

Committees	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	29 January 2018
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park Committee	21 February 2018
Subject: Draft Annual Work Programme 2018/19	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
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Summary

This report provides a preview of the Management Operations and Activities that will be carried out on Hampstead Heath over the next 12 months as part of the 2018/19 Annual Work Programme appended to this report.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee note the works proposed for 2018/19 and provide feedback to the Superintendent.
- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their February meeting.

Main Report

Background

1. The Annual Work Programme (AWP) is a key component of the Management Framework which integrates cyclical work with the strategic ten-year Management Plans for each site. This builds on the detailed policies and prescriptions set out for Natural Landscape and Compartment Management Plans.
2. Traditionally the AWP has centred on the Nature Conservation cyclical works and some works scheduled for the formal areas. For completeness, the 2018/19 AWP has been expanded to incorporate all service areas, including the works of the Constabulary, Operational Services, Supports Services, Swimming Facilities, Waste & Recycling Management and the Opens Spaces Learning Team.

Preview of 2018/19 Annual Work Programme

Tree Management

3. The Tree Team have produced a cyclical work programme for 2018/19 which shows the planned activities and operations for this year. In an increasingly biosecurity focused environment the Team need to prioritise their time carefully and the new plan will help them to achieve this.

Biosecurity and tree disease issues

4. Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) will continue to be a focus area for the Tree Team this coming year with the current Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) issued by the Forestry Commission. Spread of OPM nest has increased fourfold in 2017, so spraying activity will be greatly expanded and collateral ecological damage needs to be balanced carefully with public health concerns.
5. Massaria of Plane Disease will also continue to be a major focus for the Team and cyclical inspections and effected branch removal will be scheduled in over the forthcoming 12 months.
6. In October a new City of London and Royal Parks Biosecurity Working Group was formed and held an inaugural meeting to discuss how to work collaboratively to manage shared biosecurity issues including OPM and Massaria amongst several other pest and diseases.

Veteran and Ancient Trees

7. Veteran tree management will focus on the re survey of the 900 trees that were identified as veteran or ancient candidates ten years ago. This survey work commenced in July this year and will be completed in October 2018 forming the basis for a revised series of management plans for Hampstead Heath's veteran and ancient tree stock.
8. The Tree Team will also be assisted by the Conservation Team with works to increase light levels and vegetative competition to veteran trees in secondary the woodland as part of their cyclical annual work.

Core work and tree inspections

9. Tree inspections and tree safety work will be carried out on a planned schedule but there will inevitably be a number of unplanned emergency works arising from extreme weather events or from the regular inspection process.
10. The Team will also continue their Arboriculture consultancy works which generate additional income and enable them to develop their specialism in veteran tree management.

Nature Conservation Work

11. The bulk of the Conservation AWP is a continuation of the existing programme of tasks to maintain the wild areas of the Heath. Work relating to the management of the new landscape created by the Ponds Project will still be required and many tasks will become ongoing, such as the mowing of spillways and dams as instructed by the Supervising Engineer. Other continuing Ponds Project related tasks will include turf repairs and reseeding as well as watering shrubs and trees.

Ponds project related works

12. Following the completion of the engineering part of the Ponds Project in October 2016 there has been an increasing requirement for the Conservation

Team to address a number of 'snagging' items. The work has been largely completed but there are still some areas that require work and these will be addressed in 2018/19.

13. There will be a focus on the Bird Sanctuary, expanding the existing reed bed and also coppicing of willow and alder to improve light levels and provide improved habitat conditions for the grass snake population. There will also be some planting of new hazel whips to expand existing planting.
14. Coppicing works are planned on the eastern side of the Mixed Pond which will improve light conditions and provide improved conditions for the existing over mature hawthorn.

Hedgerows

15. Hedge restoration is planned for the Heath Extension and also for the section running north along the path from the Lido. These works need to be carried out either side of the bird nesting season and follow the guidance provided from the 2013 Hedgerow Survey.

Grassland management

16. There will be a focus on completing all the smaller plots not cut last year due to Ponds Project related work particularly the Tumulus Field and Pryor's Field. These areas had to be prioritised last year and are now recovering well. With the resurfacing completed at Kenwood Yard there will be less disruption this summer and bale collections can be made from the yard area as in previous years.

Compartment works

17. Coppicing is planned for the Fleet Stream which is part of the prescriptions outlined in the 2014 Fleet Stream Compartment Management Plan. This will improve light levels and encourage floristic diversity. There will also be coppicing carried out along the butterfly transect to also improve habitat and encourage species diversity.
18. The West Heath valley mire has been identified as a priority for 2018, with clearance around the seep point to expand the mire vegetation.

Rural Infrastructure maintenance

19. The shared-use pathways condition survey carried out during the summer of 2017 will generate a priority list of surface repairs which will commence in 2018. Part of the consultation process involves a decision on the final wearing course surface and this will then be used across the site.

Heath Hands

20. Whitestone Garden and the Old Orchard Garden will once again be focuses for Heath Hands volunteer sessions, along with the scheduled activities across the Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and also the ecological monitoring programme. There will be more surveying of hedgehogs in 2018 as part of the ongoing programme led by The London Zoo, and also bat surveying on the Pond chains.
21. Heath Hands will continue to work closely with The Leisure & Events Manager to promote and help with the running of a number of events on the Heath in 2018, which will include the Give it a Go Day on the 15 July 2018. In addition Heath Hands will host a special Music volunteering day on the 1 July 2018 at the Parliament Hill Bandstand.

22. Heath Hands also play an important role in the delivery of Wild about Hampstead Heath (visitor engagement), Community Heath (supporting individuals and groups with extra support needs) and Phoenix Futures (substance misuse recovery) projects.

Ecological Work

23. There will be an intensification of ecological monitoring in 2018/19 focusing on both habitat and species. The heathland sites will be surveyed for species composition and regeneration. As mentioned above, there will be a larger more extensive hedgehog survey using cameras and also more bats surveying on both the Highgate and Hampstead chain of ponds.
24. The monitoring and surveying of the areas impacted by the Ponds Project works is increasingly important as a more detailed base line emerges of what is hoped will be a steady increase in ecological and conservation value following the carefully planned landscape improvements following the completion of the engineering work.

Heath Ranger Team

25. The Heath Ranger Team like the Tree Team has a new AWP which schedules all their core duties according to area. They already have a number of conservation operations to carry out and this work is also included in the work programme.
26. Alongside the Heath Rangers cyclical work they also have a number of projects in 2018/19 including landscape improvements at South End Green, cycle parking spaces at the Mixed Pond, sponsored benches and the relocation of the bird feeding platform at Hampstead Number 1 Pond. It is hoped the later project will reduce the risk of swans coming into conflict with dogs as the current feeding platform is located next to the dog swim area.

Waste and Recycling

27. A waste and recycling review is planned for 2018/19, as set out in the Divisional Plan waste project (ref 2.2) to achieve improved recycling outcomes and reduce overall costs by 20% by 2021. The project will focus on three key areas; a public awareness campaign to make the public aware of the challenges and to reduce the costs associated with waste and recycling. There will also be options appraisal exercise carried out to look at changing our existing operational arrangements for waste collection, and lastly there will be a detailed look at how to reduce the cost and environmental impact of providing this service.

Parliament Hill and Golder's Hill Park

28. The Gardening and Sports and Recreation Keeping Teams have a work programme and cyclical general maintenance for the formal areas at Parliament Hill Fields, Golders Hill Park, Heath Extension Sports Areas, The Hill Garden & Pergola and Keats House Garden.
29. Collecting litter, cleaning toilets, managing filming and providing a public interface are important roles for the Teams who work closely with the Heath's Ranger Team.
30. Key projects for 2018 include refurbishment of the donkey enclosure and paddock at the Golders Hill Park Zoo, a feasibility study in relation to relocation

of the Golders Hill Park waste and the recycling area and landscape improvements to the Nassingdon Road entrance at Parliament Hill.

Operational Team

31. The Operational Service Team have a cyclical work programme for maintaining fleet, management of the general stores, overseeing health & safety and management of the built assets in conjunction with the City Surveyors Department. The major project for the Operations Team is the phased replacement of the road going fleet in line with the requirements of the newly proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone. The Superintendent's objective is to move towards electric or hybrid vehicles except where towing or off road capability will necessitate Euro 6 diesel engines.

Leisure & Events

32. Listed building consent has been granted to the Parliament Hill Lido for the installation of roof mounted solar Panels. Work is scheduled to begin in February with a completion by end of March 2018. In conjunction with this work the filtration pumps will have variable speed systems fitted to reduce their energy consumption. Swimming will not be disrupted as a result of the works although there may be temporary arrangements in relation to access to the changing room accommodation.
33. A new barrier system will be put in place at the Lido to assist with safe and efficient access on busy summer days during 2018. In addition, external agency stewards to help with information sharing and crowd control will be employed.
34. A review of signage on the Heath has taken place and the task of replacing the Heath's main signs (and maps) will be phased during 2018 starting with the D3 entrance signs. In addition signage at the Swimming Ponds will be improved.
35. The Communications Officer is currently designing, collating and procuring the new 2018 annual Heath events diary, which will be available from 1 April 2018.

Constabulary

36. The Hampstead Heath Constabulary will continue to deliver the Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan 2015 – 2018. Through the delivery of this plan the role of the Constabulary will be to:
 - Protect and ensure the safety of persons visiting Hampstead Heath
 - Protect and ensure the safety of persons that work within Hampstead Heath
 - Work with other Departments and agencies both internal and external to achieve the above objectives.
37. Through engagement the Constabulary Team will continue to focus its efforts on a number of priority areas, these are:
 - Engagement
 - Dog Control
 - Cycling
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
38. A number of projects will be delivered by the Constabulary Team in 2018/19 through the AWP; these projects will ensure that the Division delivers a relevant security function. The projects planned in 2018/19 are the introduction of Body Worn Video Cameras and Vehicle CCTV; the installation of rising bollards at

key entrances; preparation for the introduction of the Open Spaces Bill; review of the Divisional Radio System and a scoping exercise for the introduction of a remote reporting module / tablet which will allow Constables to record incidents and occurrences away from a fixed office.

Support Services

39. Support Services provide the conduit between a range of City Corporate functions and the Division, for example Finance, Human Resources and Business Planning.
40. The overview for sound financial management and compliance, along with a wide range of day to day support for staff is at the heart of this Team's work, along with providing information to visitors, neighbours and Stakeholders.
41. The priorities for 2018/19 include the on-going implementation of the Bench Dedication and Sponsorship Scheme, in order to ensure that the service operates effectively and generates income in order to support the services provided by the Division. Co-ordination of the roll out of Windows 10 across the Division to provide improved flexibility with agile working for colleagues and rollout of the Division's out-of-hours call-out-rota, to ensure effective cover at all times.

Open Spaces Learning Team

42. The Learning Team will continue to provide a school service and play service on Hampstead Heath, as well as targeted projects to engage unemployed young people, children under five and their parents/carers, and volunteers from the local community.

Schools Service

43. The schools service will provide a variety of hands-on learning programmes which utilise the rich and unique resources of the Heath to enable students to develop their knowledge and skills, build confidence and connect with Open Spaces. The schools programmes support the delivery of National Curriculum objectives and are designed around our Open Spaces principles for school engagement, which have been developed to promote learning through active engagement with our unique spaces.
44. A new secondary school programme which will provide more flexibility for secondary schools through the development of a themed menu of activities which they can access via our website will be developed. Teachers will be able to combine these activities to create their own structured days on the Heath, and/or incorporate them within schemes of work, linking the classroom, the Heath and the wider world. Themes will include environmental change, ecosystems, working scientifically and careers.

Play Service

45. The play service provides a year-round service at the Peggy Jay Centre for under-fives and their carers, and an open access play service at the Clubhouse for children aged up to 16 from April to October. Play is essential for children's wellbeing and provides many benefits including personal, social, emotional, creative and physical development. The facilities will provide opportunities for children to play and engage in activities that they have freely chosen, including a programme of activities such as den building, muddy kitchen and obstacle courses, and indoor activities such as leaf printing and mask making. A

Specialist Design Team will be has been appointed to redevelop the outdoor play areas for both sites, providing accessible play facilities which facilitate natural play and connection to the Heath.

Green Talent

46. Opportunities will be provided for unemployed young people or those at risk of becoming NEET (*a young person who is no longer in the education system and who is not working or being trained for work*), near Hampstead Heath to explore careers in the environmental and green spaces sector. The Learning Team will work with pupil referral units to engage students in a programme of bespoke activities where they can learn and develop practical skills and positive resilience strategies, which will promote positive mental health, personal and social development.

Playing Wild

47. A set of Hampstead Heath play trails for children under-five and their families/carers will be created. The play trails will enable children to explore the Heath and connect with it through a range of activities which engage the senses, curiosity and imagination. The activities will promote interaction within the families and encourage them to explore, learn and play together.
48. The Team will develop and deliver training and support for early years practitioners to use the Heath to enable learning through play for children under five.

Volunteers

49. Volunteers from the local communities will be recruited. Volunteers will be able to increase their wellbeing and confidence while giving their time, energy and skill to supporting learning activities on Hampstead Heath.

Consultation

50. The AWP will be submitted to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in February 2018 and implementation will commence 1 April 2018. The Superintendent will prepare an annual report in June each year to monitor progress and review in line with priorities and resources.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

51. The preparation and implementation of an AWP is in accordance with the Management Framework for the Division which was endorsed by Committee in November 2016 as part of the recommendations from a review of the Hampstead Heath 2007 Management Plan (2017 Plan). It is consistent with the commitment set out in Chapter 8 Implementation and Prioritisation of the 2007 Plan and will be applied consistently across all sites. The AWP is in accordance with the Open Spaces Business Plan and the Corporate Plan.

Implications

52. The costs of implementing this comprehensive AWP are met primarily through the Superintendent's Local Risk Budget which requires effective prioritisation of resources and funding. Wherever possible, opportunities will be sought for external funding and working with partners to support these essential works.

Conclusion

53. The AWP is a significant milestone in implementing the new Divisional Management Framework. It sets out cyclical works across all service areas and

is integral to effectively prioritising programmes and works for resource allocation.

54. The AWP establishes our commitments for the year and the Superintendent welcomes Members' comments and feedback.

Appendices - Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Work Programme 2018/19

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