

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	30 January 2017
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Decision
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee on management and operational activities across the Division since November 2016.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are noted by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their January meeting.
- Members support the appointment of a provider for the Lido Café, on a lease or licence basis, for summer 2017, with the option to extend the arrangement until 12 January 2018, as set out in paragraph 12.

Main Report

Director of Open Spaces

1. Having successfully led the Open Spaces Department for over nine years, the Director of Open Spaces, Sue Ireland, will be retiring on the 28 February 2017. Colin Buttery has been appointed as the new Director of the Open Spaces Department, and will take up the post on the 1 March 2017. Colin has been the Director of Parks and Deputy Chief Executive for The Royal Parks for the past 12 years and has been involved in conservation land management for over 30 years.
2. Colin has worked for the National Trust and Woodland Trust in a range of land management roles and the Boroughs of Bromley and the City of Westminster where he had responsibility for parks, cemeteries, tree management, leisure centres and a range of community facilities.

3. Colin is an ambassador for environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy and a member of the Forestry Commission's London Region Forest, and Woodlands Advisory Committee and Oak Processionary Moth Advisory Group.

Open Spaces Department Business Plan

4. As previously indicated by the Superintendent and Business Manager, there has been a Corporate review of Business Planning. A new framework has been introduced which focuses on outcomes and presents Departmental Business Plans much more succinctly. The new framework proposes that each Department set out its strategic contribution to the City's ambitions and sets out in very headline terms what it will do to support this. This is then cross referenced with current services, improvements, horizon scanning and developing capabilities. Introducing the new framework will take more than one business planning cycle and so this year's Business Plan will necessarily be a partial reflection of the ambition to demonstrate and consider the flow of outcomes from the Corporate Plan, to Departmental Plans, to Divisional Plans, Team Plans and individual Performance Development Reviews more effectively.

Cafés

5. The Café Working Party (CWP) has now met five times, and Members participated in a discussion workshop on 19 November 2016. There are currently two further meetings scheduled for January and February 2017.
6. The Superintendent engaged Jon Sheaff and Associates to develop and deliver a public engagement and consultation process in respect of future lease arrangements for its café assets at Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park and Highgate Wood. This process was subsequently extended to include Parliament Hill Fields Lido and the Queen's Park Café. The Consultants completed five engagement events outside the cafes as well as developing an online questionnaire. Responses to the questionnaire were received from 2,414 individuals during the 6 week consultation period.
7. On the 6 December 2016, the CWP received the findings from the engagement and consultation process. Over the Christmas and New Year period Members of the CWP had the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the draft Café Engagement Report.
8. On the 23 January 2017 the CWP will meet to discuss the final Café Engagement Report and an options appraisal to inform a discussion on future lease arrangements for the Cafés. In addition, the CWP will start to develop a series of Service Standards and Performance Indicators based on the outcomes of the engagement and consultation exercise. These will be discussed with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in March 2017 and a further report will be presented to this Committee in May 2017 for decision. It is thought by setting out clearly the Service Standards and Performance Indicators, this will assist the leaseholders to understand what they are being asked to provide and then provide a mechanism for the City of London Corporation and the leaseholders to jointly monitor performance.

9. It should be noted that the Superintendent has adjusted Committee reporting timetable to allow more time to engage with the CWP.

The Lido Café

10. On 30 September 2016 the City of London was notified by Digital Heroes of their intention to cease trading at the Lido café at the beginning of October 2016.
11. The Superintendent has now completed a period of engagement and consultation with Lido and Heath users to help inform future arrangement for the lease at the Lido café.
12. To ensure that there is a café provision at the Lido for summer 2017 season, the Superintendent seeks support from Members to appoint a provider on a lease or licence basis, for the summer with the option to extend the arrangement until 12 January 2018. This approach takes account of the Delegated Authority of the Director of Open Spaces.
13. The Superintendent will take account of the feedback received from the recent engagement and consultation process to guide the appointment of this short term arrangement for the Lido café.
14. The lease arrangements from January 2018 will be incorporated into the scope of the CWP and will be included in the Options Appraisal report, to address the longer term provision at the Lido facility.

Eruv

15. The Superintendent has received two proposals for works on Hampstead Heath that are related to the Highgate & Muswell Hill Eruv and the Camden Eruv. Details of the proposals are attached to this report.
16. The Consultative Committee walk, on the 7 January 2017, included a visit to consider the proposals in relation to the Heath boundary with Hampstead Lane, as part of the information gathering arrangements in respect of the proposals.
17. The Comptroller & City Solicitor and the City Surveyor are being consulted on any regulatory, statutory and land management implications which may arise in connection with the proposals.
18. Following a constructive discussion with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee the applicant will be asked to review the proposals seeking to reduce the visual impact on the Heath. Any revised proposals will be considered by the Consultative Committee in the first instance.

Camden Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Hampstead Town Ward

19. The Superintendent attended a CIL workshop with Ward Councillors, other community organisations and residents on 23 November and explained that any

proposals for investment on Hampstead Heath will require authorisation by the City prior to being submitted for CIL funding. To aid this, it is proposed that a pro-forma be provided to community organisations, that includes a field indicating that the City has been consulted and has authorised the proposal prior to it being considered for public consultation.

Constabulary

20. Since last reporting to this Committee, the following successful prosecutions have been made for byelaw offences on Hampstead Heath:

Dogs

- Dog attacked another dog and caused it injury. Total payout: £958.08 including fine, costs, vets fees and victim surcharge.
- Dog offence. Total payout: £230 including fine, costs and victim surcharge
- Dog out of control which harassed swans (none injured). Total payout: £180 including fine, costs and victim surcharge.

Cycling

- Cycling on non-cycling path (did not attend court). Total payout: £575 including fine, costs and victim surcharge.
- Cycling on a prohibited path. Total payout: £230 including fine, costs and victim surcharge.
- Cycling on a prohibited path. Total payout: £230 including fine, costs and victim surcharge.
- Two charges of obstruction and cycling on a path where cycling is prohibited. Total payout: £720 including fine, costs and victim surcharge.
- Cycling on a no cycling path. Total payout: £575 including fine, costs and victim surcharge.

Planning

21. The Superintendent will provide an update on planning issues relating to Whitestone House, Heath House, the Water House, Parliament Hill / William Ellis Schools and 114-120 West Heath Road.

Committee Walk

22. It is proposed that the May walk will include a visit to the Golders Hill Park Zoo to discuss the proposals for the animal collection, improvements and engagement opportunities

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – Art installation at Golders Hill Park

23. The Superintendent has received notice from White Cube Art LLP in relation to the art installation, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly by Jake & Dinos Chapman. In February 2017 the sculptures will be moved from Golders Hill Park to a new home at the CASS Sculpture Foundation in Sussex. The cost of de-installation from Golders Hill Park will be met from the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.

Highgate Wood

24. The 2017 Highgate Wood Conservation area is well under way and the Highgate Wood Supervisor has organised a Woodland Management Day for 30 Divisional staff on the 25 January to join the Team and help build dead hedging around the new area.
25. The new electric security gates will be installed at Onslow Gate during the last week in January. The gates will be opened and closed remotely using the Team's radios, this will greatly improve the control of vehicle movements in Highgate Wood.
26. Following a major component failure before Christmas a replacement boiler for the sports pavilion showers has been installed by the City Surveyor's Department. The remaining works to replace all the pipework and shower units will be completed in April/May.
27. A contractor will be installing 250m² of rubberised safety surface in the play area before the end of March. This follows work carried out in 2014 where 350m² of safety surface was converted from natural bark and will further assist the Team in reducing the costs of maintaining a natural bark safety surface.
28. The City of London's External Tree Contractor will be carrying out works to a number of Highgate Wood trees located along the perimeter bordering on Muswell Hill Road.

Queen's Park

29. The Queen's Park have now moved on to a new rota, the Team will operate on a 1 weekend in 3 rota, this ensures that there is sufficient cover provided and that rota gives consistency and equity amongst the Team who were previously working a variant of shift patterns.
30. A revised team structure is now in place. The Team currently carry one vacancy (Team Leader) which will be advertised in February 2017. Two Team Leaders will provide supervision across the team over a seven day operation. The new structure will enable the Park to deliver a high quality green space and deliver on projects and programmes in line with the Management Plan.
31. A wedding application has been resubmitted to the London Borough of Brent. Interest has already been expressed in using the Bandstand as a wedding venue this year.

32. The Park Manager is in consultation with the Lawn Tennis Association to seek match funding for the refurbishment of the Queen's Park Tennis Courts.

33. The City Surveyors Department are carrying out works at the Café toilets under the Cyclical Works Programme. This includes new flooring, sanitary ware and accessibility furniture.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Highgate & Muswell Hill 'Eruv', proposal for Hampstead Lane
- Appendix 2 – Camden 'Eruv', proposal for Windmill Hill.

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