



# Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (Supplementary Agenda)

**Date:** WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023  
**Time:** 4.00 pm  
**Venue:** COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

## Part 1 - Public Agenda

### 6. MINUTES

- b) Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Pages 3 - 6)

To note the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 April 2023.

### 14. HIGHGATE WOOD CONSULTATIVE GROUP ACTION POINTS

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

**For Information**  
(Pages 7 - 10)

### 15. QUEEN'S PARK CONSULTATIVE GROUP ACTION POINTS

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

**For Information**  
(Pages 11 - 14)

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## HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 17 April 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at The Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood Place, NW5 1LB on Monday, 17 April 2023 at 5.30 pm

### Present

#### Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)  
Nick Bradfield  
John Foley  
Merlin Fox  
Colin Gregory  
Michael Hammerson  
Dr Gaye Henson  
Helen Payne  
Susan Rose  
Richard Sumray  
Jeff Waage

#### Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Declan Gallagher	- Natural Environment Department
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Department
Paul Maskell	- Natural Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department

### 1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

### 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

### 3. MINUTES

#### 3.1 Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 16 January 2023

**RESOLVED** – That, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023 be agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- The venue of the meeting be changed to The Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood Place, NW5 1LB

- Under Any Other Business, it was noted that discussion had been raised in relation to professional dog walking licenses due to a concern about the number of dogs being walked.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

- Members requested an update on the Kenwood Master Plan. A Member (Friends of Kenwood), noted that consultation had now ended however, the plan was in its second draft form. The Member requested that should other Members of the Committee have any questions to email in so that questions could be taken forward to the correct people. It was noted that Friends of Kenwood had provided significant financial support to the Master Plan.
- Members requested that an update on professional dog walking licences be included and picked up as part of the Director's Update.

### **3.2 Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

**RESOLVED** – That, the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee be noted.

## **4. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since January 2023.

In response to a question raised by a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association), the Assistant Director noted that consideration into a working group to review the management strategy had been suggested by the Consultative Committee and should Members like to part of this working group, they were asked to inform the Assistant Director.

### **Projects Update**

In relation to the Ponds Improvement Works, Members were informed that consultation with an ecologist had taken place to ensure that there were no adverse impacts.

The Assistant Director noted that the implementation of the cricket improvement work is going through the planning phase. The Assistant Director agreed to send a summary link to Members when it becomes available.

### **Café Tendering**

The Assistant Director informed Members that the Natural Environment Division had worked closely with City Surveyor's in engaging an expert consultant to help in the marketing of the café's. It was noted that a marketing strategy would be presented as a report to a future meeting.

### **Good News**

The Assistant Director noted that that a dashboard would be populated every month to update Members on Crime and Disorder issues. It was agreed that this would be shared with the Committee in the future.

In response to a question raised by a Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee), Officers noted that wild swimming was now very popular and a programme of works on grass restoration were ongoing and the team would be putting further efforts into solving these issues.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

5. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The Committee received a report of draft action points of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum.

Members were informed that a bid is being developed for numerous multi use game areas within Camden with the aim to encouraging access for priority groups. Bid submission will be between October - December 2023 with feedback on funding early 2024.

A high level sport strategy for the Natural environment, including Hampstead Heath, is in preparation and the committee was informed on the purpose and the structure of the strategy.

6. **HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning the high-level business plan 2023/24 for the Natural Environment Division of the Environment Department.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBER OF THE LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY TO THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appoint of a Member to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee support that Liz Andrew, nominated by the London Natural History Society, be appointed as a Member of the Consultative Committee in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

A question was raised on the following:

- A question was raised about the boarded-up house on the southeast entrance to the Heath, next to William Ellis School. The Assistant Director noted that the house has suffered severe subsidence and was currently not habitable. It was noted a claim had been made to the insurance company. However, the amount of money to be received

would most likely not be enough to replace the damage. As a result, options are being considered, including its reuse or even demolition. Further meetings with insurance and surveyors are planned. The Chair welcomed the opportunity for further discussion on the use of this building which is located at an important entrance point to the Heath.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 19 JUNE 2023**

**The meeting ended at 7.46 pm**

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Chairman

**Contact Officer: Blair Stringman**  
**Blair.Stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

## HIGHGATE WOOD CONSULATIVE GROUP

Wednesday, 19 April 2023, 1pm.

Heathfield House, 432 Archway Road, N6 4JH / Ms Teams

### Members:

William Upton KC	- Chair, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Jason Groves	- Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Cllr Pippa Connor	- London Borough of Haringey
Lucy Roots	- Friends of Queen's Wood
Stephanie Beer	- Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association
Michael Hammerson	- Highgate Society
Bob Hare	- Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee

### Officers:

Stefania Horne	- Assistant Director, Natural Environment (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, Keats House & West Ham Park)
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager
Kate Radusin	- PA to the Assistant Director

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Scott Emery, Therese Grey and Laura Dekker.

### 2. Assistant Directors Update

JM noted that notice board replacements is ongoing. Priority would be given to the entrance boards in greatest need of repair. Works to enclose the new conservation were completed during the autumn and Ecological monitoring would commence this year. Staff have noted increased bird activity, including new species not previously sighted in this area. Staff undertake annual inspection of bat boxes.

A wider discussion around surveying opportunities took place. It was noted that there may be specialisms held by local users of the Wood and Stakeholders which may off opportunities if funding was available. JM noted the soil survey which was undertaken last year, along with a funded vegetation survey being undertaken at the Heath.

The Roman Kiln project was discussed on the walk. Funding has been secured from the NHLF. Works need to be undertaken to the building along with repairs to the roof. A survey will be undertaken to confirm if the current allocation of funding from the project is sufficient. The Roman Kiln Project Board will continue to progress this matter.

Green Flag judging will take place on site shortly, with results expected during the summer. The Highgate Wood Conservation Management Plan will be renewed for 2023-2033 as a high-level plan, similar to the current Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2028-2028. Climate change will be embedded in the new Strategy. Officers will work on a draft plan, which will then come to the HWCG as part of the sign off process.

SH working with colleagues in the Surveyors Department to review the leases for all cafés. A consultant has been appointed to undertake a marketing review of the needs of each café.

SH is it noted that the different sites may have different needs from a café offer and there will need to be balance between commercial return and investment into the café building.

It is likely that the public toilets at HW would not be linked to the new café, due to their location. This would be considered on a case by case basis at each site.

New tree management software (Tree Plotter) has been launched, and will be used for inspections.

The Extreme Weather protocol for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park and West Ham Park is being reviewed, considering closing the woods with winds above 35mph. Officers will consider the likely impacts of the revised arrangements and share information with Members.

SH outlined the HW specific projects for 2023-24 which are set out in appendix 1.

Proposed improvements to the cricket square were discussed, following an update on the walk. Funding has been received to install an artificial cricket strip on the western side. Officers are in communication with Haringey Council in relation to the planning process. DOB noted that there are currently 9 strips on the square, and it is proposed to add an addition 10<sup>th</sup> strip. SH set out that the additional strip would hopefully allow more children to learn and participate in the sport.

The condition of the existing nets, which are muddy, was raised as an issued by Councillor Connor. Dogs and dog mess may also be an issue. Councillor Connor asked for the justifications of the cricket improvements and why Highgate woods was chosen. SH explained that an analysis of provision was carried out and that further information will be circulated. There is a possible conflict with the football provision and a meeting with the Football foundation will be arranged. SH explained to the committee that a wider sport strategy is in preparation for the Natural environment and this will include highgate woods as well as the other open spaces.

Members noted the new wildflower meadow had been created, which would help to off-set any impact.

JM noted the current cap on the number of Forest Schools would be maintained.

### **3. Questions & AOB**

SH updated Members in relation to the commission of visitor data for the Wood (and other open spaces) to provide a better understanding of the usage.

The 2023 Heritage day will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. A programme of Staff led walks are available, and ticket can be booked via Eventbrite.

### **4. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be circulated via email.





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## QUEEN'S PARK CONSULATIVE GROUP

Monday, 24 April 2023, 1pm.

Queen's Park Meeting Room / Ms Teams

### Members:

William Upton KC	- Chair, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Alethea Silk	- Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
CLlr Neil Nerva	- London Borough of Brent
CLlr Eleanor Southwood	- London Borough of Brent
Flavia Rittner	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Richard Brindley	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Robin Sharp	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Clare Gillan	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Vicky Zentner	- Kensal Rise Residents Association
Ruby Sayed	- COL Member

### Officers:

Stefania Horne	- Assistant Director, Natural Environment (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, Keats House & West Ham Park)
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services, Queen's Park & West Ham Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager
Paul Brown	- Team Leader, Queen's Park
Kate Radusin	- PA to the Assistant Director

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Stephen Crabb and John Blandy.

### 2. Assistant Directors Update

A tendering exercise for the Playground received no returns within the project budget. A second tendering exercise is on-going with responses expected by mid-May. A final concept drawing was shared with Members.

ACTION – COL to maintain contact with LB Brent and QPARA.

Thanks were given to CG for the support given to the project.

SH confirmed repairs had been carried out in the playground and at the paddling pool, which will open in late May.

The methodology for the engagement is being scoped. Members of the QPCG will be kept informed as the process progresses.

A wider discussion around the Woodland Walk took place. An engagement on the future of the Woodland Walk would be undertaken as part of a wider Vision engagement that will also capture the development of the paddling pool as a splash park and other matters for users. A Consultant has been appointed to support the engagement. Feedback will be costed and formed into a wider vision, which can guide future fundraising.

Councillor Nerva noted the importance of managing expectations, in terms of what can be achieved and time frames. Sustainability should also be a key theme. Many people travel to use the Park, and their views also need to be captured as part of the engagement. We also need to consider those who do not currently use the Park.

An update will be provided at the next QPCG, as this will give time to digest the feedback from the engagement.

JM provided an overview of works within the Woodland Walk which had recently been undertaken by staff, including hedge laying. We are currently in the bird nesting season, which is restricting further works. The butterfly meadow has also been progressed. Engagement with users is needed before further works are implemented at the Woodland Walk, as we need feedback from users who may be impacted, such as the Pitch & Putt.

SH working with colleagues in the Surveyors Department to review the leases for all cafés. A consultant has been appointed to undertake a marketing review of the needs of each café. Some of the 2016 concepts have not changed, such as value for money and quality of the offer. WU noted that this is now the option to provide longer leases, which was not possible the last time the cafés were tendered.

The 2023 Queen's Park day will combine with QPARA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Officers will continue to work with QPARA to progress the event.

PB confirmed the Shakespeare in the Park performance would be Twelfth Night.

A discussion took place regarding summer 2023 children's entertainment. SH confirmed there is no budget and that sponsorship opportunities and alternative solutions need to be explored. SH would engage with the COL Learning Team to see what support they can give on site. Councillor Nerva suggested that local schools could be approached to see if they would like to put on shows at the Bandstand.

Members of QPARA asked if it was possible to see the resources allocated for Queens park. SH indicated that these figures are public through the Charity Commission web pages.

Judging for the London In Bloom and Green Flag awards would be taking place soon, with results expected during the summer.

SH is working with colleagues to progress Gift Aid and this would be launched later in 2023.

### **3. Questions & AOB**

FR requested for meeting action points to be circulated as soon as possible following meetings.

SH clarified in relation to Appendix 1 (2023/24 work plan) that external funding opportunities were being considered to support the Sports Strategy

Councillor Nerva noted current funding opportunities linked to Go London (Major of London) and Brent Council which the QP Charity could apply for.

SH user visitor data is being procured. An update will be provided at the next QPCG meeting.

VZ asked if the installation of swift nesting boxes could be considered as a project for the coming year, as Swifts are in decline.

**4. Date of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be circulated via email.

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