Review process was refined by the City of London Corporation for 2015 onwards and the Constables had new more focussed objectives linked to the effective deployment of the police dogs and individual performance around enforcement activity. All Constables successfully completed their performance review year.
18. During the 2015/16 fishing season 283 permits were issued. This is a reduction on the previous year. Unauthorised fishing was dealt with through the issue of 43 formal warnings and 2 prosecutions.
19. Incidents of note during 2015/16 are shown at Appendix 1.

20. HHC dealt with 1,751 enforcement actions in total. This comprised of 11 arrests, 15 summary prosecutions, 907 formal warnings and 818 stop accounts. Constabulary Performance Statistics are shown at Appendix 2.

21. 15 cases were heard at Magistrates Court with a successful outcome (see Appendix 3).

Recommendations and Proposals for 2016/17

22. The Constabulary Management Team produced an Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan for 2015, which defines the HHC's role as follows:

- 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.

23. The views of this Committee are sought with regard to the HHC continuing with the current Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan priorities for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19. The current priority activities can be found at Appendix 4. The current priorities provide an over-arching framework within which the HHC will aim to meet or exceed the priority performance indicators.

24. A copy of the Constabulary Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan 2015 can be found at Appendix 5.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. The work of the HHC during 2015/16 continues to meet the City Together Strategy themes of *"protecting, promoting and enhancing our environment and [ensuring it] is safer and stronger"*.

26. The work of the Constabulary meets with the Departmental Strategic Objectives by *"Widening and developing what we offer to Londoners through education, biodiversity and volunteering"*.

27. Two strategic aims in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 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.

28. The HHC meet the overriding objectives of The Hampstead Heath Management Plan 'Towards a Plan for the Heath 2007 – 2017'

A1 - Recognise the need to be as inclusive as possible, increasing the Heath's availability to a diversity of users.

P1 - Recognise that the Heath's main users are those who come for informal activity and manage informal recreational activities to ensure that as far as is reasonably practical they do not adversely affect others' enjoyment of or the natural aspect of the Heath.

Implications

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

30. Costs for any future outreach work provided by an external organisation will be funded from the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.

Conclusion

31. This report sets out the breadth of work undertaken by the HHC in 2015/16 in providing a professional, efficient and effective service for Hampstead Heath. The relatively low level of serious crime and anti-social behaviour on the Heath demonstrates the effectiveness of the uniformed presence of the Constabulary in reassuring visitors and deterring crime.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Constabulary – Incidents of Note 2015 / 16
- Appendix 2 - Constabulary Performance Statistics 2015 / 16
- Appendix 3 - Process by Summons – Magistrates Court Cases 2015 / 16
- Appendix 4 - Priority Activities 2015
- Appendix 5 - Hampstead Heath Constabulary, Education and Enforcement Plan 2015

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