

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	19 June 2017
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces & Heritage Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on management and operational activities across the Heath since March 2017.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note the contents of this report.
- Members give their views on the proposal for the cross country pilot event be added to the events calendar for future years, as detailed in para 5.
- Members provide feedback on the revised drone guidance document appended to this report.

Main Report

Open Spaces Bill

1. The City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill cleared its penultimate stage in the House of Commons shortly before Parliament was dissolved, after no MP called for a debate on it. The progress of the Bill has been interrupted by the General Election but it is hoped to pass into the Lords shortly after the new Parliament meets.

Management Plan Engagement

2. The engagement process is underway to develop a community vision for Hampstead Heath to inform the 2018 Management Plan.

3. The Advisory Group has met three times throughout the engagement activities and provided advice and local knowledge. Activities included two workshops to with key stakeholders and community organisations, six pop-up consultation stands at various locations across the Heath and an online survey that closes on 19 June 2017. Over 700 survey responses were received in the first week.
4. The Consultants will present a report on their findings to this Committee for discussion at the extraordinary meeting on 17 July 2017. A full report will be submitted to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee on 25 September 2017.

Events

5. On 18 February 2017 the North-West London Young Athletes Cross-Country League held a pilot fixture on the Heath Extension. 114 boys and 87 girls took part; the event was well organised and proved successful. The Operational Services Manager has reviewed the ground conditions following the event. A combination of favourable ground conditions, leading up to and during the event, and the number and ages of the runners, there was minimal impact on the ground. The Sports Advisory Forum has undertaken a review of the event and support the event being added to the Heath events calendar for future years.
6. The Affordable Art Fair returned to Hampstead Heath for the seventh year between 10-14 May. The fair included over 100 galleries, and the charity beneficiary was the Roundhouse. The Leisure and Events Manager is currently awaiting a full report from the fair organisers.
7. The '*Night of the 10,000 Personal Bests*' was held at Parliament Hill Running Track on 20 May. The event, which is organised by Highgate Harriers, was an outstanding success. Thousands of spectators turned out to watch Athletes compete to represent Great Britain at the IAAF World Championships, London Anniversary Games 2017. Many inspirational Olympians and sports personalities attended including Paula Radcliffe, Lord Sebastien Coe, Wend Sly and keen runner Ronnie O'Sullivan to name a few.
8. Members are invited to 'Give it a Go!' on Sunday 16 July, 1-5pm at Parliament Hill. Held in partnership with Camden Council and Mayhew Animal Home. A range of games, sports coaching, dance, well-being and children's activities will be available for members of the public to try.
9. Weddings and Civil Ceremonies -The first ceremony of 2017 took place on 7 April. 16 ceremonies are booked to take place this year. Scheduled works to replace the oak timbers at the Belvedere and Rotunda structures commence on 7 August for a period of 12 weeks.

Cycling

10. The Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager and the Superintendent met with 'Heath for Feet' representatives in late March to discuss shared walking and cycle paths on Hampstead Heath.

11. Taking account of feedback from Members, the intention now is to combine the cycling group and 'Heath for Feet' into a Working Group and to arrange an inaugural meeting. The most immediate concern expressed by the cyclists is the condition of the bound gravel sections of the existing cycle paths. The Group will also consider improving the waymarking and signage on the shared-use paths and strategies to promote responsible cycling on the Heath.

Café's

12. The lease for the Lido Café has been issued to Hoxton Beach. The facility was operational for the start of the summer season at the Lido and positive feedback has been received from the regular users.
13. The Café working Party is scheduled to meet on 22 June to discuss the arrangement for monitoring the performance of the Cafés based on the agreed Service Standards and Performance Indicators.

Eruv

14. The Superintendent is yet to receive revised proposals which detail how the visual impact of the Eruv on Hampstead Heath could be reduced. The Superintendent will present revised proposals to the Consultative Committee at a future meeting.

Planning

32. Land Adjacent to Jack Straws Castle North End Way London NW3 7ES (ref. 2017/2064/P, 2017/2171/P & 2017/1353/P) – Proposal to erect two houses to the rear of the car park, resulting in the reduction of car parking spaces from 11 to 7. A letter of objection has been submitted to Camden Council, on the basis of encroachment on Heath lands and Metropolitan Open Land, the impact on the biodiversity of Heath lands, the visual impact of the proposed development from Heath lands, and the impact of parking pressure from the reduction of parking spaces associated with Jack Straws Castle.
33. Chester Court, Lissenden Gardens (ref. 2017/1353/P) – Proposal to install six antennas within three glass-reinforced plastic enclosures and three equipment cabinets. A letter of objection has been submitted to Camden Council, on the basis of the visual impact when viewed from Heath lands, and the inconsistency of the development in context to the existing roofscape.
34. Golders Green Station Planning Brief – public consultation. Draft planning brief published by Barnet Council to seek public opinion and to establish development parameters for the redevelopment of Golders Green Bus Station and Underground Station. A letter of objection was submitted to Barnet Council highlighting the impact of any tall buildings on surrounding heritage assets and open spaces. Barnet Council have responded via email to confirm the planning brief will be significantly revised in response to the high volume of presentations received.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

35. The final Community Working Group meeting was held on 8 May 2017 and comprised of a full tour of the works. Any further issues relating to the Ponds Project will now be discussed with the Consultative Committee in the first instance.
36. The Conservation Team have completed a range of tasks associated with the recovery phase of the Ponds Project. This has included additional planting around the Model Boating Pond causeway and aquatic planting on Hampstead No. 2 Pond. The Constructor is responsible for watering the newly planted trees and will be gapping up the marginal planting.

Oak Processionary Moth

37. There have been no sightings of caterpillars or nests as of yet this year. However the Arb Team have located an old nest from 2016 which was found on Sandy Heath back in March. This is the first nest that has been found west of Spaniards road.
38. The 33 nest trees, which had nests in 2015 and 2016 (and any oaks in a 50m radius from the nest trees) were sprayed with a Biological Insecticide known as BT twice at the beginning of May by our contractors.
39. The Arb Team will be continuing to inspect oak trees close to Public areas (car parks, play grounds etc.) between now and the end of the nest season, in late July.

Constabulary Update

40. An Annual report has been prepared, and is included in the reports pack for this meeting.

Drones

41. Following feedback from Members the updated guidance on the use of drones is attached at Appendix 1.

Green Flag & London in Bloom

42. Green Flag judging took place on 14 June. Golders Hill Park will be judged for the London in Bloom award in June.

Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Guided Walk 7 October 2017

43. It is proposed that the October walk will primarily focus on the proposed Annual Work Programme for 2018/19.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Drone guidance document

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