

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	17072017
Subject: Annual Report on Hampstead Heath Constabulary for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017	Public
Report of: Superintendent of 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 2016 to 31 March 2017. During this period the Constabulary attended 2,513 occurrences/incidents, which is an increase of 4% on the previous year. The Constabulary's primary function is enforcement, 2,154 enforcement actions were carried out in 2016/17 representing a 28% increase on the previous year. All enforcement continues to involve elements of engagement and education. The details of this work, along with many other aspects of the Teams work are included in this report. As with previous years, the Team achieved these outcomes through a clear strategy and shared vision whilst adopting a partnership approach drawing upon the resources and capabilities of a number of stakeholders.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note the contents of this report, and, in particular, recognise the continuous development and improvement of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary's performance across a range of activities.
- Furthermore, Members are asked to note the role the Hampstead Heath Constabulary plays 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.
- Members give their views in relation to the Priority Activities for the period 2017/18.
- Members support the continuation of partnership work on Hampstead Heath during 2017 by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, Terrence Higgins Trust and other stakeholders and partners.

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. HHC provides a vital role in the safe management of large events across the Open Space and maintains 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 across the Open Space.
2. In 2016/17 HHC Officers introduced regular patrolling at Queen's Park in order to provide reassurance to staff and visitors plus introducing the visitors to the concept of byelaws and the benefits of good behaviour within the Park.

Current Position

3. The HHC has had a full complement of staff since the middle of 2016, following the recruitment of 2 Officers. Resourcing comprises of a Constabulary Manager, who also manages Queen's Park, two Sergeants working across two Teams, and ten Constables. This resource includes two Constable Dog Handlers with general purpose trained police dogs.
4. Recruit training was delivered in house by the Sergeants who deliver a bespoke training package. All other mandatory training has been completed. This training includes First Aid, Officer Safety Training, Diversity Awareness, Safeguarding and Police Dog licensing.
5. One Sergeant continues to offer Conflict Resolution training to staff across the Department.
6. The other Sergeant has now completed an accreditation in the delivery of Critical Incident Debriefing and has delivered this service to colleagues from various Departments in the days following particularly traumatic events.
7. The HHC has continued to provide on-site policing for larger events, including the annual funfairs, the Affordable Art Fair, Grow London and Zippos Circus.

Circus

8. In October 2016 the use of Heathlands by Zippos Circus coincided with repeated visits from Animal Rights Activist groups. HHC Officers faced periods of sustained hostility, provocation and abuse, often being filmed and recorded

for subsequent publication on 'You Tube' type media sites. It is to the credit of the Team that no serious incidents took place. 2017 will see the introduction of a circus that does not use animals in its performance.

9. HHC also represented the City of London with a managed presence on Parliament Hill during New Year's Eve 2017 celebrations. Although numbers are difficult to ascertain, it is estimated that there were several thousand people in attendance on the Hill.
10. HHC continues to provide a service 365 days of the year, with patrols carried out throughout the day, from early morning in to the night from a patrol base on Hampstead Heath.

First Aid

11. All HHC Officers are trained in First Aid and defibrillator use. During the year 76 medical emergencies were attended. To assist the London Ambulance Service 14 patients were transported to local A & E Departments in 2016/17 by HHC vehicles.

Missing people

12. The Heath and associated open spaces, by their nature often become a venue of choice for those most vulnerable within society. Throughout the year the HHC received reports of and assisted in the searches of 106 missing people, this will include lost children and missing person reports from the Metropolitan Police.

Drones

13. Members will be aware that guidance is being prepared to clarify how and where drones may be used on Hampstead Heath. In 2016/17 HHC Officers attended to 40 separate incidents where drones were in use, including the weekly attendance on the Heath Extension of The London Drone flying Club. Consistent advice has been given to drone enthusiasts who have been receptive and supportive in all cases.

Partnership Working

14. 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). THT provided diversity training to all HHC Officers during the year, as well as providing outreach sessions on the West Heath PSE. It is proposed that we continue this partnership work, and engage THT to provide outreach session in 2017. The cost to the City of London for these sessions will be in the region of £6,000, and will be funded from the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.
15. The Dogs Trust continued to attend the Heath on a monthly basis and once again supported the "Give it a Go" event at Parliament Hill Fields in July 2016.

16. Communication between the Metropolitan Police (MPS) and the HHC remains at the forefront of the Teams work. HHC are afforded the privilege of being the only body outside the MPS to have access, under licence, 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. The MPS have recently implemented a new control and dispatch radio system for their own resources that forms part of their Borough amalgamation work. HHC ensured they were incorporated into these changes and Airwaves Direct UK are currently reprogramming HHC radios to ensure continuity of use.
17. Links are also kept strong through engagement in local Safer Neighbourhood Panels and residents meetings.

Providing an Effective Frontline Service

18. HHC continues to provide an effective and efficient policing service across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and now Queen's Park. During 2016/17 Officers dealt with 2,513 separate incidents, including dealing with medical emergencies and fatalities. This can be extremely stressful for Officers but, as ever, they demonstrated their resolve and professionalism.
19. The Lido Response Plan is reviewed by the Sergeants 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. On three occasions a knife arch deployed at the entrance to the Lido. Use of the arch is resource intensive however; it is a deterrent and helps to enforce the message that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.
20. A Sergeant is currently leading a project within the Division to design and implement a 'Trigger Event' plan. This will create a bespoke process for the identification and enhanced management of those few days a year when visitor numbers and risk to safety are significantly increased. This is usually due to heatwave weather conditions. This plan will roll out during the summer season of 2017.
21. At the beginning of the year the HHC undertook an internal review aimed at enhancing its patrol and enforcement strategy to focus on those issues that affected visitors most. Certain byelaws were given priority and some ancillary activity was ceased.
22. At the end of the year this change in focus produced the following outcomes;
 - Cases of illegal cycling resulting in enforcement – 656 (an increase of 58%)
 - Cases of poor dog control resulting in enforcement – 158 (an increase of 151%)
 - Court prosecutions – 27 (an increase of 117%)

23. The Constables continue to receive input and training from their Managers, developing their communication skills and knowledge. This support enables them to interact with Heath visitors and apply their powers and the byelaws appropriately. By using these skills positively we have seen an increase in reported incidents by the Team.

Reports of Misconduct

24. There have been no formal complaints made against any HHC Officers during this reporting period.

Constabulary Performance Objectives

25. HHC dealt with 2,154 enforcement actions in total representing an increase of 28%. This comprised of 5 arrests, 27 summary prosecutions, 1,409 formal warnings and 714 stop accounts. HHC Performance Statistics are detailed in Appendix 1.
26. 23 cases were heard at Magistrates Court with a successful outcome and 4 cases are still to be heard. (Appendix 2). Byelaws are enforced by the Local Authority through the magistrates' court and contravening a byelaw can result in a fine upon successful conviction. The amount is set by the court after considering the seriousness of the offence and how much money the offender can pay.

Recommendations and Proposals for 2017/18

27. An Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan was produced in 2015, which defines the role of the HHC 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.
28. 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 2017/18. The current priority activities (see Appendix 3) provide an overarching framework within which the HHC will aim to meet or exceed their priority Performance Indicators.
29. A copy of the Constabulary Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan 2015-2018 can be found at Appendix 4.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

30. The work of the HHC during 2016/17 continues to meet the City of London Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019, Strategic Aims *"To provide valued services, such as education, employment, culture and leisure, to London and the nation."*

31. 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”.

Implications

32. Any legal implications of the work of the HHC have been included in the body of the report.

Conclusion

33. This report sets out the breadth of work undertaken by the HHC in 2016/17 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 Performance Statistics 2015 / 16
- Appendix 2 - Process by Summons – Magistrates Court Cases 2015 / 16
- Appendix 3 - Priority Activities 2015
- Appendix 4 - Hampstead Heath Constabulary, Education and Enforcement Plan 2015 -2018

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