

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Management Committee	18 July 2016
Subject: Superintendents update for July 2016	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

Summary

This report proposes a series of changes to the consultation arrangements in relation to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and provides an update on management and operational activities across Hampstead Heath since May 2016.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note and take account of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee representations.
- Discuss and provide feedback on the contents of this report.

Main Report

Consultation

1. The first substantive item on the agenda for the June Consultative Committee was a full and wide ranging discussion to ensure the Consultative Committee meetings and walks are as effective as possible to enable the Consultative Committee to make “.....representations to the Management Committee about any matter which, in the opinion of the Consultative Committee, affects or is likely to affect the Heath Lands”. (Section 9 (1) London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989).
2. Taking account of the feedback from the Consultative Committee, I would welcome Members input on the following proposals.

Forward Planning

3. I propose introducing a report on matters for consideration during the next year; effectively a forward plan. Consultative Committee Members will be able to see what is planned, form their views and gather those of their groups, and decide how and on which aspects they would like to be consulted in each case. The overarching objective is to ensure both the Consultative and Management Committees consider proposals at the formative stage and Members have adequate time to consider the proposals and to respond.

Reactive Reports

4. Inevitably, there will be other matters that arise which cannot be anticipated, and these will be dealt with as at present by single-subject reports, initially to the Consultative Committee. I will then produce an updated report, taking account of their representations for decision by the Management Committee, as I have been doing to date.

Data

5. We will provide data and statistics that will support the development of a series of key performance indicators, which we can use to show progress towards particular targets for the Heath. I already collect some of the data for this purpose, such as wildlife monitoring, tree safety inspections, accidents, waste sent for disposal, enforcement data and so on, but there are other data streams I need to collect in order to provide the full picture. An important starting point will be updating the visitor information and demographics of Heath users. The purpose is to aid the consultation process, by giving Members a broader overview about the way the Heath is used.

Heath funding

6. Currently, the Management Committee receive regular reports from the Chamberlain on the Hampstead Heath budget, however, I believe it would be helpful for the Consultative Committee to have an overview of the Heath budget, to provide greater context to the matters being discussed. It is critical that discussions consider the implications of increasing resource commitments for one area or activity which may affect other areas, often resulting in the need to reduce costs elsewhere or to identify additional income streams.

Report format to include consultation

7. There is scope to revise the format of reports to the Consultative Committee, firstly, to make it clearer what the Consultative Committee is being asked to comment upon. Secondly, we will include a section setting out the initial consultation and liaison that Officers have undertaken, prior to reporting to the Consultative Committee.

Scheduling meetings

8. It will be helpful to discuss the scheduling of meetings, to allow time to take account of the Consultative Committee's feedback before formulating reports to the Management Committee. I would like to suggest a four week interval following a Consultative Committee meeting. I would also like to discuss with Members, moving to a meeting schedule comprising of four Consultative Committee meetings followed by four Management Committee meetings per year.

Walks programme

9. I propose retaining the Consultative Committee walk on the Saturday before the Consultative Committee meeting. The route and agenda for the walks will link to the forward plan. In addition, I will make notes of the main issues discussed

on the walk and circulate this to both the Consultative and Management Committee promptly after the walk. These will be discussed and updates provided at the next scheduled walk. I will also use the Superintendent's update to provide further information on issues being raised on the walks.

Hampstead Heath Management Committee Minutes

10. Going forward, it would be helpful if the Management Committee minutes recorded the consideration and response to the Consultative Committee's representations. In addition, the Town Clerk has also agreed to circulate a link to the Consultative Committee Members to provide access to the draft Management Committee Minutes, so Consultative Committee Members know what account was taken of their representations.
11. These proposals will ensure that the Consultative Committee remains well-informed and fully engaged, whilst ensuring that their representations are clearly communicated and considered by the Management Committee.
12. In November 2016, I will also discuss these proposals with the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee and the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group.

Open Spaces Bill

13. The Bill passed its initial parliamentary stages without debate and awaits detailed consideration by a Commons Committee. It is not yet clear whether this will take place before or after the Summer Recess.
14. Two petitions were submitted against the Bill. The City Corporation successfully challenged one of the petitions before the Court of Referees (a group of MPs who assess the validity of petitions), on the grounds that it was not relevant to the Bill. The remaining petition is by the Kennel Club, and seeks the application of Freedom of Information law to the anti-social behaviour powers sought in clause 12 of the Bill. Discussions are taking place with the Club to see if its concerns can be addressed. If not, the Club's petition will be adjudicated on by the Commons Committee appointed to consider the Bill.

Hampstead Heath Management Plan

15. Work on the management plan is progressing in accordance with the programme outline which was presented to Committee in March 2016.
16. Stage 1, the Review Stage, has commenced involving consultation with staff to capture achievements and progress made towards the actions and goals set out in the 2007 Plan. This work is currently being summarised into a progress report.
17. To ensure continuity, past members of the working groups who were involved in developing the 2007 Plan are invited to participate in a workshop to review the current management plan. The group will capture insights from the review of progress and discuss lessons learned over the past decade.

18. These will inform recommendations around the five themes for the development of the 2018 Plan:
- **Progress** - measuring progress and achievements to date;
 - **Structure** - reviewing the structure of the plan and associated framework for delivery;
 - **Relevance** - refreshing the objectives, actions and goals to ensure relevance in the current and future contexts;
 - **Engagement** - fostering a spirit of shared stewardship;
 - **Evaluation** - adopting an outcomes-based approach to underpin a framework for monitoring and evaluation.
19. Workshop details are currently being finalised.
20. Following the Management Plan Review workshop, a report capturing achievements, lessons learned and recommendations will be prepared, with a report to the Consultative Committee in November 2016.
21. During the autumn the Project will move forward into Stage 2 - Defining Success. This will involve a programme of activities on the Heath throughout autumn which will engage with Heath users and the wider community to capture community aspirations for the Heath now and into the future.
22. Project stages and reporting milestones;

Project Stage	Milestones for reporting to Committees	Report to Committee
1. Review	Report summarising achievements of the past decade	November 2016
	Proposals for management framework and recommendation for 2018 Plan	
2. Defining Success	Report on community engagement and proposed vision for the Heath	March 2017
3. Developing the 2018 Plan	Draft 2018 Plan	July 2017
4. Finalising the 2018 Plan	Report on consultation on proposed 2018 Plan and recommendations	March 2018
	2018 Plan submitted for approval	

Property update

23. Hoarding has been removed from around the Lido, and the palisade fence installation has been completed and the utility services have been reinstated. The Heath team have recently planted a mixed species native hedge around the perimeter wall of the Lido.
24. Following recent surveys the City Surveyor is working with a Consultant to design a solution to the surfacing and drainage issues at the Kenwood Nursery Yard. This was discussed at the June Consultative Committee walk.

Planning

25. Athlone House – The Superintendent made arrangements for the applicant to present the proposals to the Consultative Committee on the 30 June 2016. A planning application has now been submitted to the London Borough of Camden on the 1 July 2016. The proposed work involves the restoration and extension of Athlone House for use as a 6 bedroom single dwelling house; creation of a new vehicular/pedestrian entrance from Hampstead Lane and associated part demolition of boundary wall; refurbishment and extension of Caen Cottage and refurbishment of the Gate House, both to be used as ancillary residential accommodation; erection of a summer house on disused tennis court within the grounds; and associated landscaping works and restoration of historic garden.

Open Spaces Learning Team

26. The Learning Programme has developed a new operating model and was successful in securing £400,000 over 3 years from City Bridge Trust. The new operating model has provided a strategic focus for learning through creating a single programme of work managed at a Departmental level. Through this operating model, the programme will be able to deliver increased opportunities for learning, volunteering and play across all the open spaces.
27. Recruitment of the new team across the Department has been the main focus of the programme between January - March 2016 and appointments have been made to all roles based on Hampstead Heath. A variety of internal and external appointments has resulted in a very high calibre team with a variety of specialisms, experiences and skills.
28. The Team is currently focused on developing more detailed project plans, engaging with the local communities we aim to work with, and developing the evaluation and monitoring framework. On Hampstead Heath, the Learning Team will be delivering:
 - New natural play based sessions at the Clubhouse (previously the Adventure Playground) to help build understanding and confidence for young people.
 - New natural play based sessions at the One O'clock Club to support under-5's in developing confidence and wellbeing outdoors.
 - High quality sessions to primary schools at the Education Centre to increase understanding of our open spaces.
 - New curriculum focused sessions to engage with secondary schools to increase knowledge and involvement with our open spaces.
 - Successful 'Ponds Education Project' sessions to contribute to the knowledge of our open spaces.
 - New 'wild play' sessions on the Heath aiming to engage under-5's and their parents with the natural environment through developing confidence and connection with both parents and their children.

- New work with young people on skills development, increasing involvement and connecting with nature.
29. The new programmes at the Clubhouse and One O'clock Club were launched in the May half term and school sessions continue at the Education Centre. Our new wild play sessions and work with young people will begin in the summer holidays and autumn school term respectively.

Benches

30. Work on the memorial bench project continues with mapping completed across Parliament Hill Fields, Golders Hill Park, Heath Extension, Vale of Health and East Heath.
31. Work has commenced on updating records and contact details for memorial benches, with historic paper records being transferred to a bench sponsorship database.
32. The memorial bench scheme on the Heath continues to be oversubscribed with the waiting list currently containing 115 requests for a memorial bench with a waiting time of up to 10 years.
33. While the work continues, the Superintendent is proposing the waiting list is closed pending a more detailed report and recommendations to the Consultative Committee in November 2016.

Conservation

34. The Landscape Improvements to the Swains Lane entrance have been completed.

Events

35. The main events during the period have been the Affordable Art Fair and GROW London both on the lower fairground site. Initial feedback from the organisers was the combination of the football, referendum and weather impacted on attendance; we will await a full report on the outcome and proposals for 2017.
36. Race for Life will return to the Heath for the 16th run on the 9 July. This popular 10k run is well organised and uses surfaced paths across the Heath. This is followed by the annual "Give it a go" event on the 17 July. This event is run in partnership with the London Borough of Camden and aims to promote health and wellbeing, offering opportunities for families to try out a range of different sporting activities for free.

Highgate Wood

37. For the first time in over twenty years Highgate Wood has a pair of kestrels raising a family in one of the Conservation areas.

38. The 'Canopy Stair' event held at the end of May consisting of a temporary spiral stairway installed on one of the field oaks was a great success attracting over 500 visitors.
39. The project to install electric gates at Onslow Gate is now underway.
40. The earlier closing times have been successfully implemented with very little negative feedback from the public.
41. The Highgate Wood Team are monitoring the oaks for signs of Oak Processionary Moth.

Queen's Park

42. Two new items of trim trail equipment have been installed on the old petanque rink; both items are being well used by visitors.
43. A number of events have taken place in the park over the last few months. These have included the Open Gardens Open Studios events in the Queen's Park ward and a performance of the Shakespeare play, 'Much Ado About Nothing' in the Quiet Garden. The Regent Community Brass Band will be performing on a number of dates on the Bandstand over the summer months.
44. The Park Manager is consulting with users and non-users on future events in the park. The results will be discussed with the Consultative Group in November.

Projects

45. The Superintendent will provide an update on current Projects.
 - Sports Review
 - Working Arrangements

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