

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	Dated: 15 November 2017
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee on management and operational activities across the Division since July 2017.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note the contents of this report.

Main Report

City of London (Open Spaces) Bill 2016

1. The Bill is due for its last Commons stage on 10 October 2017. If no Members of Parliament request a debate, the Bill will pass into the House of Lords shortly afterwards.

Events

2. Give it a Go (16 July 2017). An estimated 5,000 people took part, for free, in over 20 types of sport including fencing, track and field athletics, tennis, ping-pong, volleyball, and football to name but a few. It was well supported by Heath sports groups including Little Foxes Football Club, Hampstead Heath Rugby Football Club and the Highgate Harriers. Free tennis coaching was provided as part of the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) 'Great British Tennis Weekend'. Other facilities on offer were the NHS, providing free health checks and information on stopping smoking, and Transport for London, who were encouraging people to cycle/walk to work more often. Overall, all the Heath teams provided excellent support with regards to set up and breakdown, and the Heath Learning and volunteer teams also delivered support in the form of family friendly arts, crafts and games, ushering and providing information to member of the public. In conjunction with this year's event, the Mayhew Animal Home provided a very popular dog shows and pet friendly stalls. As ever, this great, family friendly free event was a

success due to the collaboration of many of the Heath's user groups, staff, volunteers and the London Borough of Camden.

3. Water awareness week (24–28 July) was well attended with over 30 children taking part each day.
4. The Summer Fair (26–28 August) proved to be a very busy weekend owing to exceptionally good bank holiday weather.
5. The City of London was delighted to host this years 'One Man and His Dog' sheep dog trial, which was filmed by BBC Countryfile on Parliament Hill. The sheep dog trials will be broadcast on Sunday 24 September, and will feature segments on nature conservation on the Heath.
6. 295 people and over 30 teams took part in the Duathlon, hosted in partnership with the Hampstead Rugby Football Club.
7. The Jubilee Hall 'race for your life' Charity Run took place on 16 September. The run was started by British triple jumper Nathan Fox.
8. Moscow state circus arrives on Hampstead Heath on 27 September. Ten shows will take place over 5 days.
9. The 16th Annual Hampstead Heath Conker Championships will take place on Sunday 1 October.

Cycling

10. The Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager has commissioned Consultants to undertake an assessment of the condition of the shared-use pathways. In keeping with the Heath's natural aspect, the Consultants will be making recommendations to improve the surface and drainage along these routes. These will be discussed by the Pedestrian and Cycling Working Group. The Superintendent is in the process of recalling the working group, and arranging a meeting in October 2017. The Group will also consider improving the waymarking and signage on the existing shared-use paths and strategies to promote responsible cycling on the Heath.

Planning

11. Garden House, Vale of Health. 2017/2529/P
Details of tree protection in relation to various alterations and extensions to existing dwelling house. The Superintendent commissioned an independent review of the Basement Impact Assessment and hydrological study. The Superintendent will submit representations to the London Borough of Camden (LBC) regarding structural stability and underground hydrological issues that will impact on the Vale of Health Pond.
12. The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P

Proposals to erect a single storey side extension, 2 storey front infill extension, and part single part two storey rear extension, including facade and roof alterations to main house and front wing; erection of a side extension to outbuilding in rear garden to be used as ancillary habitable accommodation; and landscaping works including external ramps. The Superintendent has raised concerns regarding the impact on veteran and mature trees adjoining Millfield Lane, including whether there is adequate root protection provision within the Construction Management Plan.

13. North Fairground Site, Vale of Health 2017/4346/P
Current application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for use as a site for seven static caravans for residential occupation. The Superintendent will submit a representative to LBC stating the proposal represents a material change of use and as such the certificate should be refused.
14. 42 Hampstead Lane, HGY/2017/1710
Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. The Superintendent commissioned an independent Basement Impact Assessment and hydrological study to assess the impact of this basement on the Heaths ponds. The study has confirmed that the proposed works will not impact upon the hydrology of Hampstead Heath.
15. The London Borough of Barnet's Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document, Public Consultation.
The document identifies the benefits of creating and retaining open spaces and green infrastructure across the Borough. The Superintendent submitted representations supporting the implementation of the Green Infrastructure SPD, but requesting the need for more specific policy relating to protection of the District Parks such as Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension.
16. Peabody Trust Archway Campus.
The Archway Campus proposal seeks a residential-led mixed use development on a former university campus. The Superintendent submitted representations to Peabody Trust outlining that the City of London has no objection to the overarching principle of the proposal to provide additional homes within the London Borough of Islington, however, the City is seeking to ensure the proposal does not result in any inappropriate development that would result in significant harm to views into and from the Hampstead Heath and in particular views from Parliament Hill.
17. Euston Stations Planning Brief - Key Principles Public Consultation.
The Brief was developed by LBC in consultation with Transport for London, for the redevelopment of Euston Station and the surrounding area into a transport interchange with substantial surrounding development. The Superintendent submitted representations to the LBC seeking to ensure the Brief does not result in any inappropriate development that would cause significant harm to views into and from the Hampstead Heath and in particular views from Parliament Hill.

Trees

18. Oak Processionary Moths

In total 84 new trees, hosting 184 nests were discovered on Hampstead Heath in 2017. These were all removed by Contractors by the last week in July. A total of 117 trees have been affected since 2015. The Heath's Tree Team have started noting nests in neighbouring trees at Brookfield and the bordering the Heath Extension. The Forestry Commission will confirm in October whether the Statutory Plant Health Notice will stand (spraying all trees and removing all nest) or be revised.

19. Chalara (ash die back)

This has been noted on the Heath in low levels. The disease is not currently believed to be spreading or increases.

20. Storm damage

The weekend of the 20 August was particularly wet and windy which led to a couple of large tree failures at Golders Hill Park and a number of large limb failures across the Heath.

21. This is an exceptional mast year with many oak limbs especially drooping under the weight of the acorns. This may lead to snapped branches during rain and wind events.

Constabulary

22. Four cyclists have been successfully prosecuted for breaching the Heath's bylaws.

Kenwood Nursery Yard resurfacing and drainage works

23. The Constabulary Sergeants are continuing to attend Metropolitan Police Briefings in relation to New Year's Eve celebrations.

24. Contractors working engaged by the City Surveyors Department have recently completed resurfacing and drainage works at Kenwood Nursery yard. This have been a significant project to improve the hardstanding for this operational yard and to construct a comprehensive drainage system to manage surface water run-off.

Koi Herpesvirus (KHV)

25. Fishing is currently suspended across all ponds due to an outbreak of KHV at the Model Boating Pond. The long term implications are yet to be confirmed by the Fish Health Inspectorate. The Superintendent will update Members at the meeting.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

26. The Hampstead Heath Pond Project won the 'Large Scale Permanent' Award at the Big Biodiversity Challenge Awards on 14 September. The Big Biodiversity Challenge is organised by CIRIA, the Construction Industry Research and Information Association, their challenge is to invite constructors to add one new biodiversity enhancement to a construction site, development or existing building. A link to the results is below.
<http://www.bigchallenge.info/2017-winners>.

Highgate Wood

27. Highgate Wood Community day was held on 3 September. The dog show and monkey climbing nets proved to be very popular with visitors, along with the various countryside and heritage displays.
28. The draft Woodland Management Plan will be presented to the Highgate Wood Consultative Group in November 2017 for discussion.

Queen's Park

29. Queen's Park day held on 17 September, organised by the Queen's Park Area Residents Association, was very well attended and successful community event. The combination of stalls and entertainment really showcased the Park at its best, and demonstrated the strength of the local community spirit.

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