

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	21 February 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Superintendent's Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

### Summary

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

### Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members agree the proposed policy on cycling as set out in paragraph 4.
- Members agree that the request to add a path north to south be deferred, and considered as part of the mid-term review of the 2018 Management Plan in 2023/24.
- Members agree the City Surveyors Department negotiate a new lease for the Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café with Hoxton Beach, to expire in January 2021.
- Members consider the proposal made by the Café Campaign Team outlined in paragraphs 13-14.

### Main Report

#### Shared-Use path surfacing

1. In October 2017 the Chairman & Deputy Chairman, Superintendent and the Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager met with representatives from Heath for Feet, the Camden Cycle Campaign, Sustrans and representatives from the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a draft report prepared by Land Use Consultants, which outlines surfacing options for the existing shared-use paths on the Heath. At the meeting, in addition to discussing surfacing, the group considered ways to improve the waymarking and signage on the existing shared-use paths and strategies to promote responsible cycling on the Heath.

2. The Superintendent is awaiting further feedback before a final copy of the shared-use surfacing report is circulated to the representatives who met in October 2017 and Members of the Consultative Committee.

### **Petition to extend cycle lanes, north to south on Hampstead Heath, to promote accessibility to the Ladies' Pond**

3. On 21 December 2017 the Superintendent received a petition with 146 signatures.
4. The Essential Action (P6) and Aspirational Goal (A10) relating to Cycling in the 2007 Hampstead Heath Management Plan have been implemented. In line with recent discussions with Members, the current priority is to maintain the number of existing shared-use paths, address their condition and improve waymarking. The Superintendent seeks Members support in adopting this position as the current Policy, and proposes that this Policy will be reviewed as part of the mid-term review of the 2018 Management Plan in 2023/24.
5. Therefore, it is proposed that the request to add a path north to south be deferred, and considered as part of the mid-term review of the 2018 Management Plan in 2023/24.

### **Hampstead Heath Cafés**

6. On the 15 May 2017, the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee approved the recommendation of the Superintendent which was to negotiate three-year leases with the current incumbents at the Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park and Highgate Wood Cafés.

#### Parliament Hill & Golders Hill Park Café

7. The City Surveyor's Department have led on negotiations with the current incumbents at the Parliament Hill and Golders Hill Park Cafés. Although the negotiations have not yet concluded, they are nearing their final stages whereby the terms of the lease will be agreed with the incumbents, which will be three years in length, expiring in 2021.

#### Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café

8. In May 2017 Members agreed to award a lease for catering services at the Parliament Hill Fields Lido café to Hoxton Beach. The catering offer at the Lido has been extremely well received by users of the Lido and general Heath visitors. The café has stayed open throughout the winter season and continues to establish a loyal customer base.
9. The initial terms of the lease have now expired, and therefore, the Superintendent is seeking Members agreement for the City Surveyors Department to negotiate a new lease, based on the terms contained within the previous lease, with Hoxton Beach, which will expire in January 2021.

## **Café Working Party Update & Request for the Café Working Party to be represented on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

10. A meeting with the Café Working Party took place on 23 January 2018, following concerns raised by Members of the group with regards to the licence negotiations and the café Performance Indicators.
11. At the meeting, members of the Café Campaign Team requested that one of the Café Campaign Team be appointed as a Member on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, to ensure the appropriate balance between income and investment for the cafés is achieved, and specifically to represent the interests of cafe users.
12. Members will note from the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee minutes that Members of the Consultative Committee felt that there was adequate representation already provided by the four Members of the Consultative Committee who sit on the Café Working Party.
13. Members will note that the membership of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee is governed by Article 9 and Schedule 4 of The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989 (Appendix 1). The City may make appointments to the Consultative Committee in addition to the 20 Members described in Schedule 4, who represent particular specified interests. However, overall Membership needs to be kept to a manageable number.
14. When considering any potential change of membership, Members may wish to review the overall membership of the Consultative Committee, and take the opportunity to consider whether any groups of persons or communities are currently under-represented. If so, Members should consider whether the proposal from the Café Campaign Team meets either of these two criteria, namely (a) is there a demonstrable gap in membership and (b) if so, does a representative of the Café Campaign Group fill that gap?

## **Outdoor Gym – London Borough of Camden Grant**

15. The Leisure and Events Manager has received confirmation that a grant of £10,000 has been offered to update the outdoor gym equipment at the Parliament Hill trim-trail.

## **Planning**

16. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:-
  - The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P
  - The Wallace House
  - North Fairground Site, Vale of Health 2017/4346/
  - Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2017/5395/P
  - Orchard Trust proposed replacement of the existing boundary fence.

- Parliament Hill Lido Gospel Oak 2017/5886/P. Installation of roof-mounted solar panels onto the existing metal roof of Parliament Hill Lido Building, Granted 20/12/2017

## **Trees**

17. The Superintendent will provide an update on the recent storms (Eleanor, Fionn and Georgia).
18. As a result of these storms there were a number of closures at Golders Hill Park, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park, in compliance with the Division's Extreme Weather Event Protocol; which covers high winds, heavy snow and heavy rainfall.

## **Constabulary**

19. The Constabulary Manager and Sergeants attended a series of Metropolitan Police, Camden Borough, New Year's Eve Briefings along with other Stakeholders, including TfL, The Royal Parks and the London Borough of Camden to help plan for this annual occurrence.
20. The Division's Duty Manager declared a Trigger Event to cover the period of New Year's Eve, to take account of the substantial public gathering on Parliament Hill to coincide with New Year's Eve celebrations and the view of central London fireworks.
21. Five Constables and four Keepers were on duty to prevent anti-social behaviour and maintain public safety. It is estimated that in excess of 5,000 people were on the Heath between 11:00pm and 2:00am.
22. The public toilets remained open at Parliament Hill until 12:30am with staff available in the vicinity of Parliament Hill Staff Yard and close to the summit. Feedback received from the public was positive with a number complimenting the staff on their presence. This is the first year that Keepers have supported the Constabulary with the management of the crowd which gathered and it worked well with no serious incidents or occurrences reported.
23. A concerted effort by the Heath Rangers, Keepers and the Waste and Recycling Team meant that the rubbish left by New Year's Eve visitors was all cleared by 9am on New Year's Day.

## **Recent Prosecutions**

24. There have been three recent successful prosecutions. One relating to a dog walker who was aggressive and abusive towards a member of Heath staff, and two prosecutions relating to dogs being off lead.

### Pending Prosecutions

25. There are currently seven pending prosecutions, which relate to dogs (three), cycling (four).

### **City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme**

26. The Superintendent will provide an update on current projects at South End Green, the Mixed Pond, Parliament Hill Athletics Track & the Golders Hill Park ponds.

### **City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill**

27. The Bill had its last Commons stage on 10 October 2017. The Bill has recently completed Unopposed Bill Committee stage in the House of Lords. The Bill is expected to have its Third Reading shortly and, if this is completed successfully, the Bill will then receive Royal Assent.

### **Koi Herpesvirus (KHV)**

28. There was an outbreak of KHV at the Model Boating Pond in August 2017, necessitating the suspension of Angling on Hampstead Heath. Since 20 November 2017 Angling has been re-opened, during day light hours. Bio-security measures have been put in place at each pond and Anglers are required to dip their nets and equipment before and after fishing.
29. All the ponds will be subject to a minimum of two visual stock inspections conducted during summer 2018 when the water temperatures are conducive for expression of the KHV disease. The monitoring programme will start again if there is a re-occurrence of the KHV disease at any point during the control period (one year from November 2017).

### **Avian Influenza**

30. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

### **Swimming**

31. The Superintendent will provide an update on the swimming facilities.

### **Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Awards**

32. At the British Construction Industry Awards on Wednesday 11 October the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project received the Civil Engineering Project of the Year Award (£10M to £50M).
33. On 17 November 2017, it was announced that the Ponds Project had won a 2017 Green Flag Special Innovation award.

34. The Ponds Project is one of 7 projects to win at the 2017 Camden Design Awards.
35. The Ponds Project has been awarded in the Science Management and Stewardship Category at the Landscape Institute Awards, which took place 23 November 2017.
36. In total 6 awards have been won. There are 2 further award applications still to be determined.

### **Highgate Wood**

37. The Superintendent will provide a verbal update at this meeting on the status of the Highgate Wood Café.
38. The new 10-year Woodland Management Plan for Highgate Wood is nearing completion. The plan will focus on conservation of the oak and hornbeam structure, encouraging ecological diversification and tackling regeneration of the oaks. The challenge will be achieving this with increasing visitor numbers.
39. The Highgate Wood Community Heritage Day will be held on 2 September 2018.

### **Queen's Park**

40. Urban Leisure Group (ULG) were awarded a three-year lease for the Queen's Park Café. ULG are a local company to Queen's Park and commenced trading in the café on the 3 February 2018. Initial feedback on from users is positive with a refreshing and professional ambience in the café.
41. The Team are currently developing a Woodland Walk Management Plan, a draft will be presented the Queen's Park Consultative Group at their April meeting and this committee in May 2018.
42. An events programme for 2018 is being prepared, several dates have been confirmed with event organisers.
  - Open Garden / Open Studios – 17 June 2018
  - Shakespeare in the Squares – 23 June 2018
  - Queen's Park Book Festival 30 June 2018 – 1 July 2018
  - Nomad Cinema Screenings (provisional dates; 28 July, 25 August, 1 September and 8 September 2018)
  - Queen's Park Day – 16 September 2018
43. Urban Leisure Group, the tenant in the Queen's Park Cafe are keen to work with event organisers, to provide an enhanced catering offer.
44. Following evidence of movement in the flooring, the Play Area Toilets have been subject to investigation. A CCTV survey has been carried out and bore

holes dug to investigate the cause of the movement. Officers are waiting for the outcome of these surveys before consideration is given as to how to proceed.

45. Quotations received for the redevelopment of the Children's Sand Pit are being evaluated by Officers.
46. The redevelopment of the Children's Farm continues with Officers compiling detailed costs for improvements.
47. The Queen's Park Tennis Courts are scheduled to resurfaced in 2018/2019. The City Surveyor's Department are currently procuring a contractor to carry out the resurfacing of the courts. These works have been scheduled to take place in April 2018 after the Easter break. The court will be repainted a few months after the tarmacadam surface has been laid, allowing the courts time to cure.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Article 9 and Schedule 4 of The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989 + Current Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Membership

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