



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 6 JULY 2015

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: PARLIAMENT HILL CONFERENCE ROOM, PARLIAMENT HILL STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS, HAMPSTEAD HEATH, NW5 1QR

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)	Stewart Purvis (Vale of Health Society)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)	Harunur Rashid (Bangladesh Social Forum)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)	Steve Ripley (Hampstead & District Ramblers' Association)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)	Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Hunt (South End Green Association)	Richard Sumray (London Council of Sport and Recreation)
Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)	Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust)	David Walton (Representative of Clubs using the Heath)
Susan Nettleton (Heath Hands)	John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)	
Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	

Enquiries: David Arnold
David.Arnold@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Dinner will be served in the Parliament Hill Café at 9PM

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 9 March 2015.
For Decision
(Pages 1 - 16)
4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**
To receive the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 11 May 2015.
For Information
(Pages 17 - 22)
5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 23 - 30)
6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 31 - 46)
7. **PONDS PROJECT EDUCATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 47 - 54)
8. **REPTILES ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH - AN UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 55 - 64)
9. **PARLIAMENT HILL VIEWPOINT INTERPRETATION**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 65 - 78)
10. **OUTDOOR GYM LOCATION PROPOSAL**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 79 - 126)

11. **OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2015-18 SUMMARY**

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Information
(Pages 127 - 166)

12. **QUESTIONS**

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

14. **TODATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting to be held on Monday 9 November 2015.

For Information

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE **Monday, 9 March 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 9 March 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)
Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust)
Susan Nettleton (Heath Hands)
Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Stewart Purvis (Vale of Health Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council of Sport and Recreation)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Jeremy Wright (Heath and Hampstead Society)

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	Town Clerk's Department
Nigel Lefton	Director of Remembrancer's Affairs
Sam Cook	Parliamentary Assistant, Remembrancer's Department
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	Queen's Park and Constabulary Manager
Declan Gallagher	Operational Services Manager
Meg Game	Hampstead Heath Ecologist
Paul Maskell	Leisure and Event's Manager
Jonathan Meares	Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager
Alison Hurley	Assistant Director, City Surveyor's Department
Sunil Singh	Senior Building Surveyor, City Surveyor's Department
Paul Monaghan	Assistant Director, Department of the Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Xohan Duran (Representative of Disabled Users on the Heath) Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society) John Hunt

(South End Green Association) and David Walton (Representative of Clubs using the Heath). The Town Clerk noted that John Hunt would be represented at the meeting by John Etheridge. The Chairman welcomed Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust) to her first meeting.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 November 2014 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Hampstead Rugby Club Request for a Third Rugby Pitch

The Chairman reported that the request for a third pitch had been approved by the Hampstead Heath Management Committee at its meeting on 24 November 2014. Simon Taylor updated the committee that the opening date of the new pitch was planned for 19 September 2015, around the time of the Rugby World Cup.

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

Richard Sumray updated members on issues discussed at the February 2015 Sports Advisory Forum. He highlighted three issues in particular, namely the forum's concern at the water loss at the Lido, potential habitat issues posed by the Mid-Summer Trail Run, and the support of the Forum for the establishment of a Green Gym on the Heath.

The Chairman noted that the Green Gym proposal was outlined in greater detail within the agenda pack. The Superintendent went on to explain that the proposal had been raised by the London Borough of Camden's Head of Sport and Physical Activity, and the views of the Consultative Committee were now sought. He noted that the eventual location of the gym would be dependent on demographic work to be undertaken by Camden, and moreover the gym would not be aimed at serious gym users but instead persons to whom greater health and wellbeing had been recommended by their local doctors.

Jeremy Wright noted that he was supportive of the proposal in principle but concerned over where the gym would be located. It should not be located in Duke's Field or the space around the pentanque area where it would likely affect the recently planted orchard and create an area vulnerable to erosion. He understood that the gym equipment would require hard paving, therefore he recommended the gym be sited near the Trim-Trail, the Lido, or in the corner of the cricket field behind the old garage.

Richard Sumray noted his support for the proposal due to its health and wellbeing benefits. He suggested that the gym would need to be located somewhere where it could be seen and readily accessible. He added that he would like to see similar proposals for Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension. The Chairman noted that this was more a matter for the new Barnet Park Champion.

Simon Taylor noted that a Trim-Trail location made sense given that it would complement both the playground and the athletics track.

Susan Rose noted that she considered the proposal potentially unsightly, and that it would detract from the natural aspect of the Heath. Mary Port agreed, noting that siting the gym would be crucial – it should not be near a main entrance but instead on the Trim-Trail or near the Lido.

Colin Gregory added his support for the health and wellbeing benefit of a gym, and for its potential location on the Trim-Trail. He queried whether it would be sensible to look at other locations of outdoor gyms so a judgment on best-practice and ideal items of equipment could be made.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, Richard Sumray replied that no view had yet been taken on a Cross-Country event on the Heath Extension.

John Weston added that he would welcome a look to be taken at other gyms to establish what kit would be best. Richard Sumray noted that the company that operated the equipment was experienced and able to make a judgment on what equipment to operate on the Heath.

In response to a question from Mary Port, the Chairman replied that the London Borough of Camden would be responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the equipment for the first three years. The Superintendent undertook to convey the views of the Consultative Committee to the London Borough of Camden.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Superintendent provided an update on recent activity and issues affecting the Heath.

Savings

By the 2017/18 Financial Year, the City of London Corporation's Open Spaces Department would be required to find £2.2m of savings. A more detailed paper on proposed savings would be submitted to the Consultative Committee at its July 2015 meeting. To inform the decision to be made on savings, seven themes were being developed to help prioritise the work undertaken by the Open Spaces Department. These included a *Learning Programme* that would review the education 'offer' of the Open Spaces, looking at outcomes around education and play activities. This programme would include an application to The City Bridge Trust. The review would affect several activities and services across North London Open Spaces, such as the One O'Clock Club, Golders Hill Park Zoo and Queen's Park Children's Farm, and the Heath Education Centre.

A *Sports Programme* would be a similar piece of work that sought to evaluate the 'offer' provided across North London Open Spaces, inherent in which was an exercise to gather baseline information on current services and performance, including customer service surveys.

A *Various Powers Bill* would be submitted to Parliament seeking changes to legislation governing Open Spaces to give clarity and flexibility to management of Open Spaces, enabling more efficient and effective services. The Superintendent noted the proposed Bill was a substantive item on the agenda.

Greater effort would be made across City Corporation Open Spaces to *promote services*, to raise awareness of the range of services provided, their cost, and any opportunities for income generation.

Savings would be sought through greater *energy efficiency* in departmental business and management plans, in order to reduce utility consumption, promote renewable energy and, through a linked theme reduce fuel consumption.

Linked to the energy efficiency savings theme was a *fleet and equipment review* to establish how the existing fleet resources of the Open Spaces Department could be better utilised.

Lastly, work was being done on *wayleaves*, to introduce a more regular and structured approach to the review and management of wayleave agreements, to ensure the cost of managing wayleaves was reflected fairly in the charges levied for their introduction. The proposed approach would first focus on motorgates, then handgates, and would conclude with a review of service agreements.

In response to a question from Michael Hammerson, the Superintendent confirmed that the required savings were £2.2m by 2017/18, which equated to 14% of the Open Spaces Department's budget.

Property – Lido Café and Boundary Wall

The Additional Works Programme works to the Lido Café were scheduled for completion during the first week of May. The bricks for the parapet wall were in poor condition and would therefore be replaced using salvaged bricks taken from the collapsed boundary wall. This in turn would affect the completion date for the boundary wall. Appropriate replacement bricks for the boundary wall would be discussed with Heritage Officers from the London Borough of Camden.

Property – Lido Pool

Divers would be employed to examine the lining of the Lido pool.

Property – Golders Hill Park Toilets

The Golders Hill Park toilets had been operating effectively since July 2014 thanks to new macerators and a revised maintenance programme.

Property – Parliament Hill Café Planters

Work on replacement planters had commenced in early March 2015 and was due to be completed by 13 March.

Property – Upcoming Works

The Golders Hill Park Stumpery recirculating pump would be installed during drier weather. Reed clearing and cleaning of granite paving was due to commence on Whitestone Pond. Ha-Ha railings and damaged railings near Whitestone Pond were due for repair in late March 2015. Remedial works to new tarmacking on the Parliament Hill tennis courts that had been laid in September 2014 would be undertaken during March, with a final surface coat applied in April. The Parliament Hill vehicle entrance barrier was due for replacement. The Parliament Hill Athletics Track floodlight control gear and lumieres would be replaced. The drinking fountains at Parliament Hill Playground and Staff Yard would be re-commissioned once the risk of freezing had passed, around late March or early April 2015.

Planning – Athlone House

The appeal inquiry had concluded on 27 February 2015, with a decision expected on 12 June. The City Corporation had instructed Counsel and engaged an expert witness to give evidence at the inquiry.

Planning – The Water House

The report of a City Corporation consultant on the applicant's Construction Management Plan (CMP) had been submitted to the London Borough of Camden on 13 February 2015, and the Camden Planning Officer had submitted the application for review by Camden Highways colleagues. The Superintendent added that he now understood the applicant had submitted a revised CMP. In response to a query from Michael Hammerson the Chairman agreed that the report on the CMP could be circulated to wider members of the Consultative Committee.

Planning – Parliament Hill School

The City Corporation had submitted a representation to the London Borough of Camden. The Superintendent reported that the application would be considered by Camden's Planning Committee on 12 March.

Weddings

Five weddings had been held at the Hill Garden and Pergola during 2014/15, with good feedback received. Deposits had been paid for a further sixteen weddings during 2015/16. A new handrail had been installed on the approach to the Hill Garden in February 2015. The Superintendent would be reporting on the impact of weddings on the site to the September 2015 meeting of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee.

In response to a suggestion from John Weston, the Superintendent agreed to investigate whether couples getting married at the Pergola wished to sponsor replacement beams which could either be engraved or given a commemorative plaque.

Staff

Recruitment to one of two current vacancies in the Hampstead Heath Constabulary had been completed. The Heath Assistant Operational Services Manager had been successful in her application to become West Ham Park

Manager. The Ponds Project and Management Support Officer had been successful in her application to become the Open Spaces Departmental Business Manager.

Team – Conservation and Ecology

Heath Ecologists had installed 9 bat boxes with a further 8 due for installation. The Conservation Team had been gorse coppicing on both Sandy Heath and West Heath, as well as having laid a hedge parallel to the path leading to the Lido. The Team had also been assisting Ponds Project Contractors in tree felling work by clearing chippings and moving timber from around the Stock Pond.

Team – Golders Hill Park

The Team had completed the redesign and landscaping of the Eagle Owl enclosure.

Team – Parliament Hill

The metal vehicle barrier posts at the Highgate Road entrance had been replaced with wooden posts to soften the appearance of the area.

Team – Tree Team

The Tree Team had installed Christmas trees and lights at Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park, and Queen's Park. The Team had also carried out partnership working with colleagues at Burnham Beeches to manage veteran beech pollards.

Swimming

The Lido hosted the Parliament Hill Icy Swim Hootenanny (PHISH) event on 17 January 2015, which with 200 participants had been a success. At the Men's Pond, the annual Christmas Day Swim had also been a success, with 150 persons taking part in four races, and with 200 spectators attending. A divers' inspection of the Men's Pond and Mixed Pond jetty had taken place on 6 March 2015, with a report on the structure's integrity due shortly.

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

The Superintendent noted two reports from the Constabulary featured on the agenda. He added that the Constabulary had responded to 145 incidents up until the end of February 2015, 22 of which related to cycling and 12 to dog control. First aid had been provided on 4 occasions. Sadly there had been an incident of suicide on the Heath, near the Mixed Pond, in early January, with Constabulary officers attending the scene to work with Metropolitan Police colleagues to cordon off the area. The Constabulary had taken delivery of new Airwave radios in February 2015 and had started using them as of early March 2015.

On the conclusion of the Superintendent's update, members discussed matters arising. In response to a question from Colin Gregory concerning the future of Golders Hill Park Zoo, the Superintendent replied that a Senior Zoo Keeper and Engagement Officer had been employed to improve the operation of the zoo. Work to date included improved presentation and interpretative boards. Further

work was being undertaken to develop the zoo 'offer' further to make it sustainable.

In response to a question from Susan Rose regarding the removal of a tree from Lime Avenue, the Conservation and Trees Manager replied that the tree in question had been subject to structural issues that required it to be removed. He added that the resulting gap would be replanted. In response to a comment by Michael Hammerson the Conservation and Trees Manager agreed to consider whether the replacement would be a lime or ok tree.

The Consultative Committee agreed to order business so that the reports of the City Surveyor were considered at that stage of the agenda.

6. PROVISIONAL ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Chairman introduced a report of the City Surveyor on the Additional Works Programme (AWP), noting that the works for 2015/16 had been fully funded. He added that whilst AWP projects had been fully funded for the past few years, this would not necessarily always be the case in future years. The Assistant Director added that the 2016/17 AWP proposals featured 99 projects on the Heath totalling £1.4m. These proposals would require the approval of the City Corporation's Corporate Asset Sub (Finance) Committee at its meeting in July 2015 before final approval granted by the City Corporation's Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee at the end of 2015. The 2016/17 tranche of works were planned for a three-year cycle, with 60% of the projects taking place in the first year.

The Chairman noted that he had received notice of a question from Dr Gaye Henson, who had submitted her apologies for the meeting. Dr Henson queried why £50,000 had been allocated to the paddling pool. This amount seemed unnecessarily high, more so given doubts over its long term future. The Assistant Director replied that the costs were indicative only, and the provision for the paddling pool was made in the absence of any firm decision on its future simply to ensure the capacity existed to ensure it could be brought up to standard if need be. Should a decision be made that meant the £50,000 was not needed, this could be reinvested in other AWP projects.

Colin Gregory noted that it was difficult for the Consultative Committee to give guidance over how to prioritise the proposed projects given there was little context with which to judge the relative importance of each project.

Jeremy Wright noted the proposed £250,000 budget for the resurfacing of the Parliament Hill Athletics Track, and queried when the track had been last resurfaced and at what cost. Richard Sumray further queried to what standard the track would be resurfaced. The Operational Services Manager replied that the track had been last resurfaced a decade ago at a similar cost, and that a track specialist would be employed to bring the track up to the required AAA standard.

7. HILL GARDEN PERGOLA

The Senior Building Surveyor introduced a report of the City Surveyor on the Hill Garden Pergola. He noted that the proposed work was mainly to address issues of damp and water damage. He added that the proposed budget of £200,000 would require an increase, likely to be achieved through the Additional Works Programme.

Michael Hammerson noted that the previous repair works to the Pergola had not weathered well. The Operational Services Manager agreed that the render had not been properly sealed and this issue was being addressed with the contractor. In response to a further question from Michael Hammerson, the Operational Services Manager agreed to investigate how long the original Hill Garden timbers had lasted. Colin Gregory added that it would be worthwhile establishing the opinion of relevant societies such as the Victorian Society, English Heritage and the Twentieth Century Society on how best to replace the pergola timbers giving consideration to conserving a number of the original timbers.

In response to a query from Ellin Stein, the Chairman replied that English Heritage was unlikely to co-fund repairs to the Pergola.

8. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE

The Superintendent updated the committee on recent activity undertaken as part of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. He noted that site clearance work had started during February 2015 and that felled timber had predominantly been removed from the site, but some had been kept *in situ* to prevent tractor damage to the ground surface. The timber was being used to create deadwood habitats, or was being milled.

He went on to note that he had met with the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group (PPSG) at the Stock Pond to hear their concerns at the felling of a group of trees on its south west corner. The PPSG had requested the decision be reviewed in favour of a box culvert which, whilst allowing five trees to be retained, would entail the construction of a visible concrete structure which would not be in keeping with the character of the pond or the Heath. The request had been submitted to the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Board which reviewed the pros and cons of each option and decided to continue with the original proposal of felling the trees to create a grass lined spillway to the west of the dam, and a decision letter had been issued to that effect.

The Superintendent went on to add that the Community Working Group (CWG), a forum established by the section 106 agreement, had met for the first time on 23 February, and that a member of the Highgate Society was now a CWG member. The CWG would meet monthly, with the next meeting being held on 23 March. Going forward it was likely Monday evening meetings would be avoided as this clashed with Camden Council meetings that local ward Councillors were obliged to attend.

The Superintendent noted that the aim was to keep two ponds open at any one time during the project, which would entail intensive use of the Mixed pond

during the winter. The swimming opening times of the ponds had been consolidated from 24 separate times down to 7, which had increased swimming time available by five hours.

The Superintendent added that the construction contractor BAM Nuttall had begun constructing its work base within the Kenwood Nursery Yard. He concluded by noting that a female swan on the Highgate chain of ponds had injured its leg and was being treated at an animal hospital for around a month. In the meantime the male swan was being monitored by staff for aggressive behaviour.

Jeremy Wright expressed surprise that the update report did not reference and summarise the judicial review that had taken place since the Consultative Committee last met.

In response to a query from Ellin Stein regarding the increase in vehicle traffic on the Heath during the construction phase, the Superintendent replied that there had been no change to the agreed CMP, and that stakeholders would be consulted on any changes when appropriate. In response to a suggestion from Mary Port that a banksman be employed, the Superintendent replied that vehicle movements would be subject to risk assessments and method statements. With the aim of restricting vehicle movements to between 1000-1500 during the day so as not to conflict with school times.

Ellin Stein commented that the felling of mature trees around the Stock Pond appeared to more than was planned, and had been the subject of a letter to the Ham & High last week. She asked whether there were any similar surprises in store during the course of the project. The Superintendent noted that the Chairman had replied to the Ham & High letter that Ellin Stein had referenced, and that the felling of the Stock Pond trees had been the subject of a discussion with the PPSG, and that there had been no subsequent change of plan. The PPSG had asked for a review of the decision to fell the trees. This review had taken place, and the Project Board had decided to proceed with the original plan to fell the trees to make way for a spillway.

Susan Rose commented that the level of brush clearance around the ponds was disconcerting. Their appearance now was too municipal and tidy. The Superintendent replied that this was a consequence of the preparation works and would help prevent any nesting birds from coming to harm when the construction phase began. Susan Rose added that she felt there had been too much clearance of brush around the Ladies' Pond, to which the Superintendent replied that the clearance work was necessary prelude to construction of the spillway.

9. OPEN SPACES LEGISLATION

The Director of the Remembrancer's Affairs introduced a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath on Open Spaces Legislation. He explained that the City Corporation proposed to submit a private Bill to Parliament in order to update the legislation that governed the City Corporation's Open Spaces. He noted that the varying characteristics of each

of the City's Open Spaces meant that some of the proposed amendments were more relevant to Open Spaces such as Epping Forest, than they were to Hampstead Heath.

He went on to add that the proposed changes focused on three main areas, namely the general management powers governing the Open Spaces; the ability to raise revenue, for example from persons using the Open Spaces for profit; and enhanced enforcement which, he noted already existed on the Heath, except for the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs). He concluded by noting that ideas and feedback from those present would be welcome so that this could be incorporated into the private Bill ahead of its November 2015 submission date.

Colin Gregory commented that the devil would be in the detail, and that the paper before the committee provided an outline of the proposals only. He queried to what extent the private Bill offered a single package of powers, and whether the three themes could be taken forward separately of one another. He felt that the theme of enhanced enforcement was the least controversial of the three, followed by revenue raising powers and powers of general management. He queried whether it would be more sensible to pursue greater enforcement powers by other means. The Director of Remembrancer's Affairs replied that the passage of a private Bill was a complex process, and that if some aspects proved too controversial they would be removed to allow passage of the Bill. He emphasized that none of the powers sought would conflict with the current obligation for the City of London Corporation to maintain the natural aspect of the Heath.

Richard Sumray commented that a key issue was how policy would develop out of each of the three proposals. He felt that the ability to raise revenue would prove problematic, and therefore the City Corporation should outline each area of revenue it was seeking to develop. He went on to note that the Metropolitan Police had long had the ability to issue FPNs and he personally was uncertain as to the efficacy of their impact. He concluded by noting that Dog Control Orders were not mentioned within the report, only dog walking.

Jeremy Wright felt that this was a significant paper, and that the Heath and Hampstead Society would be keen to comment on it in detail at the earliest opportunity. He felt that the public paper before the committee only hinted at the powers the City Corporation was seeking for itself, and that there must exist a more detailed rationale behind the move to seek amended powers. He concluded by noting that he would welcome the Consultative Committee being afforded the ability to comment further before the proposal was submitted to the City Corporation's decision-making committees. The Director of Remembrancer's Affairs emphasized that this was an informal consultation exercise to seek comments.

In response to a question from Jeremy Wright regarding the proposal to increase the leases offered on buildings within the Open Spaces, the Superintendent replied that no decision had yet been taken regarding a preferred period of time.

Michael Hammerson felt that the terminology within the report was too vague. Moreover he noted that infrastructure was often below ground thus not affecting the natural aspect of the Open Spaces – however he queried whether this actually affected local water tables and associated habitats.

Susan Nettleton expressed concern that the ability to raise revenue would lead to the ‘financialisation’ of the Open Spaces, and even if the intent was to make minimal use of revenue raising powers in the short term, this could change over the next decade or so if budget pressures remained. In contrast to Michael Hammerson, she also suggested that the City Corporation was at risk of boxing itself in with the language it was using in seeking amended powers.

The Parliamentary Assistant commented that the City Corporation had inherited the powers of the Greater London Council when it had taken over the management of the Heath in 1989. Powers relating to FPNs had arisen subsequently, and Dog Control Orders (DCOs) featured in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014). Hence the current desire to update existing legislation.

The Chairman concluded discussion by noting the issue of Open Spaces legislation would return to the Consultative Committee in July 2015. Richard Sumray requested that more detail on intended policies arising from amended powers be provided at that stage.

10. ANNUAL REPORT ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY FOR 2014

The Constabulary and Queen’s Park Manager introduced an annual report on the Hampstead Heath Constabulary for 2014. Richard Sumray commented that it was an excellent report and queried the reason why the byelaw offences had seen a significant increase in public nuisance, particularly dog control. The Constabulary Manager replied that this was largely due to improved reporting processes and the Dog Control Action Plan being introduced in March 2014.

On the issue of dog control, Mary Port commented that there were too many dogs and commercial dog walkers on the Heath and queried whether numbers could be restricted. The Constabulary Manager replied that he did not have any powers to restrict, but guidelines did exist for the management of dogs on the Heath. He added that the Constabulary would continue with the Dog Control Action Plan in order to educate persons walking dogs on the issues involved.

Jeremy Wright referred to a paragraph within the report which he felt had been phrased poorly. It read as if poor dog control on the Heath was being associated with commercial dog walkers. He felt the two issues were distinct: instead the two issues were persons exercising poor dog control with one or two dogs, as well as persons walking large groups of dogs. Susan Nettleton added that, in her experience, persons walking large groups of dogs were exercising more control of their dogs of late.

11. UPDATE REPORT ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH - PUBLIC SEX ENVIRONMENT OUTREACH WORK

The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager introduced an update report on public sex environment outreach work and noted that he was seeking the Consultative Committee's endorsement of continued partnership working with the Terrence Higgins Trust and associated stakeholders.

Colin Gregory commented that the report showed that the current arrangements and relationships between various parties were working well. Jeremy Wright noted that the report focused on the area of West Heath, but that public sex activity took place on other areas of the Heath as well.

The Constabulary Manager agreed that outreach work focused on West Heath, and that the Constabulary worked with their colleagues in the Keeper/Ranger Teams to identify other areas where public sex took place so that appropriate education could take place.

Jeremy Wright referred to a paragraph within the report which referred to 'users' and 'stakeholders' – he suggested that greater effort should be made to engage with wider users of the Heath to establish their views on the use of areas of the Heath for public sex.

In response to a question from Ellin Stein, the Constabulary Manager replied that a rough analysis of social media suggested that the number of persons using West Heath was on a downward trend. In response to Jeremy Wright's earlier observation, he emphasized that the Constabulary sought to engage with all users of the Heath.

RESOLVED, that the Consultative Committee support the continuation of partnership work on Hampstead Heath during 2015 by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, Terrence Higgins Trust, and other stakeholders and partners.

12. LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT THE NORTH END ROAD ENTRANCE INTO GOLDERS HILL PARK

The Consultative Committee considered and agreed the proposals outlined within a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding landscape improvement works at the North End Road Entrance into Golders Hill Park. The Chairman noted that members had visited the area in question during their recent walk across the Heath and Golders Hill Park.

13. LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT PARLIAMENT HILL (KITE HILL), HAMPSTEAD HEATH

The Operational Services Manager introduced a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath on landscape improvement works at Parliament Hill (Kite Hill). He noted that the summit of the hill was a popular venue for views over London and was therefore heavily compacted. He noted that the proposed response was not to use hard surfaces in order to cope with the areas heavy use, but instead seek to manage the wear of the site in such a way that was sensitive to the natural aspect of the Heath – this would be done using seven principles outlined within the report. He concluded by outlining proposed works,

including relocation of bins (and the provision of additional temporary bins at busy periods such as New Year Eve and Bonfire Night); decompaction of soil on a rolling basis; and updating and resiting of interpretation boards.

John Etheridge commented that he did not wish for the trees on the southern slope of Kite Hill to be cut back. Mary Port replied that, instead, she agreed with the views expressed on the Saturday Walk that the trees in question should be cut back and restricted in order to open up the vista across London. Jeremy Wright agreed, and suggested that the view opened up should be wider than that set out within the Strategic View adopted by the Greater London Authority.

In response to a question from Susan Nettleton regarding a new sign, the Superintendent replied that the current sign would be updated using a modern photograph accompanied with a QR code to be used by persons with smart phones. He added that the Heath and Hampstead Society had kindly agreed to fund the new signage.

Richard Sumray commented that he would not welcome additional benches on Kite Hill. The Operational Services Manager replied that no additional benches were proposed, simply relocation of the existing number.

In response to an observation from Mary Port regarding the installation of cobbles around the interpretative signage, the Operational Services Manager commented that this would be an improvement to the existing unsightly concrete base.

14. UPDATE ON TREE SAFETY MANAGEMENT AT THE NORTH LONDON OPEN SPACES DIVISION

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager introduced an update report on tree safety management at the North London Open Spaces Division. In response to a question from Colin Gregory, he replied that there were limited access implications arising from any outbreak of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) given that areas of current outbreaks tended to be municipal parks where the OPM could be easily monitored. However, he noted that if OPM were to appear within heavily wooded areas such as Highgate Wood it would be necessary to impose some access restrictions for public safety. He added that central government funding for the treatment and management of the outbreak was continuing but was becoming increasingly prioritised as the problem grew.

15. ELEVEN YEARS OF PLANT MONITORING ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH

The Hampstead Heath Ecologist introduced a report on monitoring activity undertaken primarily on native species which, although invaluable to wildlife, had the potential to spread to an unwanted degree. She noted that invasive species such as creeping thistle, ragwort, hogweed and bramble were all spreading on the Heath. She noted that whilst there was no legal requirement to manage the spread of such plants, a balance had to be struck between encouraging biodiversity and enabling public access. In response to a question from Colin Gregory on the potential use of herbicide, the Heath Ecologist replied that she was reluctant to utilize it too soon.

16. **QUESTIONS**

Restoration Work (Public and Sporting Events)

John Etheridge commented that he would welcome a restoration plan on the agenda each year detailing how the City Corporation restored the Heath to its natural aspect following major sporting and public events, such as Cross Country races. The Superintendent replied that he was happy to consider the request, and noted in the meantime that cross country routes were carefully selected in conjunction with the Conservation Team, and that restoration work was put in place immediately after each race and event. He noted that some restoration work was dependent on the ground conditions.

Planning Brief for Ivy House

Michael Hammerson queried whether a planning brief existed for Ivy House overlooking Golders Hill Park – the Superintendent agreed to contact the London Borough of Barnet.

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

Park Champions

The Chairman noted that the Hampstead Heath Management Committee had considered a recent report of the Heritage Lottery Fund on public open spaces, one recommendation of which was the adoption of Park Champions, typically local politicians who were in a position to act as advocates of their local open spaces. He added that the management committee felt it best the local ward Councillors among its membership were best places to fulfill such a role for the Heath, with similar appointments for Queen's Park and Highgate Wood from among their consultative committees.

Chairman's Last Meeting

The Chairman noted that this would be the last Consultative Committee meeting he would Chair - before he stood down as Chairman at the end of his three year term in April 2015. He thanked members of the consultative committee for their role as an essential source of advice and guidance.

Jeremy Wright

The Chairman then noted that it was also the last meeting of Jeremy Wright, who had represented the Heath and Hampstead Society on the Consultative Committee for many years. He thanked Mr Wright for his comments and guidance during that time and called on him to accept, on behalf of the Committee, a framed print of the nineteenth century Heath as a small token of the Committee's thanks.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on Monday 6 July at 7.00pm in the Parliament Hill Conference Room was noted.

The meeting ended at 9.06 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer:

Alistair MacLellan / alistair.maclellan@cityoflondon.gov.uk / 0207 332 1416

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11th May 2015, 6.30pm

<p><u>Presentation from the Bowls & Croquet Clubs</u></p> <p>Croquet Club update presentation by Sandy Naine -18 coaching sessions took place in Golders Hill in 2014. -There are currently 41 members at GPH and 22 at PH.</p> <p>The HH Communication Officer will offer guidance on using twitter and Facebook to promote the Club.</p> <p>Bowls report was read out to the forum by Paul Mennell - 3 long serving members lost this year. - 4 new members have signed up in 2015 and a further 2 to be enrolled. - Currently there are 26 members. Last year there were 24 members. -The club has introduced a reduced membership fee of £50 in the aim to recruit more members. -The Club helped 8 students to achieve 50% of their GCSE in Bowls through coaching sessions at PH.</p> <p>Please contact Derek Mennell or Sandy Naine with any ideas for promoting the Clubs.</p> <p><u>DISCUSSION POINTS</u></p> <p><u>SPORTS STRATEGY</u> DG gave an update on the City Sports Strategy and circulated the City of London Sport and Physical Activity strategy 2015 – 2020. DG drew Members attention to page 5 – point 28 Partnership working / Awareness / Behaviour Change being the three themes the strategy is built around.</p> <p>The Open Spaces Department Sports Programme Board has started to scope a Sports Framework and initial work has been completed charting the links between the Acts of Parliament the Open Spaces were acquired, the site Management Plans, Charitable Status and the relevant local authority Sport and Physical Activity strategies.</p> <p>Issues raised relating to the Sports Strategy: How do you match up what the local authorities are doing with what the Open Spaces are doing with various local amenities?</p> <p>This is a Sports Strategy for the Square Mile, and is not applicable to Hampstead Heath?</p> <p>Timescales: NR offered to communicate with the Superintendent on the LBC methodology for writing their Sports Strategy.</p> <p><u>OUT DOOR GYM</u></p> <p>NR Outlined the proposal and gave a progress update. Site Assessment will be completed late May 2015, Internal Procurement approval will be completed in late June 2015. Public users / stakeholder consultation will be completed late July 2015. The Procurement process will commence in August 2015, and Community Partner engagement will commence in September 2015. Site build will commence (in two stages) in October 2015, for a Spring 2016 launch.</p> <p>The Sports Advisory Forum are very supportive of the proposal.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>NR</p> <p>NR/BW</p>
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	<p>NR A business case on the shortlisted suggested site will be put forward to the City of London to maximise usage and impact. The site ground conditions security and drainage will be assessed. BW will work with NR to look at the pros and cons of the suggested site and produce some maps on locations.</p> <p>BW reported back from the HHCC. Members were supportive overall, but expressed concerns over the visual impact around Dukes Field and the petanque pitch location.</p> <p>BW will report to the Consultative Committee in July 2015</p>	<p>NR /BW</p> <p>BW</p>
4.	Swimming Issues	
	<p>New opening times for the Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Ponds were introduced in March and have been well received by users.</p> <p><u>Update on the Ladies' Pond</u> BW will feedback at next meeting on the refurbishment options for the Ladies' pond staff accommodation, changing rooms, and on a final design for the new platform.</p> <p><u>Update on the Men's Pond</u> There followed a discussion around the recent Men's Pond fatality. Initial reports state the young man involved suffered a heart attack, but there has been no further contact from the Coroner or Health & Safety Executive to date. CoL has completed an accident report and investigation on the incident.</p> <p>A new water safety training programme will be delivered by a qualified Lifeguard to all Rangers and Constabulary staff who work near water.</p> <p>A meeting to review our operation co-ordination with the emergency services will be arranged. Access gates onto the Heath will be issued with Fire Brigade locks. It was noted that emergency services do not have a working knowledge of the Heath and rely on Heath staff to direct and instruct them when on site.</p> <p><u>Update on the Mixed Pond</u> Hand over took place on 27th April, and the pond reopened to be public on 2nd May.</p>	<p>BW</p> <p>PJ</p> <p>DG</p>
5.	Lido	
	<p><u>Update on the boundary wall, additional work programme</u> Boundary wall delay issues were outlined by PJ. Works commenced in March.</p> <p><u>Increased terrace space.</u> Work will be completed in the next two weeks, and further works will take place in Sept to finish the wall.</p> <p>JP will consult the lido user group about railings and will look into obtaining listed building consent.</p> <p><u>Update on investigations into the loss of water at the lido</u></p>	<p>JP</p>

	<p>PJ updated the group - ongoing investigations are taking place.</p> <p>On 27th April a team of divers carried out dye tests to the plate covering the sump but no leak was detected. Further dye testing was carried out around the 4 outlets in the deep end, and there were signs of leakage from all four outlets. Pressure testing of the pipework linking these outlets to the filters is required and will take place in October, as the pool will have to be drained down and closed for at least 2 weeks while this work is carried out.</p> <p><u>AWP Café works</u></p> <p>Works have run over schedule by a number of weeks due to unforeseen circumstances. The new completion date is 29th May. The works include a new roof, new windows, extra doorways, re-pointing and new brickwork. The café should be open to the public by the Bank Holiday.</p>	PM/PJ
6.	Update on events	
	<p>PM gave an update on events.</p> <p><u>English National Cross Country Championships 21st February 2015</u></p> <p>-A record number of participants took part.</p> <p>-One issue raised was the overcrowding of the tent City near the bandstand on the day and caused access problems to Heath users.</p> <p>NC Received complaints about the ground condition after the races.</p> <p>It was suggested that notices went up prior to race events to educate the public and reassure them that the ground will recover in time.</p> <p><u>Camden Schools Cross Country Championships</u></p> <p>This event took place on 29 April 2015. 1,500 runners from 30 schools took part, an increase in participation from last year.</p> <p><u>Highgate Harriers night of 10,000m 'personal bests' 16th May 2015</u></p> <p>Event will be used as the British and English National Championships and as the GB trials for the European team Athletics Cup.</p> <p><u>Lord Mayor's city dip 10 & 11 July 2015</u></p> <p>Event raised £2K last year. PM has arranged for a CoL Sherriff to attend and teams entering will be given prioritised entry passes for the Decathlon. Anyone who would like to enter City dip should contact PM.</p> <p><u>Time table</u></p> <p>Friday 11 July, 7am – 10am and 6.30pm – 8.30pm</p> <p>Saturday 12 July, 9am – 12 noon.</p> <p>Mark Foster, Olympic Athlete and world Commonwealth and European champion will be attending.</p> <p><u>Give it a go 12 July 2015</u></p> <p>Members of the forum to direct anyone wanting to participate to get in touch with PM.</p>	
7.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	The group would like to thank Jeremy Simmons for all his hard work and	

	dedication to the Sports Forum.	
8.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	14 th September 2015 at 6.30pm Parliament Hill Staff yard.	

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Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	6 July 2015
Subject: Superintendent's update for July 2015	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on management and operational activities across Hampstead Heath, since March 2015.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Property

1. Contractors working at the Lido for the City Surveyor have now completed all of the building works, apart from installing the café roof coping stones. The works included new full length doorways on the front and back elevation of the building, as well as a new roof and windows. The café opened for business on the 23 May.
2. The Lido boundary fence has been removed from North West wall and some repairs made to brickwork. The North East wall will be rebuilt after the summer season. An architect has been commissioned to prepare designs for a new fence to go on top of both boundary walls. Once a design has been agreed planning permission will be sought. A combination of hawthorn and blackthorn will be planted externally along the perimeter walls for added security.
3. A Team of divers completed a full underwater survey of the Lido on 27 April 2015. Possible leaks were detected from the four deep-end outlet pipes, with a significant draw being reported by the inspection diver. The blanking plate in the centre of the pool, which had been suspected as the potential source of the leak, was thoroughly tested and no leaks were reported. Therefore, the recommendation is that the outlet pipe work is pressure tested to confirm that this is the point of water loss from the pool tank. Further pressure testing will be carried out in October when it may be necessary to drain the pool for several weeks.
4. The Lido paddling pool has been relined with a non-slip rubberised safety surface and was opened from the Spring Bank holiday weekend.
5. Major works to the tanking around the Hill Garden Shelter are scheduled to start on 21 September 2015, for a period of 10 weeks.

Fleet

6. The new 'identify' has started to be applied to the Hampstead Heath vehicle fleet (see figure 1). Further roll out to cover all outstanding vehicles will commence over the summer.



Figure 1: New vehicle livery

Planning

7. **The Water House (2011/4390/P and 2011/4392/C).** Camden Council has re-consulted on an updated version of the Basement Impact Assessment, Construction Management Plan and the Ecological Assessment for the Water House development. The Superintendent commissioned consultants to review the documents and a representation was submitted to the Planning Authority on 30 April 2015. The Conservation Manager and Senior Ecologist reviewed the Ecological Impact Assessment.
8. **Athlone House (2013/7242/P) Appeal.** The Planning Inspectors issued his findings and decision on 8 June 2015. The appeal was dismissed.
9. **Parliament Hill School, William Ellis School and La Swap Sixth Form (ref. 2014/7683/P).** This planning application was recommended for approval on 12 March 2015, subject to the agreement of a section 106 agreement. Work is scheduled to commence in the autumn and the schools have been required to establish a Community Working Group. The Operational Services Manager and Ponds Project Liaison Officer recently met with the Camden Planning Officer to discuss the issues relating to the impact of vehicle movements along the Highgate Road, in relation to crossover with the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project.
10. **53 Fitzroy Park (ref: 2015/0441/P).** This application refers to the erection of a three-storey single family dwelling including basement level, green roofs at first floor and roof level, solar panels at roof level and associated landscaping following the demolition of the existing part two, part three-storey dwelling. The Superintendent registered a representation with the Camden Planning Authority on 17 April 2015 in relation to this planning application.

Events

11. The Heath once again hosted the Camden Schools Cross Country Championships on 29 April 2015. 1,500 runners from 30 schools took part, an increase in participation from last year.
12. The second Highgate Harriers 'Night of the 10,000 metre Personal Bests' took place on the 16 May 2015. This year's races included the GB trials for the European Cup and provided a free opportunity for Heath visitors to watch top class athletics.
13. The Affordable Art Fair returned to the Heath for a fourth year from 11 – 14 June 2015, with GROW London returning shortly after for a much anticipated second year between 19 – 21 June 2015.
14. The City of London Festival Hampstead Heath Family Day returns to Parliament Hill for a seventh year on 28 June 2015, 11am - 6pm.
15. The Lord Mayor's Appeal Charity swim, City Dip, will again be hosted by the Lido on the 10 - 11 July 2015. More information is available at www.thelordmayorsappeal.org.
16. The Give it a Go! Festival is now in its fourth year. This year's event, held in partnership with the London Borough Camden, will take place on 12 July 2015, 1pm - 5.30pm.
17. 17 weddings are currently booked for 2015. The first ceremony of 2015 took place on Saturday 28 March 2015.
18. The Hill Garden and Pergola were part of the Open Garden Squares event which took place on 13 and 14 June. 140 members of the public visited on Saturday, with another 180 visiting on the Sunday, some coming from as far away as Yorkshire to visit. The Head Gardener of Golders Hill Park attended the event and received positive feedback from visitors, with many saying they would be visiting the site again.

Personnel Issues

19. The year-end Performance Development Reviews have been completed and objectives are being set for 2015/16.
20. As part of the Ponds Project Planning Conditions and the Section 106 agreement, the City agreed to employ three apprentices. Camden Council has supported the recruitment process, and one apprentice has now been recruited to join the Heath's Conservation Team, with another to join the Arboriculture Team. Unfortunately Camden Council were not able to put forward any suitable candidates for the Communications apprentice role, therefore this will apprenticeship will be advertised again in July, and will not impact upon the terms of the Section 106 agreement.

Heath Hands

21. A new Volunteer Development Manager has been appointed by the Trustees and will be responsible for developing and implementing the volunteering strategy for the Heath.

22. The volunteers hours for 2013/14 were 6,562, comprising of 318 sessions. In 2014/15 volunteer hours were 6,607, comprising 535 sessions – although it should be noted that of this total, 1,082 hours of volunteering, and 231 sessions, comprised of office volunteers covering the vacant administrator role. 62 new volunteers joined Heath Hands in 2014/15.

Constabulary update

23. A total of 499 incidents were dealt with by the Constabulary from 1 January 2015 to 31 May 2015. Of these, 161 related to cycling enforcement actions and 33 to dog control enforcements.
24. A total of six prosecutions have been brought to Court so far in 2015; two relate to cycling, three to dog control and one to obstructing staff in Highgate Wood.
25. Tragically, there have been two suicides on the Heath so far this year.

Men's Pond Fatality

26. On Wednesday 15 April 2015 a group of young men entered the Men's Pond from its northern bank, outside the designated swimming area. One young man got in to difficulties and sadly failed to surface. His body was recovered after 11pm the same night by divers from the Metropolitan Police, Marine Policing Unit.
27. The young men had entered the pond after closing time and from a fenced-off area that is not designated for swimming. Warning signs clearly stating that swimming is not permitted were in place at this location.
28. A combination of Lifeguards, Constabulary, Rangers, Keepers, Technical Staff and Officers worked with the Emergency Services during the rescue and recovery phases of the incident. Many members of staff returned to work after their normal hours to assist. This gave continuity to the management of the incident and vital support to the Emergency Services and to the family of the deceased.
29. The tragedy resulted in a great deal of interest from the media and we took the opportunity to emphasise that the public must only swim in the designated lifeguarded areas, during the advertised swimming hours. The Heath bathing ponds offer an opportunity to swim close to nature, but the waters are deep, cold and opaque. This is an important message for us to continue promoting amongst Heath visitors, especially as we are entering the summer season.

Conservation and Ecology update

30. The Conservation Team have re-built the Heath Extension bridge at Lamp Path (see figure 2). The wildflower meadows on Dukes Field, the Heath Extension and the Old Hockey Pitch have been cultivated and sown.



Figure 2: Re-built Hampstead Heath Extension Bridge.

31. The Ecology Team have completed the Heath's annual amphibian survey and produced the schedule for bramble cutting across the Heath this season.

Golders Hill Park update

32. The Operational Services Manager has submitted a planning application to seek permanent planning permission from Barnet Council to retain the art installation 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly' in Golders Hill Park.
33. The eagle owl and pheasant Zoo enclosures have been re-designed with replanting throughout. The Zoo toilets were out of action between 6 – 9 April 2015 due to items being flushed down the toilet blocking the macerators. Staff acted quickly to arrange contractors to attend at short notice and the toilets were reopened on the 10 April 2015.
34. The Butterfly House has been open to the public since the beginning of April and donations have already exceeded £900.

Parliament Hill update

35. The renovations around the tennis courts continue, with new turfing replacing a section of hedging. The new Café planters have been restocked and have made a big difference to the outward appearance of the Café. The Athletics Track flowerbeds have also been replanted with perennial native species and the planters at the Traditional Playground have also been planted up with vegetables.
36. The Bull Path has been resurfaced with a tar and chip top coat to complete the programme of works to give this entrance to the Heath a more rural feel.
37. The mini roundabout at the Traditional Playground is currently out of action; replacement parts have arrived and installation has been organised. In addition, repairs to the sand pit at the One O'clock Club have been completed

and staff continue to discourage foxes from using the area and causing further damage to the play surface.

38. The Parliament Hill Water fountain has been redesigned and relocated back from the main pedestrian path and is now operational.
39. Parliament Hill Tennis courts 5 -10 were resurfaced over the winter of 2014. The courts were out of action to the public from 11 - 20 May 2015 while a top-coat was applied to complete the refurbishments. The courts are now open for the summer season.
40. The Parliament Hill vehicle barrier has been replaced.

Ranger Team update

41. The Ranger Team has carried out maintenance in preparation for the summer season including bench maintenance, bin repairs and replacement, gate repairs and maintenance, re-painting the 'no cycling' path signage and prepared the Mixed Pond enclosure for opening on 2 May 2015.
42. A sink hole (see figure 3) appeared on the Heath near the Vale of Health on Friday 24 April. The area remains cordoned off while investigations are completed. The City Surveyor is currently seeking quotes for repair works, the cost of which will be met from the City's Insurers. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.



Figure 3: Sink hole at the Vale of Health.

Tree Team update

43. The Tree Team have carried out Tree Risk Sequence Inspections at South End Green, West Heath Road and Highgate Road and have removed *Massaria* branches from plane trees located within Queen's Park and along West Heath Road and Highgate Road.

An Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) nest was discovered in Queen's Park on 16 June 2015. A Statutory Plant Health Notice was issued on the 18 June 2015 by the Forestry Commission, for the City of London to carry out nest

removal prior to pupation. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

Swimming update

- 44. The swimming ponds opening and closing times have been reviewed and new arrangement put in place for the 2015 season. The updated and rationalised timetable will make it easier for both staff and members of the public to know when the swimming ponds are open.
- 45. The swimming summer season started on the 2 May 2015, coinciding with the opening of the Mixed Pond. The Lido is now operating its full opening schedule.
- 46. Contractors working for the City Surveyors attended site and carried out repairs to the diving board at the Men's Pond on 8-10 June. The board has been in use since 15 June. Surveys have identified that further works are needed to the jetties at the Mixed Pond and Men's Pond, these will be scheduled for the autumn.
- 47. The hot water system at the Kenwood Ladies' Pond failed on 8th May, on Friday 12th June a new hot water boiler was installed. A fault on the new boiler has been diagnosed and contractors working for the manufacturer will be visiting site. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting. Swimmers at the Kenwood Ladies' Pond are being kept informed.

Awards

- 48. The Heath will welcome Green Flag judges on Monday 22 June 2015, and London in Bloom judges to Golders Hill Park on 29 June 2015.

Bob Warnock

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	6 July 2015
Subject: Hampstead Heath Ponds Project – Update Report	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

The Ponds Project has continued to progress since the last update report was presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in March 2015.

Construction work started on schedule on Monday, 13 April 2015. In the weeks preceding this date the Construction Contractor (BAM Nuttall), the Designer (Atkins), Cost Consultant (Capita) and the City of London worked together to ensure smooth implementation of the Project.

The 18-month construction programme is scheduled to be completed in October 2016, and is on programme and on budget. This report describes what has been done so far, and includes photos in.

Recommendation:

- It is recommended that Members of the Consultative Committee notes the contents of this report and the appendices.

Main Report

Background

1. The Ponds Project was initiated following a series of hydrological studies, which revealed that in the event of a severe storm, there was a risk that the reservoirs on Hampstead Heath could overtop, potentially leading to erosion and dam failure, putting lives, property and infrastructure at risk.
2. Between 2012 and the summer of 2014, a highly iterative and consultative process was undertaken, first to consider the design criteria and approach, and then suggest a wide range of options. In June 2014, an option for each chain of ponds was selected and approved; the criteria for each selected option were that it satisfied the existing requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the anticipated requirements under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, while

preserving the natural aspect and state of the Heath in the most effective manner, in accordance with the City's duties under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871, and in accordance with the agreed design principles.

3. Following Committee approval in June 2014, a planning application was submitted to the London Borough of Camden in July 2014. Planning consent was granted by Camden's Development Control Committee on 15 January 2015, subject to Conditions and a Section 106 agreement. Preparation works took place in February and March 2015, with work on the Ponds Project starting on Monday, 13 April.

Planning Conditions and Section 106

4. As part of the planning application process, planning approval was granted, subject to both a Section 106 agreement and various Conditions. City Officers are continuing to liaise with colleagues in Atkins and the London Borough of Camden to discharge these conditions as necessary in accordance with the work programme. There are 19 planning conditions in total. Of these 19: seven require no further approval but need to be complied with, seven have been approved, one part approved (further details to be submitted) and one is awaiting approval. The final three conditions relate to the Kenwood Ladies' changing rooms and will require more information to be submitted once the constructor has appointed a suitable sub-contractor for the works.
5. Conditions included the establishment of a Community Working Group, which would meet monthly and include representation from the local ward Councillors (more on this below). The London Borough of Camden also asked that three apprentices be employed. Interviews for two of the apprenticeships have been completed and appointments made, while the third post will be re-advertised due to lack of interest, with school leavers being targeted in July 2015. The Construction Management Plan (or Project Management Plan) is currently with London Borough of Camden and has also been discussed by the Community Working Group.
6. Other environmental Conditions included dust monitoring and ecological measures, such as a bat mitigation strategy, both of which have been progressed by the City of London in collaboration with the designers and constructor.

Commencement Agreement

7. To coincide with BAM Nuttall's start on-site on 13 April, the Commencement Agreement had been signed by all members of the Partnering Team. The Commencement Agreement represents a key stage in the Project, where its detailed scope, price, programme and risk elements are defined and accepted by the Partnering Team. It also represents the end of BAM Nuttall's pre-construction contribution and the start of the 18-month programme on site.

Construction work

8. The first pieces of construction work included building vehicle passing bays, using crushed concrete, on the path which runs from Parliament Hill to the Model Boating Pond, and the creation of a crane platform, also from crushed concrete, next to Model Boating Pond. (Appendix 1, photographs 1 and 2). The materials for both these tasks had to be delivered to site, but these deliveries started at a slower rate than originally predicted, as smaller vehicles were requested to reduce the impact to the Heath and its users. These smaller vehicles are more difficult to source which has caused an issue. This has not affected the programme so far, but BAM Nuttall is looking at other solutions to ensure the slower rate of deliveries will not impact on the programme, including the trial of larger 20-ton vehicles. This slower start enabled the Project Team to monitor progress closely during the first week, which happened to be a busy week on the Heath due to warm weather and school holidays. The period between the start of the Project and the end of May was predicted to be the busiest for deliveries, and this period has passed with no major issues or complaints from the public.
9. The majority of work has so far been concentrated at the Model Boating Pond, where a large compound has been fenced off, closing the paths that run adjacent to this pond. A temporary path has been created around the western edge of the compound for vehicle and pedestrian access while the works take place. (Appendix 1, photograph 3). At the end of May, a 40-ton crane arrived to begin installing a temporary sheet piled-metal dam. This dam is being constructed by pushing sheet metal piles into the ground using a silent, vibrationless method. When completed, this temporary dam will enable the southern end of the pond to be drained, so that work on raising the existing dam can begin. Top soil is also being stripped from within the compound for haul routes, silt-processing and the borrow pits. (Appendix 1, photographs 4, 5 and 6).
10. The works at Viaduct Pond are also underway. These include the installation of a temporary sheet-metal coffer dam, a new headwall with buried pipe linking it to the Pond, restoration and raising of the existing dam by 200mm, and the creation of a grass-lined spillway. Works are expected to be completed here by the end of June, with the exception of the spillway work which will be finished off when the specified turf has been seeded (Appendix 1, photographs 7 and 8).
11. During July, works are scheduled to start at the Vale of Health and Hampstead No. 2 Ponds and will continue at the Model Boating Pond.

Community Working Group

12. The Community Working Group (CWG), which was set up in agreement with London Borough of Camden, has continued to meet monthly. A set of data has been agreed with them, by which they can be assured the City are monitoring various aspects of the project correctly. (See Appendix 2.) This monitoring data, together with the programme data for the next two months, and a list of complaints and actions resulting from these, enable them to see how well we are doing on the project generally. The monitoring data includes: air quality, water

quality, vehicle movements, levels and height of the new dam structures. The Group has also made several helpful suggestions, including the relocation of one of the passing bays to avoid conflict with the public at Highgate No. 1 Pond, installation of fences and earth bunds to protect tree roots, and the addition of a banksman on foot behind the delivery vehicles. This was initially piloted as a trial but the intention is to continue it throughout the programme, to increase the safety and confidence of Heath users during the project. (Appendix 1, photographs 9 and 10).

A series of guided walks has been taking place to coincide with work starting at each pond. Members of this Committee, the Community Working Group and the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group are invited to attend these walks (the next being scheduled for Monday, 20 July), and further walks will be arranged for the general public.

Communications during construction phase

13. A wide range of communications are being employed to keep Heath users and the wider public informed on the Project. Signs, alerting people to construction vehicles, have been placed at the main entrances, and information boards have been erected at work compounds. (Appendix 1, photograph 11). The Ponds Project blog <https://hampsteadheathpondsproject.wordpress.com/> is regularly updated with news on the Project together with photographs of activity on the Heath. The website, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/pondsproject, is being kept up-to-date and the Heath's social media feeds are being used to send information out. A weekly email update is also being sent to a list of subscribers and leaflets have been produced for staff to hand out to the public when appropriate. Heath staff will be regularly briefed by email and through face-to-face briefings, so they are able to answer questions and direct the public to sources of further information.
14. A time-lapse camera has recently been installed at the Model Boating Pond. This will provide a live feed to the works happening at this location, which will be accessible from the internet. Once this live internet feed has been set up, the link will be publicised to all stakeholders.

Ladies' Pond

15. During the detailed design for the Project, the supporting slab of the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing facility was assessed and shown to be in poor condition. It was agreed that the replacement of this slab would be carried out as part of the Ponds Project. The Partnering Team is working together to develop a plan for minimising the disruption that this additional work will have on the programme. The contractor is investigating the use of innovative construction techniques to speed up the delivery of both the new slab and the new changing facility, which may include some level of prefabrication or the use of alternative construction materials. However, it is expected that the appearance and layout of the proposed facility will be as per the design submitted in the Planning Application.

16. The design of the new deck will meet the requirements of the new building and take on board the recommendations made in the review of lifeguarding and infrastructure arrangements at the swimming ponds, following the fatal incident at the Kenwood Ladies' Pond in August 2013. The City have met representatives of the Kenwood Ladies Pond Association and reassured them that the agreed internal design of the changing rooms will remain, and by shortening the construction time of the building, the aim is to keep both slab and building works within the original programme.

Separate work related to the Ponds

17. There are two overflow pipes that, during normal conditions, transfer water from the Bird Sanctuary Pond into the Model Boating Pond. These pipes were due to be inspected on site during the Ponds Project works and retained. However, earlier this year water was spotted coming through part of the dam, close to the outfall to one of these pipes. A temporary fix was installed to avoid any further erosion of the dam but this has temporarily reduced the overflow capacity. A CCTV survey was carried out, which showed that the failure had occurred in only a short section of pipe near the outfall. Remedial works are being planned in co-ordination with the Ponds Project and will be carried out as soon as possible, whilst remaining particularly alert to the potential for disturbing nesting birds.

Conclusion

18. The Partnering Team are pleased with progress and continue to meet on a regular basis. The works are progressing in accordance with the programme and dry weather since commencement has been a bonus. The range of information on the Project has been well received by the public and the blog is being viewed over 100 times a week. Complaints are reported to the Community Working Group on a monthly basis and are being managed effectively.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Photographs of the works to date.
- Appendix 2 – Monitoring data provided to the Community Working Group.

Background papers

- CARES Flood Risk Study report
- Haycock Hydrology Improvements Detailed Evaluation Process (HiDEP): Hydrology and Structure Hydraulics and Recommendations Report
- Aecom Peer Review
- Design Review Method Statement
- Design Flood Assessment
- Constrained Options Report
- Shortlist Options Report

- Interim Quantitative Risk Assessment and accompanying Position Paper
- Preferred Options Report
- Strategic Landscape Architect Review
- Ponds Project Public Consultation Report
- Application for planning permission submitted to the London Borough of Camden for engineering works to the Hampstead and Highgate chains of ponds
- Judgment of the Honourable Mrs Justice Lang in R (Heath and Hampstead Society) v Mayor (et al) of the City of London

Background papers are available at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/pondsproject

Selected previous committee reports

- Bid Report, July 2009
- Evaluation Report, May 2011
- Project update and appointment of the design team, July 2013
- Preferred Options and Non-Statutory Consultation, November 2013
- Contract Tender Report, January 2014
- Public Consultation Results, January 2014
- Option Selection Report (gateway 4c), June 2014
- Pre-Authority to Start Work Issue Report, November 2014
- Gateway 5 – Authority to Start Work Report, January 2015

Previous committee reports are available at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/committees

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Picture 1 - Temporary passing bay.



Picture 2 - Temporary crane platform under construction at Model Boating Pond.



Picture 3 - Temporary path around western edge of Model Boating Pond compound.



Picture 4 - Forty ton crane being used to move sheet metal piles into place.



Picture 5 - Sheet metal piling at Model Boating Pond.



Picture 6 - The piling rig pushing the sheet-metal piles into place using a silent vibration-less technique.



Picture 7—Temporary coffer dam at Viaduct Pond



Picture 8—Spillway under construction at Viaduct Pond.



Picture 9—Copper beech, within work compound, with protective earth bund surrounding it.



Picture 10—Delivery vehicle escorted at front and rear.



Picture 11- Signs placed at the major entrances to the Heath.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project - CWG May 2015

Month Lookahead	20/04/2015														21/04/2015														22/04/2015														23/04/2015														24/04/2015														25/04/2015														26/04/2015														27/04/2015														28/04/2015														29/04/2015														30/04/2015														01/05/2015														02/05/2015														03/05/2015														04/05/2015														05/05/2015														06/05/2015														07/05/2015														08/05/2015														09/05/2015														10/05/2015														11/05/2015														12/05/2015														13/05/2015														14/05/2015														15/05/2015														16/05/2015														17/05/2015														18/05/2015														19/05/2015														20/05/2015														21/05/2015														22/05/2015														23/05/2015														24/05/2015														25/05/2015														26/05/2015														27/05/2015														28/05/2015														29/05/2015														30/05/2015														31/05/2015														01/06/2015														02/06/2015														03/06/2015														04/06/2015														05/06/2015														06/06/2015														07/06/2015														08/06/2015														09/06/2015														10/06/2015														11/06/2015														12/06/2015														13/06/2015														14/06/2015														15/06/2015														16/06/2015														17/06/2015														18/06/2015														19/06/2015														20/06/2015														21/06/2015														22/06/2015														23/06/2015														24/06/2015														25/06/2015														26/06/2015														27/06/2015														28/06/2015														29/06/2015														30/06/2015														01/07/2015														02/07/2015														03/07/2015														04/07/2015														05/07/2015														06/07/2015														07/07/2015														08/07/2015														09/07/2015														10/07/2015														11/07/2015														12/07/2015														13/07/2015														14/07/2015														15/07/2015														16/07/2015														17/07/2015														18/07/2015														19/07/2015														20/07/2015														21/07/2015														22/07/2015														23/07/2015														24/07/2015														25/07/2015														26/07/2015														27/07/2015														28/07/2015														29/07/2015														30/07/2015													
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Hampstead Heath Ponds Project



Air Quality Monitoring Results

25th May to 31st May

PM10 Levels Φ [ug/m3]	Limit	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
24 Hour Average	< 50	12.3	9.7	12.2	8	7.7	6.4	5.2
	> 50							
15 Min Max	< 200	25.2	154	39.9	14.7	112.7	13.7	14.4
	> 200							

Φ The 15 minute maximum limit of 200 ug/m3 has been set by the London Borough of Camden. The 24 hour average limit of 50 ug/m3 is set as part of the London Air Quality management strategy. Factors other than construction works may affect the level of particulates and any readings over the 200 ug/m3 limit will be investigated.



Hampstead Heath Ponds Project



Pond Water Quality Monitoring Results

Week Ending: 8th June to 12th June 2015

Pond: Model Boating Pond

		Baseline 2013	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dissolved Oxygen ° Mg/l	>6	6.9	9.8	9.3	9.2	10.8	9.7
	4-6						
	<4						
Suspended Solids * (FNU)			18.5	21.5	23.7	18.5	24.9
pH	6 to 9	7.8	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.0
	5.5-6 or 9-9.5						
	<5.5 or >9.5						

Pond: Viaduct Pond

		Baseline 2013	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dissolved Oxygen ° Mg/l	>6	4.8	12.5	9.4	8.5	11.8	9.7
	4-6						
	<4						
Suspended Solids * (FNU)			37.6	17.9	16.7	14.1	14.8
pH	6 to 9	7.6	8.5	7.9	7.8	8.3	7.7
	5.5-6 or 9-9.5						
	<5.5 or >9.5						

Pond: Vale of Health Pond

		Baseline 2013	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dissolved Oxygen ° Mg/l	>6	4.8	8.9	7.9	8.0	7.5	8.2
	4-6						
	<4						
Suspended Solids * (FNU)			9.3	9.4	9.0	9.2	9.1
pH	6 to 9	7.6	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0
	5.5-6 or 9-9.5						
	<5.5 or >9.5						

° Dissolved oxygen levels are influenced seasonally by algal blooms and also by weather such as heavy rain and strong winds. Levels are also affected by water temperature.

* Suspended solids are influenced seasonally by algal blooms and also by weather such as heavy rain and strong winds.

Guidelines suggest that the annual average quantity of suspended solids should be less than 25mg/l. A correlation between FNU and mg/l is currently being analysed

BAM.1760 - Hampstead Heath Ponds Project**Schedule of received deliveries**
 Week Commencing:

08/06/2015

Day	#	Access point	Type	Comments
Monday	1	Upper fair ground	Concrete - 4m	
	2	Upper fair ground	Concrete - 3m	
	3	Upper fair ground	Sheet Piles	
Tuesday	1	Highgate Road access	New Rescue Boat	
	2	Upper fair ground	Concrete - 3m	
	3	Highgate Road access	Pipe Sections & Collars	
Wednesday	1	Upper fair ground	Concrete - 3m	
	2	Highgate Road access	Pontoons	
	3	Highgate Road access	Pontoons	
	4	Highgate Road access	Toilet Silage cleaner	
	5	Highgate Road access	Pile Hammer Repairer	
Thursday	1	Upper fair ground	Concrete 4m	
	2	Upper fair ground	Concrete 3m	
Friday	1	Upper fair ground	Sheet Piles	

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project - Complaints Log

Complaint No.	Date	Method of complaining	Description of complaint	Outcome	Action
19	04/06/2015	twitter	Repair work to path to east of Model Boating Pond (where the electrical cable had been laid for the time lapse camera) was not good enough.	This was a temporary repair and asphalt was due to replace it the day the complaint was made.	Asphalt has now been laid.
18	01/06/2015	In person	Temporary stone path is not a pleasant surface to walk on - very stoney. Not good for disability scooters.	Open textured areas these have now been blinded with fine material.	Path quality matches quality of path that it leads onto - this will be monitored closely.
17	01/06/2015	Phone	Vehicle (yellow digger) moving faster than 5mph on Lime Avenue.	Passed on to BAM who have spoken to their staff and reiterated the 5mph limit.	Speed restrictions will be closely monitored.
16	19/05/2015	Via email	Closure of spillway on western edge of Model Boating Pond is making it difficult for his dog to get in and out of water, as it was a lower edge. Asked for a temporary board to be put in place on eastern edge of pond - near Men's Bathing Pond end.	Explained that southern edge of pond would soon be de-watered and inaccessible for dogs, also there are other ponds more suitable for dog access. Finally, there is a lower spot on northern bank where dogs can access water.	No further action required.
15	18/05/2015	Via email	Delivery vehicles arriving earlier than stated in the planning application. She has seen a delivery arriving at 8.30am.	BAM told that deliveries must arrive within agreed timescale.	Deliveries rescheduled to arrive after 9.30am.
14	08/05/2015	via email	Concerned about the trees within the work compound - how will they be protected?	Explained that earth bunds fences would be erected around trees root protection zones and that BAM staff have been instructed to stay out of their canopy/root protection zone.	Protection work happening now at MBP

Complaint No.	Date	Method of complaining	Description of complaint	Outcome	Action
13	05/05/2015	Via email	Concerned about the trees within the work compound - how will they be protected?	Explained that fences would be erected around trees and that BAM staff have been instructed to stay out of their canopy/root protection zone.	Concern noted and passed onto BAM
12	05/05/2015	Via blog	Was not aware of the extent of the MBP compound. Why had it not been part of consultation? Did it have planning permission?	Responded that the extent of the compound was not known during the consultation and that it had been included in the planning application.	Concern noted and link to relevant planning documents issued.
11	27/04/2015	Via email	Thinks the heras fencing is ugly and would like it moved back 2m from the path so it does not feel so enclosed.	On one side of the compound the fencing is 2m from path but the fencing on the northern edge will not be moved now.	This issue will be considered at future compounds.
10	27/04/2015	Via Heath staff at Parliament Hill	Complainant worried that vehicles and fences being stored too close to trees which may affect roots.	BAM notified of complaint. BAM inform staff that they should not park or store items under the canopy of the tree.	This will be considered in future.
9	11/04/2015	Via email	Noticed that a Moorhen had nested in the reed area that had been netted off in Model Boating Pond.	BAM and Ranger team informed of nest	Nest will not be disturbed.
8	12/03/2015	Via CWG member	Too much vegetation being cut back on Highgate Chain.	Site clearance has now been completed on Highgate Chain. Some vegetation has been cut back to discourage birds from nesting (reed beds in Model Boating Pond) but this also happens as part of the annual Management Plan. Reeds are cut back every six years so they regenerate.	Concern noted.
7	09/03/2015	Via blog	Concerned about vehicles causing damage to ground.	Responded that vehicle movements were to be monitored closely for this reason and the site clearance schedule had been altered to avoid further ground damage by vehicles.	Raised with contractors.

Complaint No.	Date	Method of complaining	Description of complaint	Outcome	Action
6	04/03/2015	Via email	Querying and objecting to netting (visually intrusive) which had been placed over the reeds at Model Boating Pond.	Rational behind netting as a means of discouraging birds in this area, which will be very close to work compound, explained. Link sent to blog where this work was explained.	No further action required.
5	20/02/2015	Via email	Complainant thought more than one tree had been felled at Vale of Health - 3 stumps in one location.	Email response sent stating that it was one multi-stemmed tree - False Acacia which was on tree felling schedule.	Complainant realised it was one tree.
4	20/02/2015	In person	Tree felling path closures at Highgate No. 1 resulted in a number of complaints to staff.	Path was re-opened shortly after complaints received.	Contractors advised that paths cannot be closed when a suitable diversion is not available.
3	12/02/2015	In person	Objecting at Stock Pond during tree removal by shouting over the top of the chainsaw noise. She believed that the trees at Stock Pond were not to be felled while the final decision was being made over the design.	Constabulary, and later Jonathon Meares, spoke to the person and explained the situation and that for her safety she must not go into the exclusion area. She accepted the explanation, but was still upset by the tree loss.	PPSG were emailed on Tuesday (17/02/15) to confirm decision on Stock Pond
2	05/02/2015	Via email	Work sites where tree felling has taken place are untidy - timber lying around.	Felled trees to be used as deadwood habitats in appropriate locations. Ground conditions are wet so care must be taken with vehicles in order to prevent ground damage.	Site clear up taking place week commencing 23/02/15
1	05/02/2015	Telephone	Upset about the felling of the willow tree at Model Boating Pond and the other trees for the Ponds Project.	Reasons for the felling explained to caller and he seemed happier – he said he would phone back if he wanted more information.	No further action required.

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Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	6 July 2015 20 July 2015
Subject: Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme, which was launched in March 2015. It examines primary and secondary school engagement, which is currently ahead and slightly behind schedule respectively, in terms of the target number of sessions run. Teacher feedback has been wholly positive. The Programme has also worked with two high-profile institutions, the Royal Geographical Society and the Museum of London.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Consider forwarding information about the Education Programme to contacts in local secondary education, if appropriate.

Main Report

Background

1. The Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme was officially launched in March 2015, during British Science Week. Its aim is to develop and deliver an impartial Education Programme, alongside the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. It will be taking advantage of the unique opportunities provided by the Ponds Project to engage and educate children in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Geography and Citizenship topics. This Education Programme had been welcomed by the Ponds Project Stakeholder Committee.
2. The principal focus is to engage with secondary schools. However, the intention is also to engage with primary schools, tertiary educational institutions, and possibly non-school-related youth groups.
3. As well as delivering sessions directly, the Education Programme will produce a range of educational materials that can be used by schools themselves as an educational resource. Most of this resource development will occur in the final stages of the project.

4. It is intended to develop partnerships with other organisations to help with the delivery of the Programme.

Current Position

5. There are currently four different education sessions on offer to secondary schools, and one on offer to primary schools. Two of the secondary sessions take place in schools, and the other three sessions occur on Hampstead Heath. The plan is to develop further prescribed sessions for schools, as well as offering them bespoke sessions. All sessions are offered free of charge.
6. To date six different primary schools have been engaged with, over nine sessions. The secondary schools so far engaged with are Hendon School, Grieg City Academy, Hampstead School, Highbury School and Westminster Academy, reaching a total of 365 secondary students over 14 sessions. There are also bookings in June and July from Parliament Hill School, William Ellis School, Highbury Grove School, UCL Academy and St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School. This sets us well ahead of our targets for primary school sessions, and only slightly behind on our targets for secondary school sessions.
7. There has been excellent feedback from both primary and secondary school teachers taking part in the sessions. Of those teachers who submitted a feedback form, 100% agreed that the learning objectives of their sessions were met very well. Currently only 50% of teachers are returning the feedback forms given to them, though it's hoped to increase this number by at least 20%.
8. The Royal Geographical Society has been working with the Ponds Project Education Programme to develop educational resources based around the Project, to be published on their website. A Ponds Project Case Study document and an 'Ask the Experts' piece on the Ponds Project, from the point of view of a City of London Senior Ecologist, are now both available online for teachers.
9. The Museum of London has also been working in partnership with the Education Programme. As well as including a piece about the Project in their Teachers' Network Enews publication, the Education Programme Officer was invited to run sessions for their London Knowledge Day on 1 April 2015. This event took place at the Museum of London Docklands. Year 7 students from Westminster Academy attended and took part in a range of cross-curricula activities.

Proposals

10. One of the principal challenges faced by the Ponds Project Education Programme is engaging with secondary schools. As Members of the Committee may have contacts in secondary education, they may wish to let them know about the Programme and put them in contact with the Education Programme Officer. This would help publicise the Project and reach the targets set for secondary school engagement.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The Ponds Project Educational Programme outreach work supports the City's vision for "high quality, accessible and responsive services benefiting its communities, neighbours, London and the nation", and specifically supports KPP5 "Increasing the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the nation".
12. The programme also supports the aspirations of the City's Education Strategy and the broader London agenda.

Conclusion

13. The Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme has made an encouraging start, engaging with a range of primary and secondary schools, resulting in positive teacher feedback, as well as collaborating with high-profile institutions. Assistance with informing secondary schools about the Programme, and encouraging their participation, would be welcome, as this is one of the principal challenges the Programme faces.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Secondary Education Programme – Publicity material sent to teachers.
- Appendix 2 - Education Project Report: Activity in May 2015.

Susannah Glover

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Hampstead
Heath

Registered Charity

Secondary Education Programme

Hampstead Heath Ponds
Project

The City of
London protects
and manages
14 green spaces
in and around
London.

On the Heath

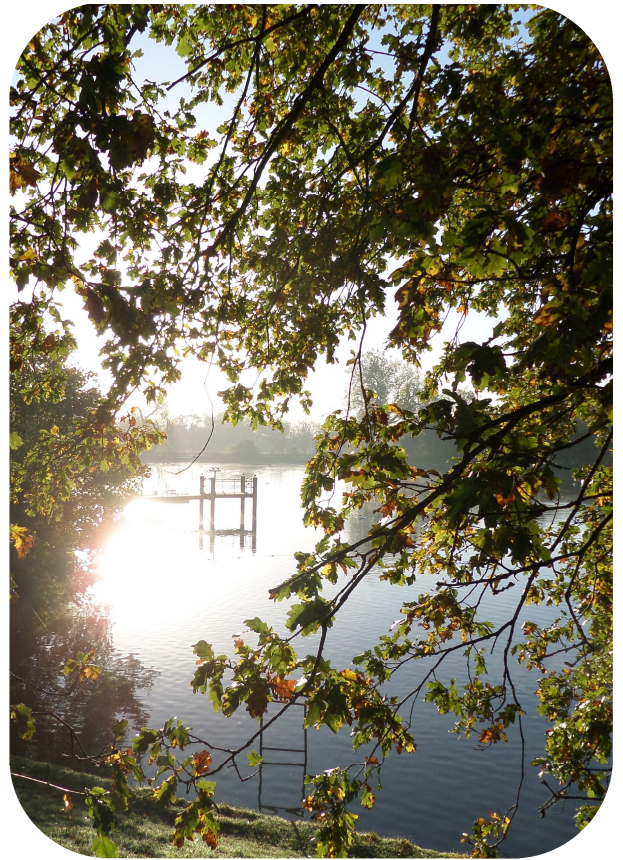
These sessions are free of charge and last two hours, Morning (10am-12pm), Afternoon (1am-3am)

Meet the Fleet

Explore a section of the Hampstead Fleet stream investigating river features, ways the risk of flooding can be increased and reduced, and how human intervention has affected the river and the local landscape.

Water Watch

How do we define and measure water quality? What affects it? Why does it matter? These questions and many more will be answer in this exciting, practical, fieldwork based session at the Ponds on Hampstead Heath.



In your School

These sessions are free of charge and flexible in length (between one and two hours), to better fit into your school day

Aqua Architects

Put your engineering skills to the test, applying scientific skills and knowledge to the practical problems involved in controlling and transporting water in an urban area, in this practical and exciting session.





Dams Debate

Using the controversial Ponds Project as a case study, students will take on different roles within the debate, revealing the importance for mutual respect and understanding within society, and discovering how they as citizens can contribute to their community.

If you have any queries or would like to book please contact us:

020 7332 3738





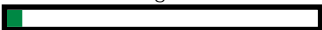

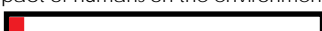
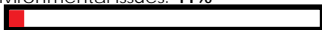
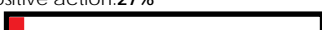

ponds.education@cityoflondon.gov.uk

	Ahead of schedule
	On Schedule
	Slight Delay
	Behind Schedule

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

Education Project Report: Activity in May 2015

Progress in previous month:

Area and target	Progress this month	Progress to date
Project Coordination	On the whole this has been a relatively quiet month due to school exams, and half term. This has given us the opportunity to refine sessions plans and resources for upcoming School visits Also, the Education Team has taken on new Casual Education Rangers, who will also be assisting in Ponds Project Education Sessions. Their presence in two sessions this month really made a positive difference.	
Primary Programme 1000 pupils engaged through 34 sessions	We have run four more Soil Scientists Sessions this month for three different school, Broadfields Primary School in Edgware, Christ Church Primary School in Hampstead and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Covent Garden. This is double our target for May. However, with the lack of Secondary School bookings we decided to take on more primary bookings. These sessions have gone well and we have continued to get great feedback from Teachers, even if, on occasions, the weather was not completely on our side: "Even though it was very wet, the class loved the trip and it was a great way for them to work in groups." <i>Year 3 teacher from Christ Church Primary School</i>	Total number of primary sessions: 8 Total Number of children: 188 
Secondary Programme 5000 pupils engaged through 167 sessions 3 schools with in depth involvement Engage with 420 pupils by British Science Week (BSW) activities	We have not had any Secondary bookings this month. When setting targets we did not take into consideration the fact that school examinations take place in May and early June, but I believe that this may be a contributing factor to our lack of bookings. We are now just one booking behind our target number of sessions. We are currently looking at other possible sessions that we could offer to schools, as well as offering Ad Hoc sessions to them.	Total Number of Secondary sessions: 14 Number of students: 365 
Evaluation 70% of sessions evaluated 70% teachers believe learning objectives met 60% Teachers believe most students progressed their understanding 60% students increase their understanding of the impact of humans on the environment. 50% students increase their understanding of the Scientific, Geographical and/or social context of environmental issues 50% students increase intention to take positive action for the Heath or the environment	Our Evaluation statistics have remained the same this month, maintaining the great feedback that we have received. We are still only receiving back 50% of the teacher evaluation forms, however we are still chasing the two feedback forms, from the same school, that we have not received as yet for this month. As we have not had any secondary school sessions, we have not had any additional student evaluation for this month.	% of sessions evaluated by teacher: 50%  % of sessions evaluated by secondary students: 7%  % teachers believing LO Met: 100%  % Teachers believing most students made progress: 100%  % 2° Students with increase understanding of impact of humans on the environment: 18%  % 2° Students with increase understanding of environmental issues: 41%  % 2° Students with increased intention to take positive action: 27% 
Educational Resources 250 HHPP education webpage hits 50 resource downloads	In May we have had 83 page views, 72 of which were unique views. As stated last month we have already exceeded our target page views for the length of the project. However, I would like to maintain and hopefully increase our monthly page view numbers, and aim to update and develop our webpage in the coming weeks.	Number of page views: 311 Number of unique page views: 257 
Partnerships Develop three high profile partnerships for the project.	Royal Geographical Society (RGS): In the last Progress report we mentioned that we have been working with RGS to develop a Ponds Project Case Study document for schools to use as a resource, which has now been published online. We have also worked with them to produce an 'Ask the Experts' piece on the Ponds Project, from the point of view of City of London Ecologist, Meg Game. This has also now been Published online: (http://www.rdg.org/OurWork/Schools/School+Members+Area/Ask+the+experts/Hampstead+Heath+Ponds+Project.htm)	

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	6 July 2015 20 July 2015
Subject: Reptiles on Hampstead Heath - an update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

This report updates the status of reptiles on Hampstead Heath since the London Essex and Hertfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust (LEHART) was commissioned to carry out a reptile survey in 2008/9.

The 2009 report revealed that a small, but widespread, population of grass snakes was present on Hampstead Heath. Some 50 snakes were recorded, with recommendations made to continue monitoring and to put in place certain management practices. These recommendations have subsequently been carried out, including the continuation of monitoring together with habitat improvement works, such as the creation of new ponds and the placement of vegetation piles.

Since 2011, 25 volunteers have been involved in reptile recording on Hampstead Heath, and a similar number trained in identification and monitoring techniques

It is believed that the grass snake population on Hampstead Heath has increased since the initial 2009 report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. An Essential Action in Hampstead Heath's Management Plan Part I is to 'Manage the Heath to protect and enhance populations of plants and animals protected by law, identified as being Priority Species in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans, or identified in subsequent management planning as being worthy of protection.' All of the Heath's six native reptile species are listed as Priority Species in the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan.

2. In 2008, the London Essex and Hertfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust (LEHART) was commissioned by the City of London to undertake a reptile survey. This had the aim of assessing the status of reptiles on the Heath, in order to advise on future management practices.
3. Prior to this survey, only occasional records of reptiles had been made, following the introduction of both grass snakes and slow worms in the 1980s. Grass snakes, slow worms and, indeed, sand lizards and common lizards were still present on the Heath in the early 20th century, and it is unknown when these populations died out.
4. The grass snake *Natrix natrix Helvetica* was the only species of reptile found in this survey, although the presence of slow worm *Anguis fragilis* was not ruled out, due to its cryptic nature.
5. The population of grass snakes was found to extend from Kenwood Nursery through the main chain of the Highgate Ponds and west towards the Viaduct. The main foci were found in the fenced areas that are subject to fewer disturbances than the rest of the Heath.
6. The population was estimated to be of low status, with only 20 different individuals being recorded by LEHART during the survey. The survey was supplemented by recordings made by City of London Corporation staff; although the survey year was spread across 2008 and 2009, with 50 sightings made in total.
7. The population was considered to be well structured, with an even mix of male and female grass snakes, as well as a varied age structure.
8. An average of two snake sightings was made on any one visit over the initial survey period, with a maximum number of sightings in a single visit of four.
9. Although no methodology exists to estimate the total number of reptile species in a given area, it was reasoned that the population of grass snakes had maintained itself and spread its range since their introduction in the 1980s.
10. This report provides information on the status of reptiles on Hampstead Heath since 2009.

Current Position

11. Due to lack of monitoring resources in 2010, the year after the initial survey report, only eight sightings were made. Given this lack of monitoring, it was difficult to analyse the success of habitat improvement techniques and thus to guide future management.
12. In 2011, thanks to generous funding from the City Bridge Trust, the City of London Corporation was able to set up a monitoring scheme and train volunteers in identification and survey techniques. In this first year of monitoring, more than

150 snake records were made and twelve volunteers were trained in identification and monitoring techniques.

13. By the end of 2014, 450 grass snake sightings had been made by more than 25 volunteers, who walked 150 transect routes. 25 volunteers have attended training sessions on the identification and ecology of British reptiles (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Reptile training session for volunteers in 2011.

14. These records have allowed the City of London to build up an excellent database of core grass snake areas on the Heath. They have also been important in guiding habitat management works, and how these reptiles may best be protected in the future. This level of monitoring would not have been possible without the funding provided by the City Bridge Trust.
15. The core grass snake areas are still focused around the Kenwood Nursery/Orchard area, as well as in the vicinity of Athlone House through to the Bird Sanctuary. Although snakes have been seen in the South Meadow area of the Heath, no snakes have been recorded at the Viaduct since 2009. A map of the historical and recent grass snake records is shown in Figure 2 and Appendix 1. It should be noted that unreported sightings are likely, including the possibility of snakes using private gardens adjacent to the Heath as a refuge.

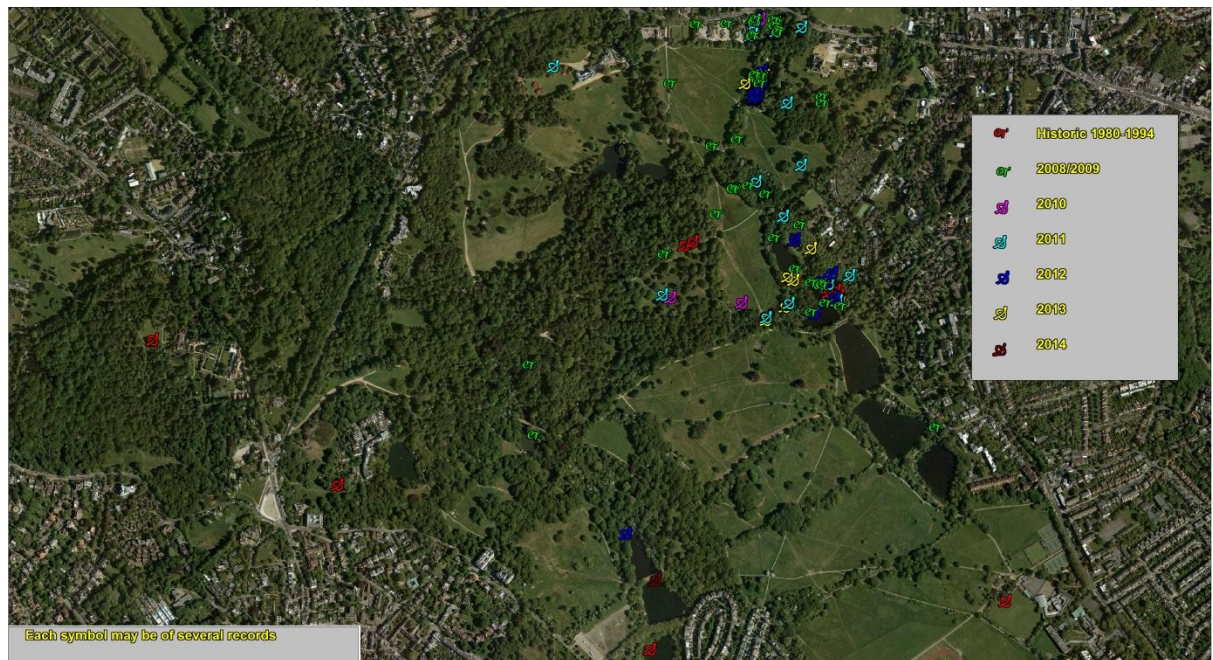


Figure 2: Map of historic and recent reptile sightings (see Appendix 1 for a full page map).

16. The main limiting factor preventing the spread of grass snakes across the Heath is public pressure, so they are still largely restricted to the fenced areas of the Heath. The spread of the population of grass snakes further south of the Bird Sanctuary is currently limited by the habitat in the ponds, with steep sided revetments, the large extent of open ground around the Boating Pond, and the lack of aquatic vegetation. Whilst Highgate No.1 Pond has a good extent of aquatic vegetation and undisturbed basking opportunities, there is little 'wildlife corridor' between it and the Bird Sanctuary.
17. Although disturbance is still likely to be high, it is hoped that the new marginal planting on the Boating and the Men's Ponds – part of the Ponds Project – may provide a safer corridor to spread the population further down the Highgate chain.
18. It is believed that the population of grass snakes has increased on Hampstead Heath since 2009. During the 2008 and 2009 survey, an average of two snakes were recorded per visit, with a maximum number of four seen on any one visit. In 2013 and 2014, averages of seven and four snakes were seen per visit respectively. In both 2013 and 2014, more than seven snakes were seen on any one visit on numerous occasions, with more than ten snakes seen several times during a single visit.
19. Although the figures appear to show a decline between 2013 and 2014, a number of the visits in 2014 were made in sub-optimal conditions, so few records were made on those occasions. Natural fluctuations can also occur in a population, indicating the importance of longer-term monitoring.
20. As part of the RSPB Wild About Hampstead Heath Project, the Ecology Team has led a number of 'snake walks' for family groups over the past three years (Figure 3), engaging with the next generation of snake surveyors.



Figure 3: Guided walks for family groups from the local community in conjunction with the RSPB.

21. A single record of a slow worm was made in the vicinity of the Ladies' Pond in 2013, possibly indicating that a small but localised population still exists in this location. Slow worms were still being recorded in the 1990s in and around the Ladies' Pond area, but the 2013 record is the only known one since then.
22. A dead adult Boa Constrictor from an unknown origin was discovered in the woodland to the eastern edge of the Ladies' Pond in 2013, (Figure 4). It would not have been able to live long in the UK climate if it had been released alive.



Figure 4: Dead Boa Constrictor May 2013.

23. Terrapins, a species not surveyed in the initial 2009 report, continue to be recorded across the Heath, with a number of new sightings already in 2015 (Figure 5). Whilst they are not currently able to breed in the UK climate, introductions from members of the public continue. About ten terrapins are thought to be present in Heath ponds, down from an estimated 30-40 in 2000. This reduction has partly been due to some harsher winters and partly to a trapping campaign from 2007-2010. Terrapins are currently rehomed in the Barbican Conservatory, where a special pond area has been constructed by the Gardening Team (Figure 6).



Figure 5: Two new arrivals on the Boating pond May 2015.



Figure 6: Barbican Conservatory terrapin pond.

24. A number of volunteers have been recording snakes for several years and are now able to carry out training of new volunteers. One such volunteer is now taking part in their fifth year of grass snake monitoring (2015) and is currently recruiting their own volunteer helpers, as well as passing on their knowledge and experience to others. The Heath Ecology Team has, in turn, learnt important information from volunteers about the grass snake populations on the Heath.
25. This initially City Bridge Trust-funded Project has resulted in a programme of citizen scientists, able to monitor grass snakes effectively unaided, thus providing future sustainability to the monitoring scheme.

Proposals

26. It is proposed that the current programme of monitoring reptiles across Hampstead Heath is continued, with trained volunteers continuing to carry out the majority of this monitoring.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

27. The work supports the City Together Strategy theme ... “protects, promotes and enhances our environment”.
28. It also links to the Open Spaces Department Plan through the Strategic Aim to “adopt sustainable working practices, promote the variety of life (biodiversity) and protect the Open Spaces for the enjoyment of future generations”, and the Improvement Objective to “ensure that measures to promote sustainability and biodiversity are embedded in the Department’s work”.
29. This monitoring also helps fulfil an Essential Action in the Part 1 Management Plan, namely:

NL8 Manage the Heath to protect and enhance populations of plants and animals protected by law, identified as being Priority Species in national and local Biodiversity Action Plans, or identified in subsequent management planning as being worthy of protection.

Implications

30. The City has a legal duty under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 to maintain the natural aspect of the Heath.
31. There are no financial or risk implications for this report. Any recommended actions carried out will be undertaken using the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.

Conclusion

32. Hampstead Heath continues to maintain a population of grass snakes and is consequently likely to be the closest site to the centre of London with a significant breeding population of this species. It is believed that the population has increased over the past five years. Management practices that would enhance the breeding and feeding opportunities of this reptile should continue.
33. Monitoring of this species should continue and, where possible, include new transect routes.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Map of the historical and recent grass snake records.

Background Papers

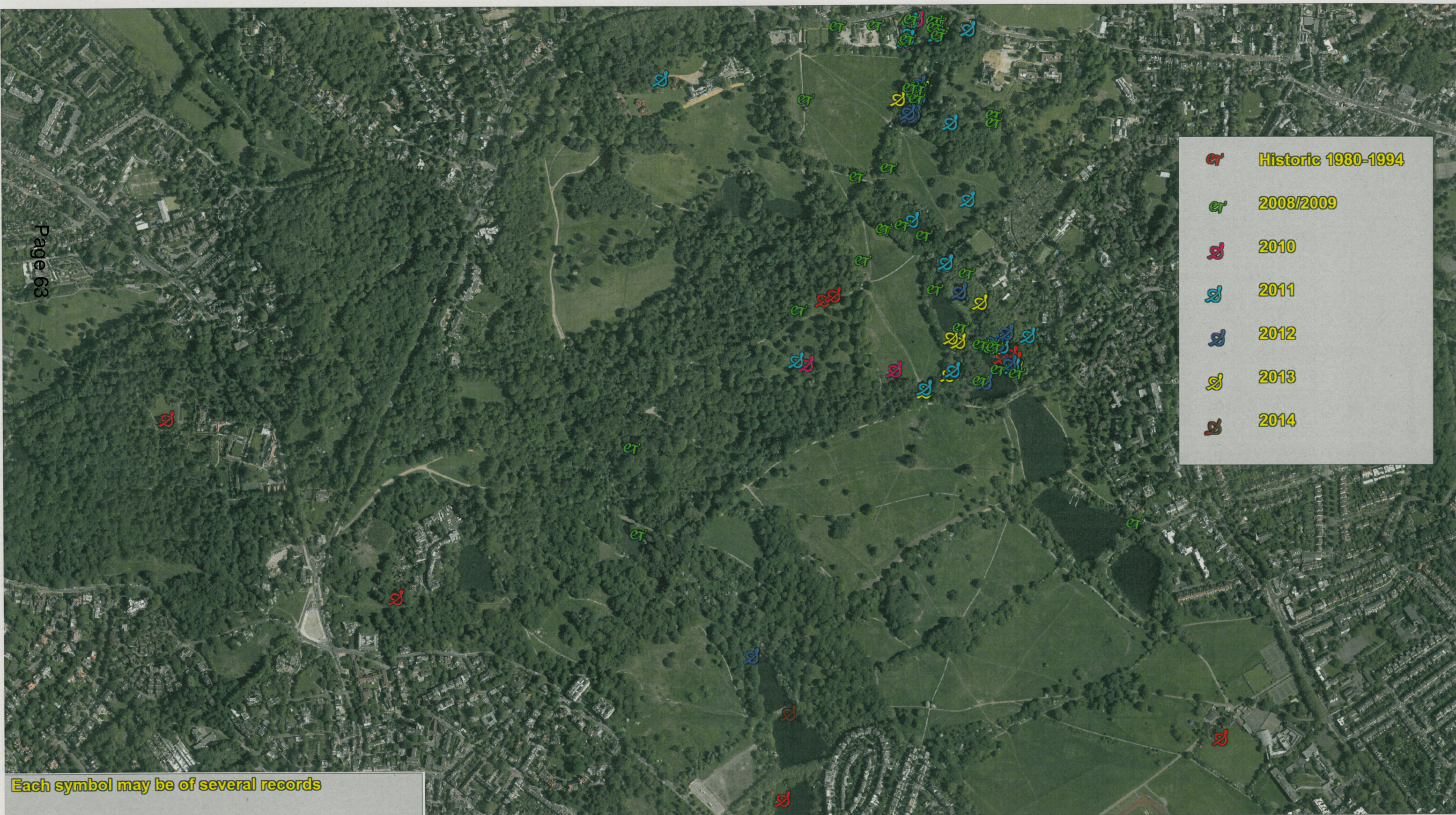
- Reptile on the Heath Committee Report 2010.
- Reptile Survey of Hampstead Heath 2008-2009.

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	6 July 2015 20 July 2015
Subject: Parliament Hill viewpoint interpretation	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

The most popular and famous view from Hampstead Heath is from the summit of Parliament Hill. The only on-site interpretation at this viewpoint is the very out-of-date steel sign, erected by the Greater London Council in 1984.

This report informs Members of an interim solution to provide up-to-date interpretation of this iconic view and lays out a method for agreeing a more permanent solution.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note this report.

Main Report

Background

1. There are numerous well-known and popular viewpoints across Hampstead Heath, taking in panoramas and linear views to central London, to Harrow on the Hill, and to adjacent areas of the North London Heights, including the villages of Hampstead and Highgate.
2. The London View Management Framework Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) March 2012 protects a total of 27 key views across the Capital, encompassing important buildings or urban landscapes visible from parks or other open spaces. Six are defined as London Panoramas, two of which are based on viewing locations on Hampstead Heath – one from the summit of Parliament Hill, centred on St Paul's Cathedral, and the second from the prominent oak tree just east of the summit of Parliament Hill, centred on the Palace of Westminster.
3. Detailed descriptions of these two statutorily protected London Panoramas, together with the criteria for their preservation, can be found in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Current Position

4. The view from the summit of Parliament Hill is arguably the most popular and famous one on Hampstead Heath, enjoyed by many thousands of people each year. The only on-site interpretation provided at this viewpoint is the steel sign erected by the Greater London Council in 1984. Whilst this has historical value, the sign is damaged and clearly many years out of date. We are increasingly asked by the public to replace the sign with something more up to date and accurate.
5. As an interim measure, an annotated photograph of the view from the summit of Parliament Hill has been placed on the City of London website (see Figure 1). This photograph shows the main buildings and landmarks visible in Docklands, the City and the West End. A QR code (a smart-phone-readable optical label linked to a website) will very soon be displayed at the Parliament Hill summit on a simple post. This will allow users of smart-phones and other mobile devices to link to the website and view the annotated photograph, while comparing it to the actual view. If need be, the photograph can be replaced with more up-to-date photographs as the seasons change and as new buildings appear.

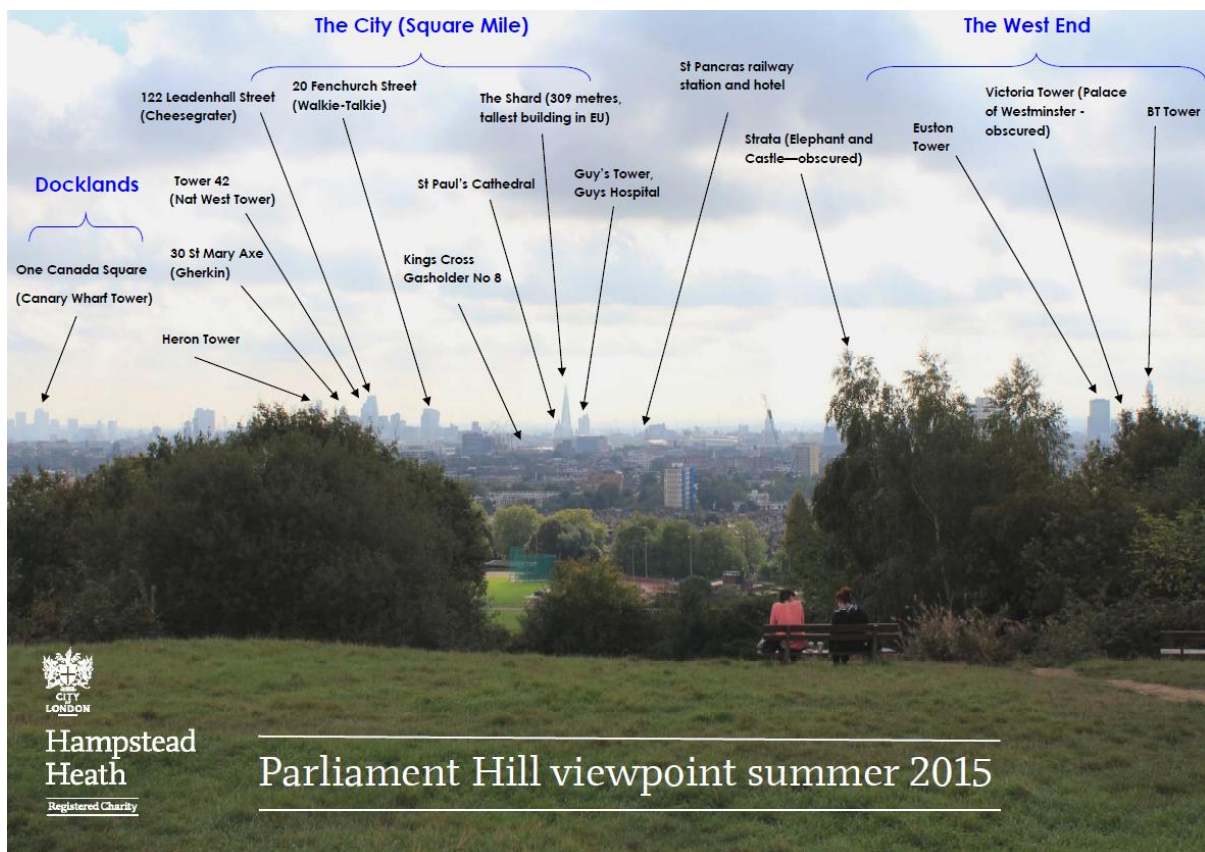


Figure 1: Annotated photograph of the view from the summit of Parliament Hill, available on the City of London website.

Options

6. We need to consider the best way to provide a permanent solution for giving the public information to enhance their experience of the Parliament Hill summit viewpoint. This needs to take account of:
 - The ever-changing nature of the London skyline, with new buildings appearing all the time in recent years and ongoing construction work.
 - The technology now available to us; an on-site sign is not the only way to provide the required information.
 - The aesthetics of the area. Anything permanently added needs to blend in with and complement the aesthetics of this famous and sensitive location.
 - The landscape improvement works taking place at Parliament Hill, previously presented to this Committee
 - The fact that there are actually two viewpoints for two statutorily protected London panoramas, both in close proximity to the Parliament Hill area.

Proposals

7. It is very important that the City liaises with the local community and user groups, to agree on a longer-term solution. The Superintendent is consequently planning an initial meeting with the Chairman of the Heath & Hampstead Society Heath Sub-Committee and a Member of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee. The Society has very kindly offered to help fund an agreed replacement for the existing sign.
8. It is likely that this initial meeting will be followed by the creation of a small working group to determine the best way forward and to come up with a proposal that can be brought before this Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The proposal supports the City's vision for "high quality, accessible and responsive services benefiting its communities, neighbours, London and the nation", and specifically supports KPP5 "Increasing the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the nation".
10. The proposal supports the Departmental Objectives to 'Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites' and 'Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging educational and volunteering opportunities' (Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18).

Conclusion

11. Temporary and permanent solutions are being sought to provide the public with information to enhance their experience of the Parliament Hill summit viewpoint.

12. An on-site QR code linking to a annotated photograph on the City of London website would provide an effective and easily achievable short-term solution for smart-phone users, especially if the linked photograph was regularly updated.
13. A working group liaising closely with the Heath & Hampstead Society and other interested parties would be tasked with devising a longer-term solution to provide all visitors to the site with accessible information for both statutory viewpoints.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: London Panorama Viewing Location: Parliament Hill Summit.
- Appendix 2: London Panorama Viewing Location: Parliament Hill east of the Summit.

David Bentley

Information and Communications Officer, Open Spaces Department

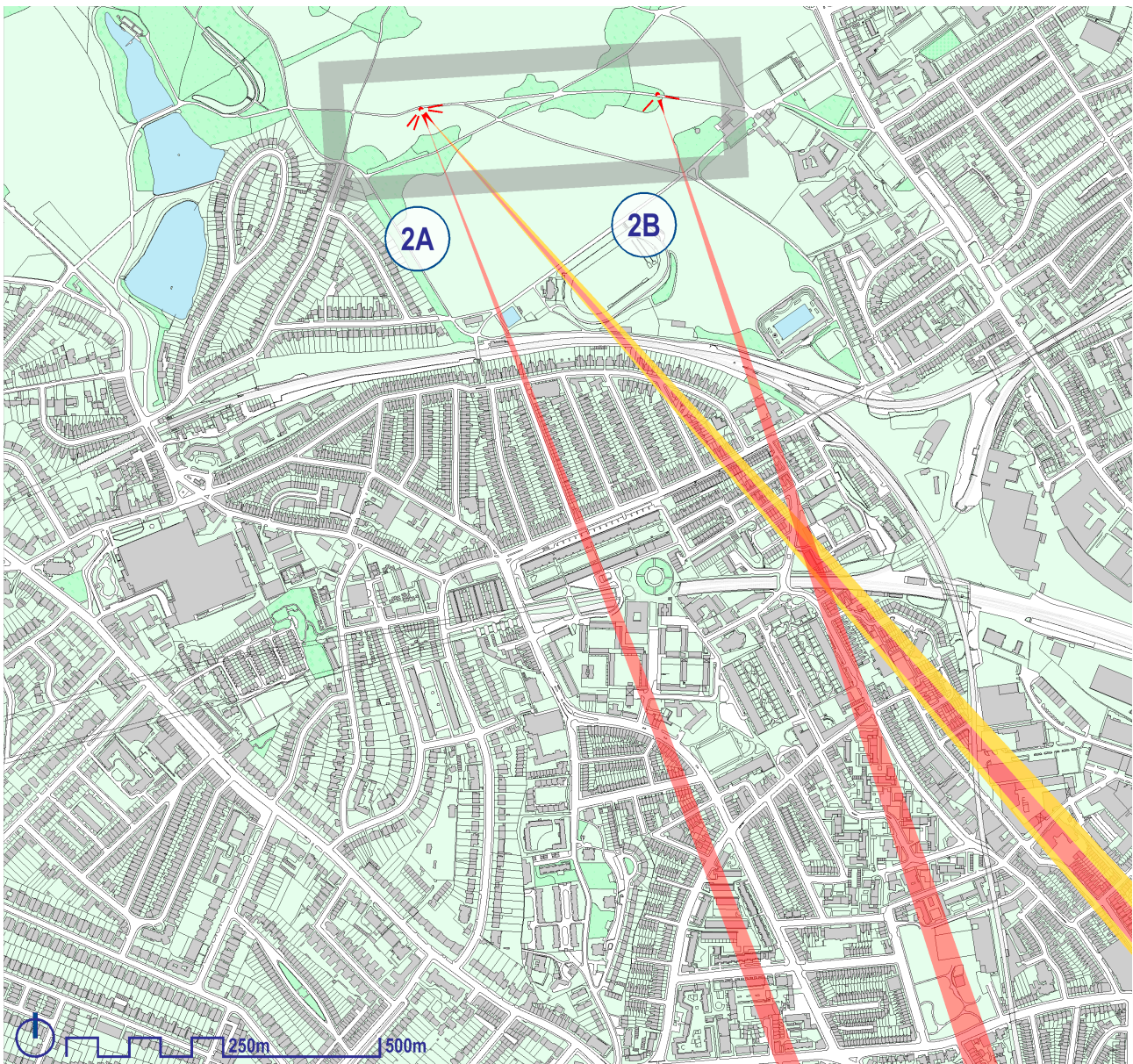
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2 London Panorama: Parliament Hill

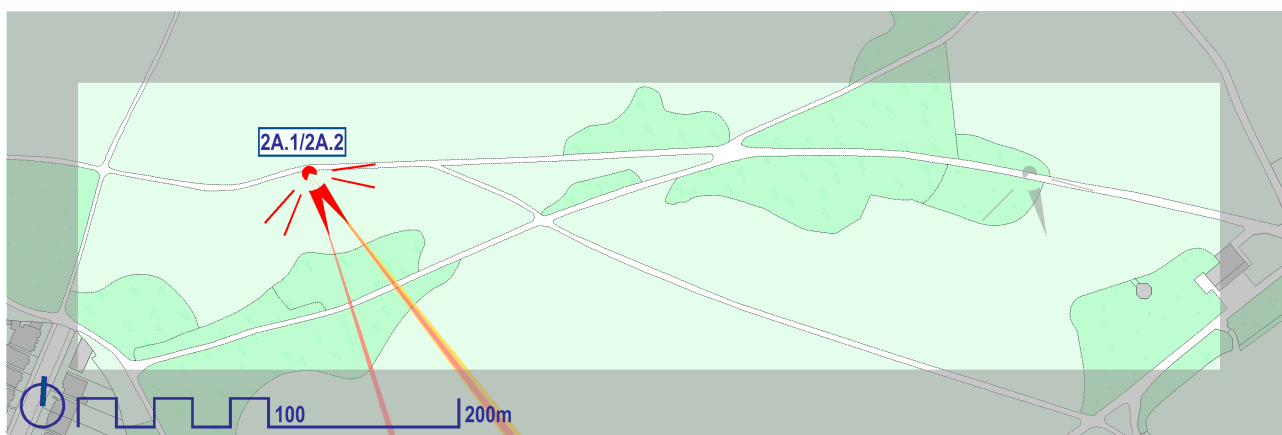
43

- 93 Parliament Hill forms part of the prominent east west ridge traversing Hampstead Heath. It is an open public area of the Heath consisting of fields, hedgerows and woodland. There are a number of outlooks on the hill but some of the best panoramic views are from the summit, towards the City of London, St Paul's Cathedral and the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster. All three of the towers of the Palace of Westminster can be seen from positions on the east side of the Viewing Place.



- 94 This Management Plan refers to two Viewing Locations: 2A, at the summit of the hill and 2B, east of the summit.

Viewing Location 2A: Parliament Hill: the summit



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 2A.1 Parliament Hill: the summit - looking toward St Paul's Cathedral



Panorama from Assessment Point 2A.2 Parliament Hill: the summit - looking toward the Palace of Westminster

Description of the View

- 95 The summit of Parliament Hill provides panoramic views across a wide span of London. Two Assessment Points are identified at the summit, 2A.1 and 2A.2. They are orientated in different directions, although they share the same position: one looks towards St Paul's Cathedral and the other looks towards the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster. There are also two Protected Vistas between these Assessment Points and the Strategically Important Landmarks.
- 96 The topography of London frames the silhouette of the city. The viewer can see a number of complementary and prominent elements, in particular the tall buildings in the City's financial district and an aggregation of taller buildings at Docklands. The latter feature has particular prominence in this view because of the rise of Shooter's Hill in the background.
- 97 St Paul's Cathedral is set within a miscellany of buildings, in both its foreground and background. The dome and peristyle are visible, but some development in the background diminishes the viewer's ability to recognise and appreciate the landmark, particularly in poor weather conditions. However, the Shard with its distinctive shape and high quality materials provides a strong orientation point to allow the viewer to recognise St Paul within the wider panorama. The Palace of Westminster is positioned behind the Euston Tower and the BT Tower. Only the Central Lobby Lantern and the Victoria Tower are visible. The latter's turrets and finials contrast with the simple housing blocks in the middle ground.

Landmarks include:

St Paul's Cathedral (I) †
 Palace of Westminster (I) †
 BT Tower (II)
 The Shard

Also in the views:

Caledonian Market Clock Tower (II*)
 Canary Wharf
 Broadgate Tower
 City cluster of tall buildings
 London Bridge cluster of tall buildings
 St Pancras Station (I)
 Euston Tower

() Grade of Listed Building
 † Strategically Important Landmark

Visual Management Guidance

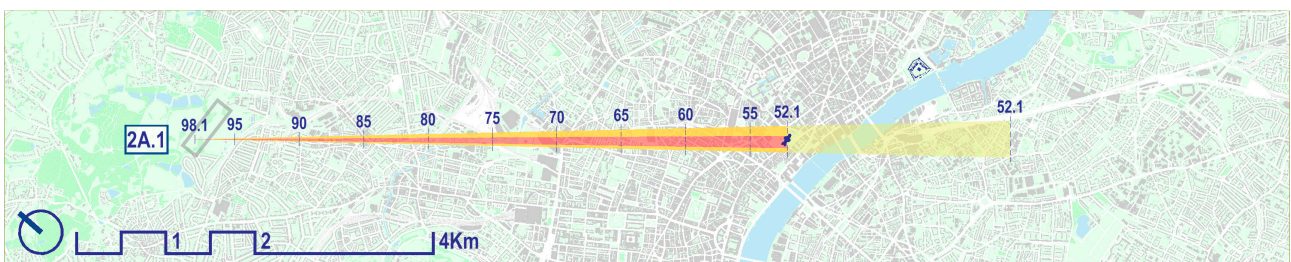
- 98 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is also recommended that English Heritage are consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.

Foreground and Middle Ground

- 99 The panorama is sensitive to large-scale development in the foreground and middle ground.
- 100 St Paul's Cathedral and its western towers should be recognisable in the panorama. A Protected Vista is applied in this view.
- 101 New development should preserve or enhance the viewer's ability to recognise and appreciate the Palace of Westminster in this view. A Protected Vista is applied in this view.



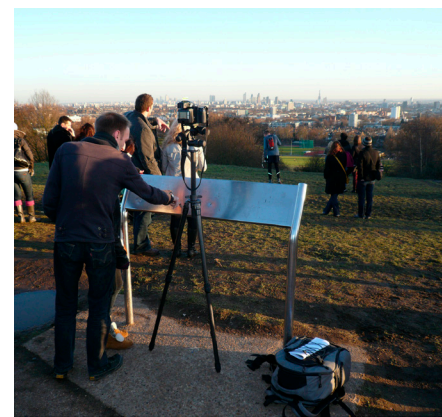
View from Assessment Point 2A.1 Parliament Hill: the summit - looking toward St Paul's Cathedral (at the orientation board). 527665.4E 186131.5N. Camera height 98.10m AOD. Aiming at St Paul's Cathedral (Central axis of the dome, at the base of the drum). Bearing 138.7°, distance 6.6km.



Annotated map of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 2A.1 to St Paul's Cathedral

Background

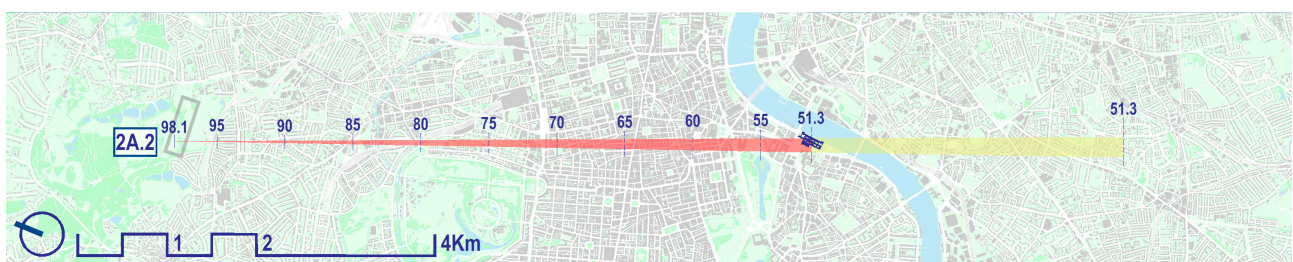
- 102 The form and materials of development in the background of St Paul's Cathedral should preserve or enhance the clarity with which the silhouette of the Cathedral can be distinguished from its background.
- 103 The backdrop of the Victoria Tower has significant influence over the viewer's ability to recognise the Palace of Westminster in the panorama. Change may occur in this backdrop if it is incremental, carefully designed, and of a small scale. No development in the background should dominate the Victoria Tower or Central Lobby Lantern.



View from Assessment Point 2A.2 Parliament Hill: the summit - looking toward the Palace of Westminster (at the orientation board). 527665.4E 186131.5N. Camera height 98.10m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 158.6°, distance 7.1km.

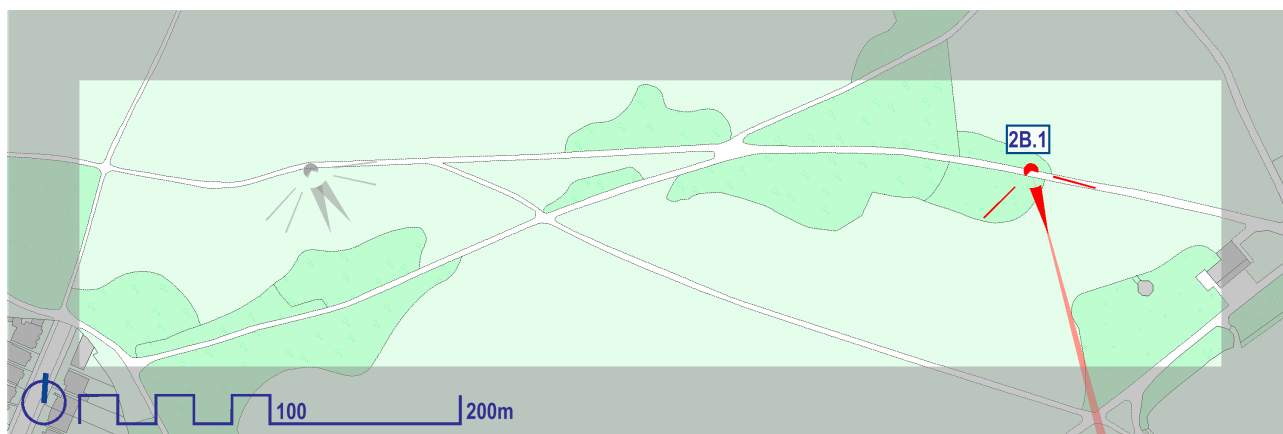
Management of the Viewing Location

- 104 Tree growth in the immediate foreground has the potential to reduce the quality of the view, and should be managed to ensure visibility of the panorama. Infrastructure that assists the viewer to understand the view, such as an up to date plaque, would enhance the viewing experience.



Annotated map of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 2A.2 to Palace of Westminster

Viewing Location 2B: Parliament Hill: east of the summit



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 2B.1 Parliament Hill: east of the summit – at the prominent oak tree

Description of the View

- 105 This Viewing Location is on the east side of Parliament Hill, lower than the summit. Assessment Point 2B.1 is located at a position that provides one of the few publicly available views of all of the principal towers of the Palace of Westminster.
- 106 The viewer can also see the tall buildings that define the financial and governmental centres of London, although trees in the foreground and middle ground interrupt much of the panorama. A break in the trees to the east allows a discrete view of Canary Wharf.
- 107 All three towers of the Palace of Westminster are set against the distant hills. The scale and simple outline of existing tall buildings in the view frame the Palace of Westminster and contrast with its more delicate and intricate silhouette of towers.

Landmarks include:

Palace of Westminster (I) †
 St Paul's Cathedral (I) †
 BT Tower (II)

Also in the views:

Canary Wharf
 Caledonian Market Clock Tower (II*)
 30 St Mary Axe
 Heron Tower
 Tower 42
 St Pancras Station (I)
 Centre Point (II)

() Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

Visual Management Guidance

- 108 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.

Foreground and Middle Ground

- 109 The viewer's ability to perceive the visual relationship between the Clock Tower, the Central Tower and the Victoria Tower should be maintained or enhanced. Any development proposals that would undermine this relationship should be refused. A Protected Vista, incorporating the full width of the Palace of Westminster, reinforces this requirement.

Background

- 110 Small scale incremental change in the background of the three towers of the Palace of Westminster might be appropriate if it does not dominate the individual towers or diminish the spatial relationship between them.



View from Assessment Point 2B.1 Parliament Hill: east of the summit – at the prominent oak tree (Alongside prominent oak tree). 528043.1E 186154.5N. Camera height 71.61m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 161.6°, distance 7.0km.

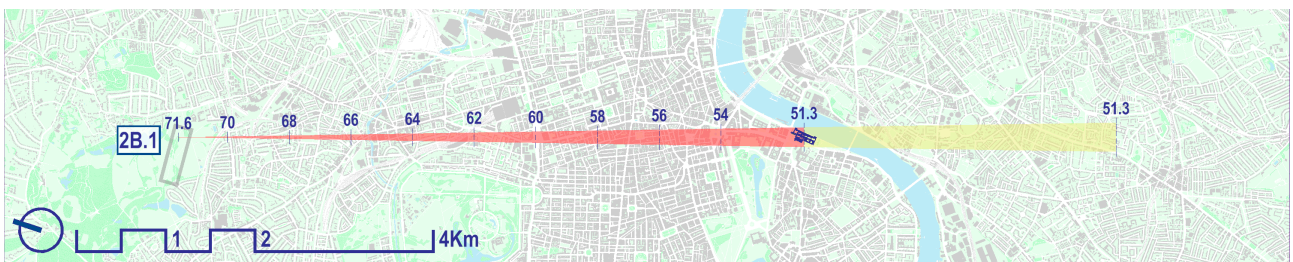


Management of the Viewing Location

- 111 The quality of the viewing experience can be affected by tree growth in the foreground. Vegetation should be managed to ensure important elements of the panorama, in particular of the Palace of Westminster, remain visible.
- 112 Provision of an accurate viewing plaque should be considered. This would help to mark the place as one where all three towers of the Palace of Westminster are visible.



Telephoto view of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 2B.1 to Palace of Westminster



Annotated map of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 2B.1 to Palace of Westminster



Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – For Information	6 July 2015
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee – For Decision	20 July 2015
Subject: Location of an Outdoor Gym at Parliament Hill	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

This report recommends (subject to separate approval by the London Borough of Camden) that the outdoor gym be located at the Trim Trail at Parliament Hill. The request meets the guidance set out in the Hampstead Heath Management Plan for alternations or creation of new sports facilities in designated sports areas. The scheme also highlights an excellent partnership working arrangement for both Camden and the City to encourage participation in sport and physical activity for the benefit of the local community.

Recommendations

- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, on the location of the outdoor gym, be heard.
- That the comments of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, on the location of the outdoor gym, be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee.
- Subject to approval by Members, authority be delegated to the City Surveyor in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces and the Comptroller & City Solicitor to settle all other necessary terms to protect the City’s interests and that the Comptroller & City Solicitor be instructed to complete any necessary documentation.

The Main Report

Background

1. On 18 May 2015, the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee were advised by the Superintendent of a proposal by the London Borough of Camden (LBC) to install outdoor gym equipment at Parliament Hill, which would be aimed at people who had been advised to carry out additional exercise for their health and wellbeing.
2. Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee were supportive of the proposal at their meeting on 9 March. Members recognised the health and well-being benefits, however, they were

anxious about the location of the equipment, which would be identified within the LBC business case proposal; which will be subject to LBC undertaking an assessment of need based on the demographic of the area to ensure that their investment had the greatest impact on physical activity within the Borough.

3. Please see an evaluation report at Appendix 2, for Camden's outdoor gyms.

Location Proposals

General Sporting Principles

4. Parliament Hill is one of three areas designated sports areas on Hampstead Heath, the other two being the Heath Extension and north end of Golders Hill Park. With reference to alterations to existing sports provision or the creation of new sports facilities within the three identified sports area, the Hampstead Heath Management Plan states the following considerations must be met:
 - There is no threat to public safety
 - It is consistent with good turf management practice
 - There would be no significant increase in noise or light pollution affecting neighbouring residents

Options

5. Within the Parliament Hill designated sports area, three locations have been identified for the outdoor gym by officers with the general support of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Figure 1) :-
 - A) Cricket enclosure
 - B) West side of the Lido – grass triangle
 - C) In the existing Trim Trail
6. The location needs to be an area where the outdoor gym could be readily accessible. Given the locations of the playground and Athletics Track, the Trim Trail is the recommended location. This would allow synergy for the different facilities and keep sporting infrastructure within easy reach of each other.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

7. The proposal for an outdoor gym supports the City of London Corporate Strategy 2015-2019: KPP3 *“Engage with London and national*

government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health” and KKP5 “Increasing the outreach and impact of the City’s cultural, heritage and leisure contribution to the life of London and the nation”.

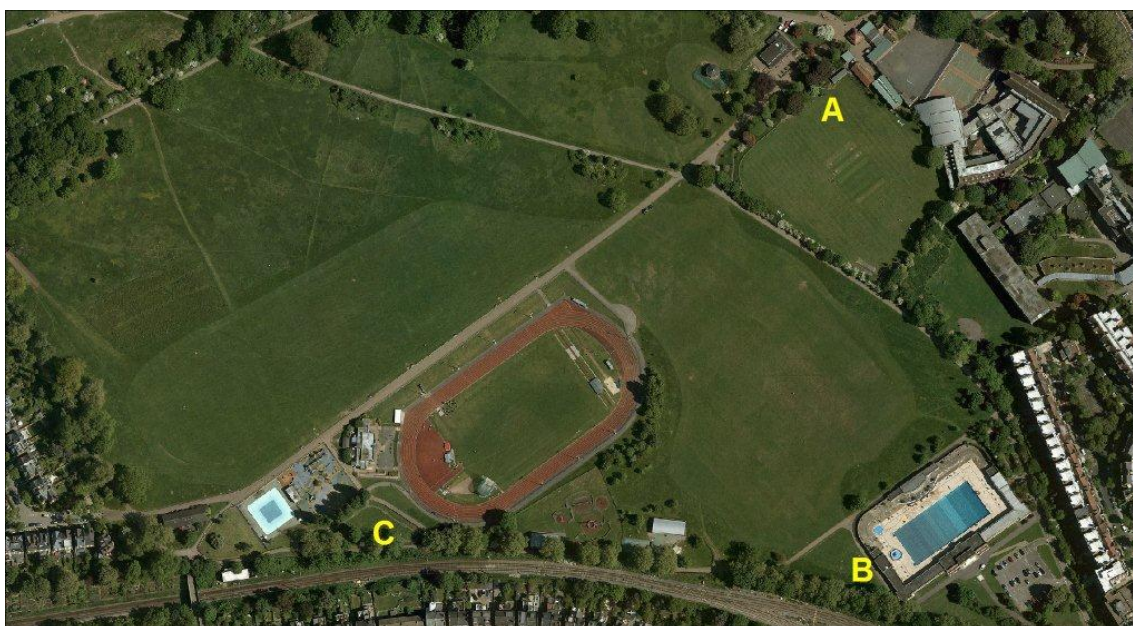


Figure 1: Site Location Plan of Proposed Gym
(Please also refer to Appendix 1 – designated sports areas)

8. The Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 Vision is “*To preserve and protect our world class green spaces for the benefit of our local communities and environment*” and charitable objectives, is “*the preservation of our open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public*”.
9. The Sports Chapter of The Hampstead Heath Management Plan: Towards a plan for the Heath 2007-2017 sport overriding objective states to “*Work collaboratively in maintaining and developing the existing sports facilities and activities in response to changing demands ensuring appropriate provision for all sections of the community*”.

Implications

Financial implications

10. The City of London Open Spaces Committee have resolved that, decisions on sport and play equipment funding offers should be made by the respective Management Committee based on the principle that any offer should be self-funding for the lifetime of the equipment and its removal, see Appendix 3.
11. For the outdoor gym proposal to proceed, the LBC will be required to meet both the capital and associated maintenance costs.

Ecological Impact

12. There are no ecological implications as all the selected areas are already designated sports activity locations.

Legal and Property implications:

13. Under article 7(1)(a) of the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 the City may provide and maintain gymnasia and such open air facilities as it thinks fit for any form of recreation whatsoever on the Heath.
14. A legal agreement with the LBC will be required if this project is approved. It is proposed that authority be delegated to the City Surveyor in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces and the Comptroller & City Solicitor to settle all other necessary terms to protect the City's interests and that the Comptroller & City Solicitor be instructed to complete any necessary documentation.

Consultation

15. The Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum was consulted on 9 February and 11 May 2015 and verbal feedback was presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on 9 March. The suggested locations will be viewed and discussed with members at the next Consultative Committee walk on 4 July.

Conclusion

16. Subject to LBC evaluation, the preferred location for the outdoor gym is the Trim Trail at Parliament Hill.
17. The scheme will provide a partnership working opportunity for both Camden and the City to encourage participation in sport and physical activity for the benefit of the local community.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Hampstead Heath Management Plan - Sports Facilities Layout.
- Appendix 2 - Pro-active Camden – Camden Outdoor Gyms Evaluation phase 1 March 2011.
- Appendix 3 – Resolution of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee, 20 April 2015, regarding Equipment Funding Offers.

Background Papers

- Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Minutes 9 March 2015.
- Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, Minutes 23 March and 18 May 2015.
- Hampstead Heath Management Plan Part 1 – Towards a plan for the Heath 2017-2017, Sports Chapter.

Declan Gallagher

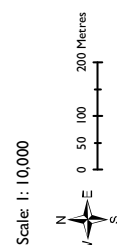
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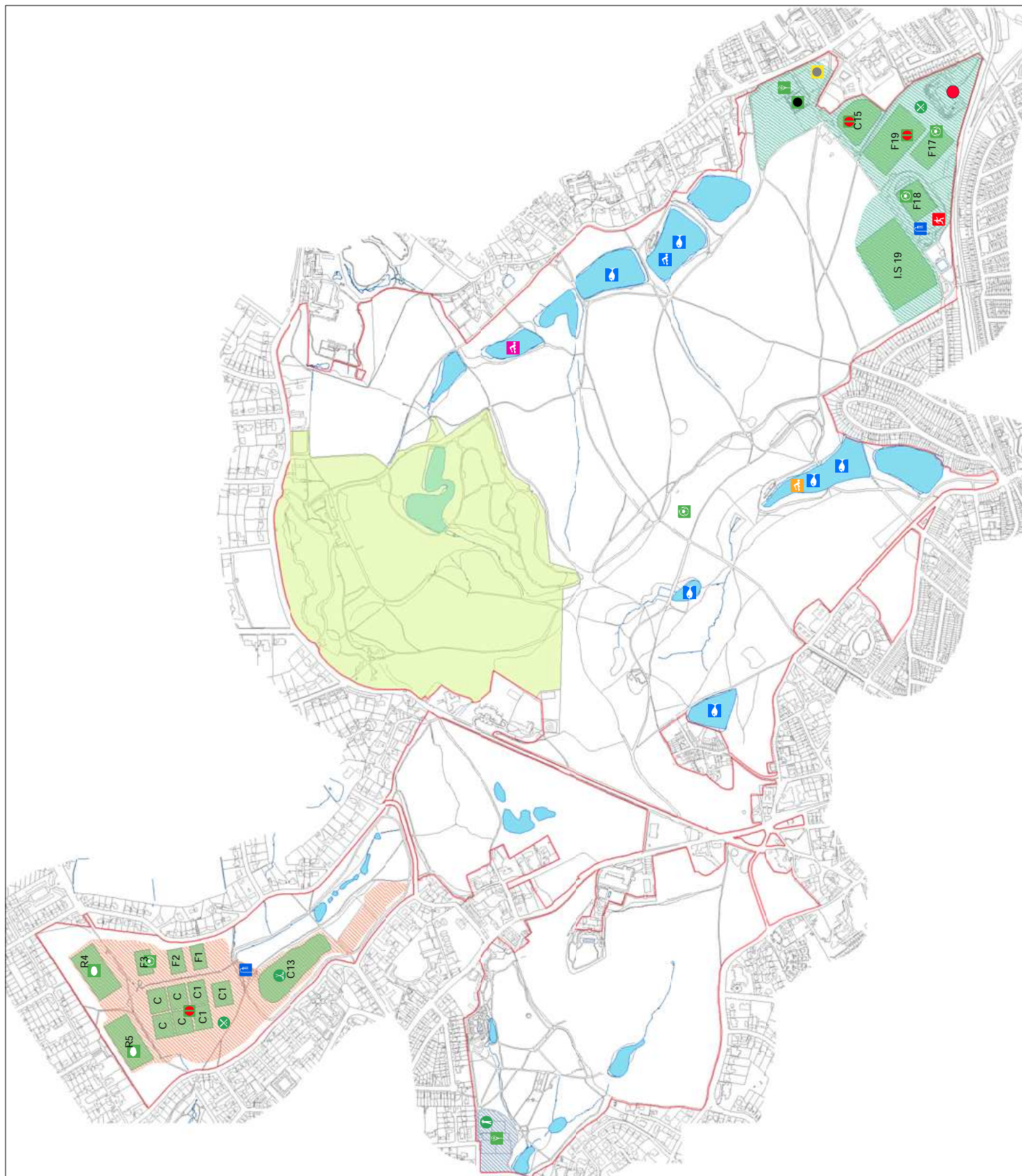
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Hampstead Heath Management Plan Figure 21: Sports Facilities and Areas



Source: City of London
Hampstead Heath
Ordnance Survey
DATE 04/10/2007



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Camden Outdoor Gyms Evaluation Phase I March 2011

“Creating a physical environment in which people can live healthier lives with a greater sense of well-being is a hugely significant factor in reducing health inequalities.....Numerous studies point to the direct benefits of green space to both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Green spaces have been associated with a decrease in health complaints blood pressure and cholesterol, improved mental health and reduced stress levels, perceived better general health, and the ability to face problems. The presence of green space also has indirect benefits: it encourages social contact and integration, provides space for physical activity and play, improves air quality and reduces urban heat island effects. ”

Marmot, M. (2010) *Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010*. [The Marmot Review](#)

“I think in years to come people will look back (on outdoor gyms) and see the way that people were helped to lead healthy and active lives. ”

Bismark Mensah, Outdoor Gym Peer Activator, NHS Camden Annual Public Health Report (APHR) 2009/10. [NHS Camden APHR](#)

About Pro-Active Camden

Pro-Active Camden (PAC) is a strategic partnership committed to the development and improvement of sport and physical activity within Camden. PAC is one of 33 Community Sport and Physical Activity Networks (CSPANs) in London. It shares a common purpose with many others across England – to increase participation in sport and physical activity and to encourage people to lead healthier lifestyles.

PAC is made up of a number of key physical activity stakeholders across the borough and includes: The London Borough of Camden (LBC); NHS Camden (NHSC); Greenwich Leisure Limited; Central YMCA; Voluntary Action Camden; Volunteer Centre Camden; Jubilee Halls Trust; SportsAid; London Sports Forum for Disabled People; UCLU (UCL Students' Union); Pro-Active Central London; Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust; Hampstead Heath Organisation; and West Euston Partnership.

More information about Pro-Active Camden can be found at [PAC website](#)

Acknowledgements

This report was written by Barry Kelly and James Fry (both NHSC).

The questionnaire survey was funded by the London Borough of Camden Active Health Team.

A number of other people and organisations also contributed to this evaluation report, including: Trish Tenn (LBC); Sarah Ruane (LBC); Dan Devitt (NHSC); Gary Forbes (NHSC); Justin Hill (LBC); Phillip Gill (LBC); Dalya Marks (NHSC); Paul Fox (NHSC); Teresa Garrard (NHSC); Nigel Robinson (LBC) Olivia Mensah (LBC); Phil Rumbelow (Jubilee Hall Trust); Alexandria Hingley (UCL); PAC steering group; and Plusfour Market Research Limited.

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Executive summary

Background

The Camden outdoor gym programme is the largest of any borough in the UK. Eight sites opened in 2009 with most Camden residents living within 20 minutes of an outdoor gym (see appendix I). The investment in outdoor gyms followed on from a physical activity needs assessment, which identified that people in Camden found cost and access both barriers to being more physically active.

This report is the first stage of the evaluation of Camden's outdoor gyms which aims to identify: use of outdoor gyms; increases in individual levels of physical activity as a result of outdoor gym use; and to establish what the barriers are preventing other Camden residents from using the outdoor gyms.

The questionnaire survey

- Questionnaires were administered over a five day period (25th, 27th, 29th, 30th and 31st October 2010) inclusive of each of the four sites: Kilburn, Polygon, Cantelowes and Lismore.
- Over the five days interviewers observed 518 people using the outdoor gym at the four sites.
- 249 interviews were conducted: 56 at Cantelowes, 105 at Kilburn, 41 at Lismore and 46 at Polygon.

Key findings

- 26% of people using the outdoor gyms did not previously exercise.
- 31% of participants used the gyms 1-2 days per week, 31% 3-5 days per week and 12% 6-7 days per week.
- 46% of people surveyed had increased their levels of physical activity since the outdoor gyms had been installed.
- 94% of participants would recommend using the outdoor gym to a friend.
- 85% of people walked, ran or cycled on their way to use the outdoor gym.
- When asked about what would encourage more use, 55% of participants thought the gyms should be better publicised.

Other findings

- 19% of participants used the leisure centre as well as the outdoor gym, while 15% had stopped using the leisure centre in favour of outdoor gyms.
- When asked about what would encourage more use, users at Polygon (33%) and Cantelowes (37%) highlighted safer parks, while 48% of users at Polygon suggested having a personal trainer.
- 18% of people surveyed had undertaken at least the recommended amount of physical activity of 5 days of 30 minutes or more physical activity in the previous 7 days.
- More men (61%) were using the outdoor gyms than woman (35%). 4% of participants did not provide information on gender.
- 70.3% of users were aged 35 or over.
- The outdoor gyms were popular among BME communities. 12% of respondents were Black African (compared with the Camden population of 4.8%) while 5.6% were Black Caribbean (compared with the Camden population of 1.6%). Only 37.8% of the respondents were White British which is well below the estimated Camden population of 52.4%.
- 12% of people using the outdoor gyms were unemployed.

Recommendations

Promotion

- Encourage more women to use the outdoor gyms especially through organised sessions or 1-1 support. Initial pilot could be considered at Polygon, Kilburn or Cantelowes, which had lower levels of female use.
- Consider how best to promote outdoor gyms locally. For example, given the high percentage of people willing to recommend friends or family an incentivised recommend a friend/family scheme or another option might be to make the sites more family friendly.
- Further work required with health care providers to promote outdoor gyms and wider physical activity offer including the getting Camden active z-card.

Supervised or 1-1 sessions

- Consider additional organised sessions or 1-1 personal trainer support at sites with lower levels of activity. Initial pilot might be considered at Polygon site.
- Work with local leisure providers to run more 1-1 personal trainer supervision or organised sessions.

- Further work to encourage more users to do the recommended weekly level of physical activity on the outdoor gyms. This could be supported through supervised or 1-1 sessions.

London Borough of Camden parks

- Work with LBC parks to identify where and how safety could be improved at certain outdoor gym sites. Initial pilot work might focus on Polygon or Cantelowes where improving safety was raised as a way of encouraging more use.

Outdoor gyms phase II evaluation

- Phase II evaluation should have a particular focus on barriers for female users, barriers associated with park safety issues, family friendliness of sites and patterns of use i.e. time spent using equipment and types of equipment used.

Pro-Active

- Ensure that outdoor gyms are utilised as part of Pro-Active Central and Camden Olympiad proposals.

1.0 Introduction

Outdoor gyms have been popular in the Americas, Australia and China for a number of years, with several areas of the UK also recently introducing them to local parks and open spaces.

Outdoor gyms are similar to conventional indoor gyms but use equipment specially designed for use outdoors. Outdoor gyms are: free to use, can be used in all weather conditions, suitable for varying fitness levels, don't require any specialist equipment or clothing and suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

The largest single investment programme of outdoor gyms in the UK to date was in the London Borough of Camden, where eight sites opened in the summer of 2009.

This report is phase I of the evaluation of Camden's outdoor gyms.

1.1 Background

The investment in outdoor gyms in Camden followed on from an extensive physical activity needs assessment, which identified that Camden residents found both cost and access a barrier to being physically active. The needs assessment also found that 42.8% of people were interested in using a gym. In light of these findings, NHS Camden and the London Borough of Camden, through the Pro-Active Camden partnership, embarked upon a programme of activities aimed at increasing levels of physical activity, specifically amongst those that were inactive. As well as outdoor gyms, a number of other activities were launched including: Give it a Go, which offered free gym and leisure centre access to Camden residents in receipt of benefits; GP walking maps, which offered walking routes for health professionals to 'prescribe' to patients; and Green Gyms, which offered an alternative form of physical activity through gardening and land conservation.

A number of these activities also aimed to provide a more local and sustainable form of physical activity, which encouraged people to be outdoors and use their local open and green spaces.

The outdoor gyms were funded by NHS Camden with an investment of approximately £500k, and delivered in partnership with the London Borough of Camden (LBC) and Pro-Active Camden (PAC).

The outdoor gyms sites were selected using a number of criteria, which included: estimated adult obesity rates; four wards with highest premature mortality rates; index of multiple deprivation; and access i.e. that Camden residents should live within a 20 minute distance of an outdoor gym.

Following a consultation with local residents, the following eight sites were selected (see appendix I for map of eight sites):

Outdoor gym site	Camden ward
1. Argyle Square Open Space	(Kings Cross)
2. Cantelowes Gardens	(Cantelowes)
3. Cumberland Market open space	(Regents Park)
4. Kilburn Grange Park	(Kilburn)
5. Maygrove Peace Park	(Fortune Green)
6. Polygon Open Space	(St Pancras & Somers Town)
7. Swiss Cottage	(Swiss Cottage)
8. Lismore Circus	(Gospel Oak)

The aim of the outdoor gyms was to help contribute towards achieving the targets set out in the Camden Local Area Agreement (LAA), which included:

- National indicator (NI) 8 Adult participation in sport and active recreation (especially those currently inactive or where cost is a barrier to access).
- NI 56 Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6.
- NI 120 All-age all cause mortality rates.
- Local D: Reduce inequalities in premature mortality rates by narrowing the gap between the worst four wards (priority wards) and the borough average.

1.2 Aims and objectives of outdoor gym evaluation

The overall aims of the outdoor gym evaluation are to:

- establish levels of use of the outdoor gyms
- identify who is using the equipment
- establish what barriers prevent use

- determine whether any further investment in similar initiatives should be considered

The evaluation has several key objectives:

- To identify the average use of outdoor gyms sites.
- To identify where individual users have increased levels of physical activity as a direct result of outdoor gym use.
- To identify aspects of the outdoor gym experience which could be improved upon by current users.
- To establish what the barriers are which prevent other Camden resident's from using the outdoor gyms, especially those living within 0.5 miles of each site.

It was agreed that the evaluation should be divided into two phases. Phase I will focus on existing users of the outdoor gym equipment and phase II will focus on those living within 0.5 mile radius of an outdoor gym site but not currently using the equipment. This evaluation covers only Phase I but the findings should be used to help inform phase II.

1.3 Outdoor gym phase I evaluation methodology

The outdoor gym evaluation was overseen by the steering group which was established in 2010. It was originally the intention that volunteers would be recruited to undertake the evaluation. However this presented some logistical and resource challenges, not least being able to adequately cover 8 locations. Following discussions with the steering group it was agreed that the evaluation would concentrate on four of the outdoor gym sites based on location, LAA priority ward, number of equipment pieces and geographical spread. The four sites selected were:

- Cantelowes
- Kilburn Grange Park
- Lismore Circus
- Polygon.

In addition, the target groups for the research were:

- Adults over 16 in Camden
- Older people over 50
- Residents living in four priority wards: Kentish Town; St Pancras & Somers Town; Gospel Oak and Kilburn.

It was agreed that phase I would be conducted using questionnaires which would be administered by interviewers at each of the four locations. In addition, it was agreed that some observational data would be collected at each of the sites and interviewers would record the number of people using the outdoor gyms and not just those that agreed to be interviewed.

The evaluation consisted of the following stages:

Stage 1 - Literature review

NHS Camden library team undertook a literature review of outdoor gyms which included a number of the sources on the National Electronic Library for Health, Google, BHF Active, Sport England and healthcare databases (MEDLINE, HMIC, BNI, EMBASE etc.).

Stage 2 – Develop questionnaire

A questionnaire was developed using Formic questionnaire design software (see appendix 2).

Stage 3 - Recruit research company to administer questionnaires

With the support of funding from the London Borough of Camden Active Health Team a research company Plusfour Market Research Limited were recruited to administer the questionnaires.

Stage 4 - Conduct interviews over 5 day period at each of the 4 sites

Plusfour Market Research Limited had interviewers present at each of the four locations over the 5 selected days. In addition to administering the questionnaire survey interviewers also recorded the number of people attending each of the sites.

Stage 5 - Scan and analyse questionnaires

The questionnaires were scanned and analysed by NHS Camden. Analysis was done using a combination of both Formic and Microsoft Excel.

Stage 6 – Report and dissemination

Report written by NHS Camden and distributed to the steering group, PAC members and NHS Camden staff for comment.

2.0 FINDINGS

2.1 Literature review

A brief literature review was undertaken to establish if any other research or evaluation had been conducted on outdoor gyms. A number of sources on the National Electronic Library for Health, Google, BHF Active, Sport England and healthcare databases (MEDLINE, HMIC, BNI, EMBASE etc.) were accessed but little information was found on outdoor gyms specifically.

The majority of the literature focused on generic aspects relating to use of open and green space. These include the benefits green space and their use have on: physical and mental health; obesity; cardiovascular disease; anti-social behaviour; health inequalities; blood pressure; cholesterol, improved mental health and reduced stress levels; perceived better general health; and improvements in social capital and community cohesion to name but a few.^{1,2,3}

In terms of material which specifically referred to outdoor gyms, the most relevant information was from the Adidas Adizone project. Adizone are multi-sports sites which form part of the London legacy for the 2012 Olympics. The Adizones incorporate similar equipment to that of the outdoor gyms but also combines this with sports aimed at younger people, including, basketball, football, tennis etc. While it is important to acknowledge the difference of Adizones from more conventional outdoor gyms there were a number of relevant findings from the Adizone survey. These included: 61% use them at least once a week; 59% spent at least 20 minutes per visit; 65% said that the Adizone had helped them become more interested in sport; and 75% didn't have gym membership.⁴

The Jubilee Hall Trust, who ran supported outdoor gym sessions at Lismore Circus, also collected data on participants. Jubilee Hall delivered 260 sessions at the outdoor gym at Lismore Circus with 2242 visits (an average of 9 people per session). Of those attending the sessions 1413 (63%) were by people from BME communities. In a follow up questionnaire with 118 participants the survey found that; 44% said they had made new friends, 43% had changed their diet, 40% had tried a new physical activity, 37% had lost weight, 35% had improved their flexibility (they were able to stretch in places they previously couldn't), 30% said they had improved their strength (they were able to lift objects they previously couldn't) and 27% said they 'felt more sociable'⁵. In addition, a HAFOS report for Jubilee Hall Trust in 2009 found that 27% of people had heard of the outdoor

gyms and 11% had used them. The survey also identified a number of other aspects people might be interested in, which included, attending organised sessions (21%) and receiving more information on outdoor gyms (31%).⁶

2.2 Questionnaire survey

The questionnaires were administered at four sites: Kilburn, Polygon, Cantelowes and Lismore over five days (25th, 27th, 29th, 30th and 31st October 2010). 518 people were observed using the equipment during the 5 day period.

Data can be broken down for each site:

- Cantelowes: 113 people observed with 56 interviews conducted (50% of people using the site)
- Kilburn: 274 people observed with 105 interviews conducted (38% of people using the site)
- Lismore Circus: 65 people observed with 41 interviews conducted (63% of people using the site)
- Polygon: 66 people observed with 46 interviews conducted (70% of people using the site)

In total, 249 interviews were conducted over the four sites. 160 (31%) people declined to be interviewed, some of whom had been interviewed in the days previously. Interviews were conducted during week-day hours of 08:00 – 18:00 and week-end hours of 10:00 – 16:00.

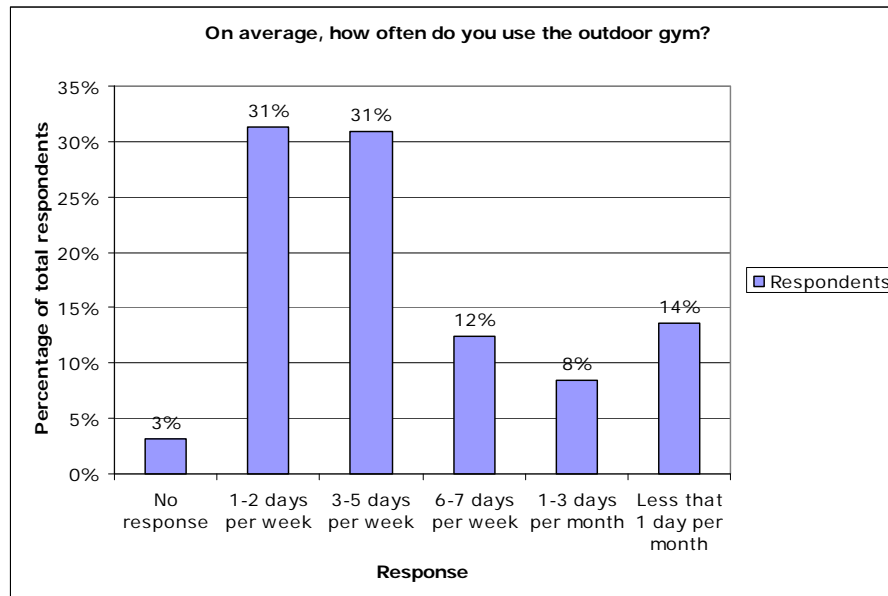
The questionnaire covered two areas. The first, focused on the use of outdoor gyms, the experience of using them and overall levels of physical activity. The second section focused on details about the individual user (age, gender, ethnicity etc.) and potential for follow up.

2.3 Outdoor gym use and physical activity levels

2.31 Outdoor gym use

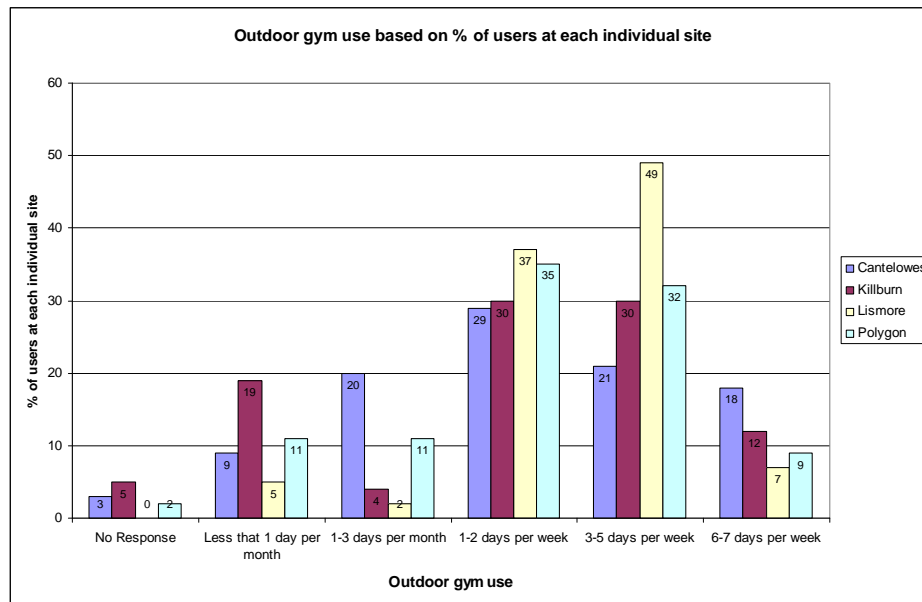
Of the 249 people interviewed 74% used the outdoor gyms on more than 1 occasion per week. Chart 1 below shows the average outdoor gym use. 31% of participants said they used the gyms 1-2 days per week, 31% 3-5 days per week, and 12% 6-7 days per week. Of the remaining people interviewed 8% used the gyms 1-3 days per month and 14% used the gyms on average 1 day per month.

Chart 1: Average outdoor gym use



Approximately 30% of users across the locations use the gyms 1-2 or 3-5 days per week. The one exception to this was the Lismore site which had 49% of users exercising between 3-5 days per week (see chart 2).

Chart 2: Outdoor gym use based on percentage of users at each individual site

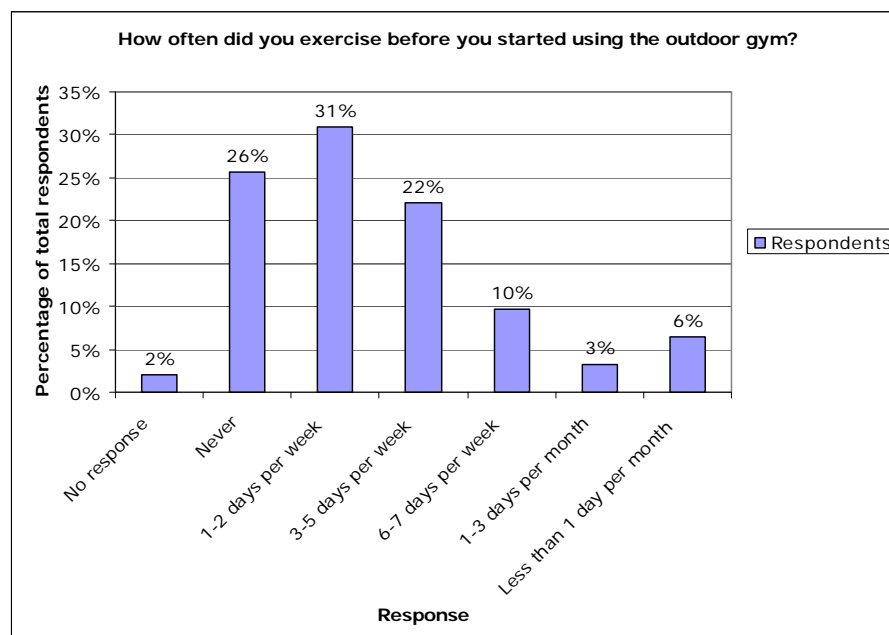


Further analysis on age and ethnicity across the use at the four sites did not highlight any significant variation with regard to usage.

2.32 Exercise before starting to use the outdoor gyms

The survey also aimed to identify activity levels and patterns of exercise before people started using the outdoor gyms. Chart 3 below shows activity levels before outdoor gym use. Of the 249 people interviewed, 26% never exercised at all, 6% exercised less than one day per month, 31% already exercised 1-2 days per week, 22% exercised 3-5 days per week, and 10% exercised 6-7 days per week and 6 % exercised only 1-3 days per month.

Chart 3: Exercise levels before using outdoor gyms

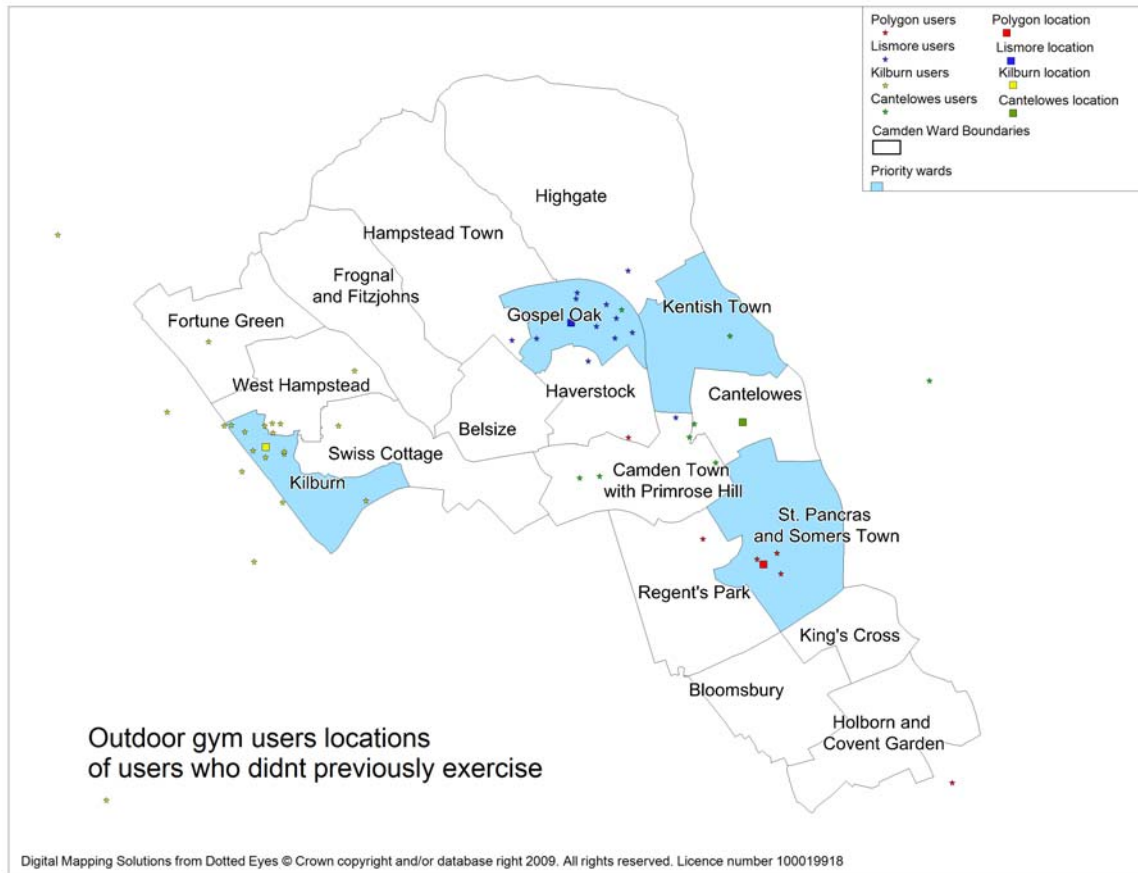


While there were clearly a number of users who were already exercising to around the weekly recommended amount as set by the Chief Medical Officer¹, with 32% of users exercising between 3-7 days per week, a greater number of people were not. Of particular note is the 26%, or 65 users, who were not exercising at all prior to using the outdoor gyms. While the survey does not allow us to determine how long the 26% of people had been inactive for it does represent a high percentage of users new to exercise. It is also worth noting that, 32% of these 65 participants were men using the outdoor gym at Kilburn.

Map 1 shows the place of residence of the 26% people who were not previously exercising. It can be observed that a large proportion of those users reside in the four target wards (Kilburn; Gospel Oak; Kentish Town; and St Pancras and Somers Town) as denoted by light blue.

¹ The Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults undertake a total of at least 30 minutes a day of at least moderate intensity activity on five or more days of the week. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) (2004) *At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health*, London: Department of Health (DH)

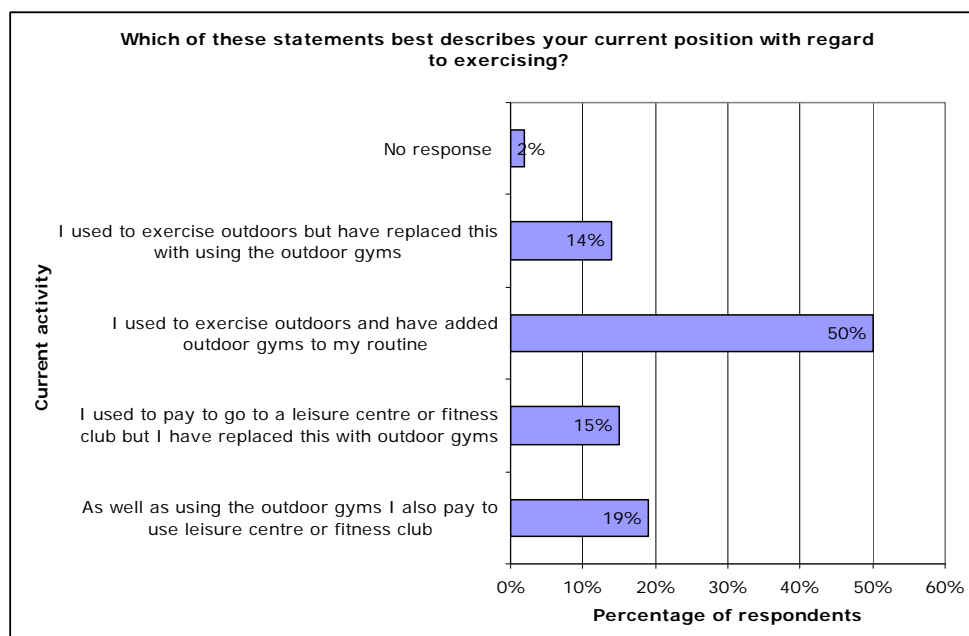
Map 1: Location of outdoor gym users who weren't previously exercising



2.34 Incorporating outdoor gyms into existing activities

For those people that were undertaking exercise prior to using the outdoor gyms, the survey aimed to find out how they had integrated outdoor gyms into their routine or if it had in fact replaced other activities. Of the 181 (73%) people that responded to this question, 50% had added outdoor gyms to their existing outdoor activities such as walking and running, 19% paid to use the leisure centre while also using the outdoor gyms, 15% had replaced leisure centre use with outdoor gyms and 14% of people had replaced other outdoor activities such as walking and running with outdoor gyms (see Chart 4).

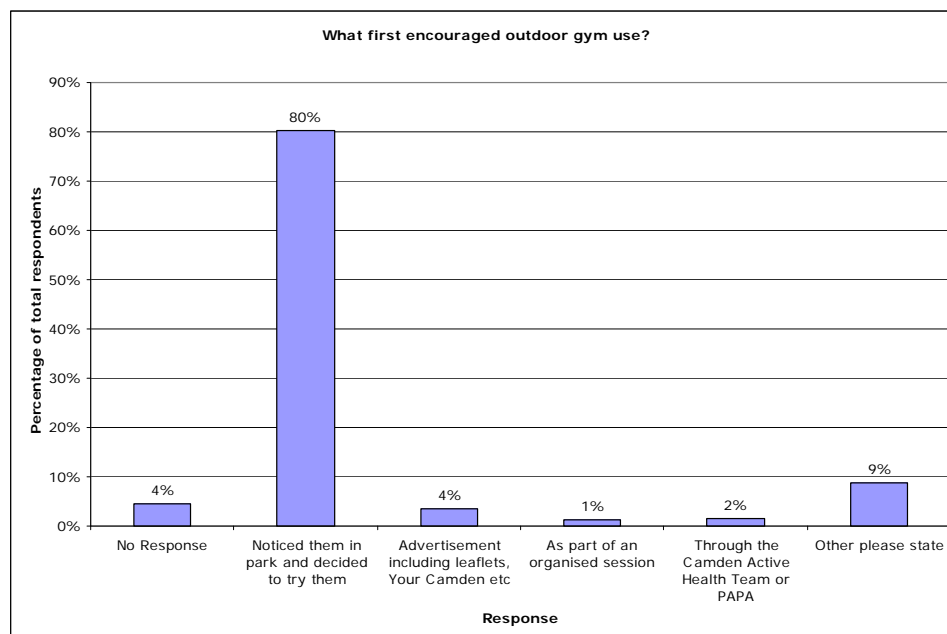
Chart 4: Incorporating outdoor gyms into existing activities



2.35 What encouraged use of outdoor gyms

A large majority of those questioned on what had first encouraged them to use the outdoor gyms cited seeing them in the local park, with 80% of respondents suggesting this. Only 4% of people had been encouraged to use them through advertisements, with organised sessions through the Camden Active Health Team or Jubilee Hall Trust combined accounted for a further 3% of respondents (See chart 5). 4% of respondents who answered 'other' said that they had first heard about the gyms through a friend/neighbour/partner which had encouraged them to use them.

Chart 5: What first encouraged outdoor gym use

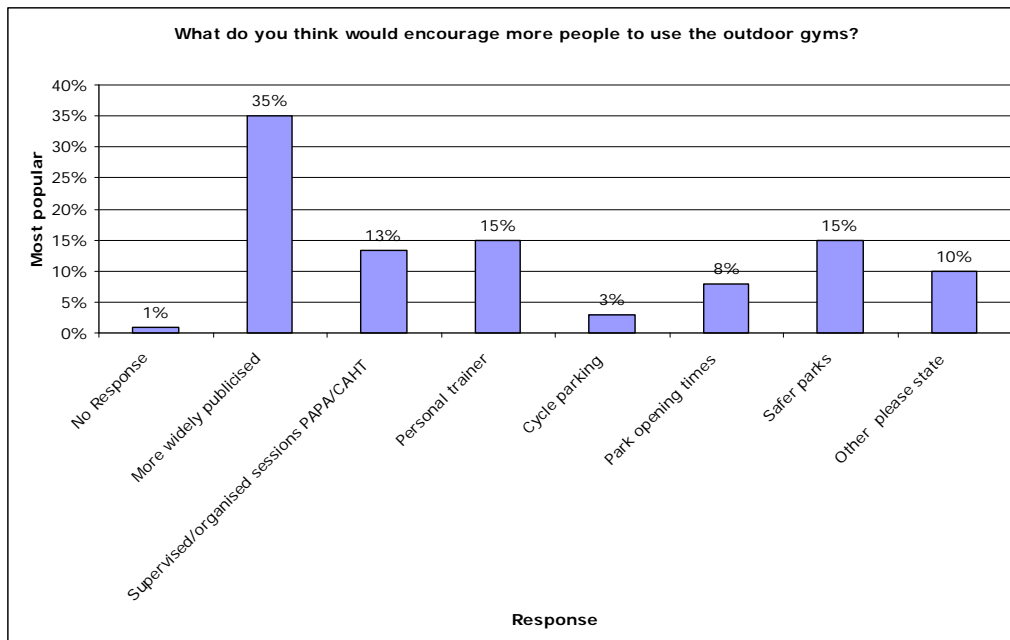


2.36 What would encourage more outdoor gym use

Chart 6 shows what participants felt would encourage greater outdoor gym use. The percentage figures are based on overall percentage of responses as participants were able to select as many responses as required.

In order of most popular, 35% (n=138) thought the gyms should be more widely publicised, 15% (n=58) suggested as personal trainer; 15% (n=57) safer parks; 13% (n=50) supervised/organised sessions; 8% (n=31) park opening times; 3% (n=10) cycle parking; and 1% did not respond. Of the 10% (n=38) that suggested 'other' options the most popular suggestions were modifications to the equipment (n=9) e.g. gears on cycles and that more equipment should be available (n=6).

Chart 6: Encourage more outdoor gym use



When we look at what would encourage more use from a site perspective. 33% of people surveyed at Polygon and 37% of those at Cantelowes suggested that safer parks would encourage greater use (with Kilburn 12% and Lismore 17% respectively).

Also worthy of note were the users at the Polygon site who expressed interest in organised sessions and personal trainers. 48% of people surveyed at Polygon thought that a personal trainer would encourage more use with 26% also suggesting that organised sessions would. 26% of users at Cantelowes suggested that organised sessions would encourage greater use, while 25% also thought personal trainers might. More widely publicising the gyms was popular with the users of Lismore (78%), Kilburn (62%) and Polygon (48%).

Table 1 provides a breakdown of what respondents thought would encourage more use at an individual site level.

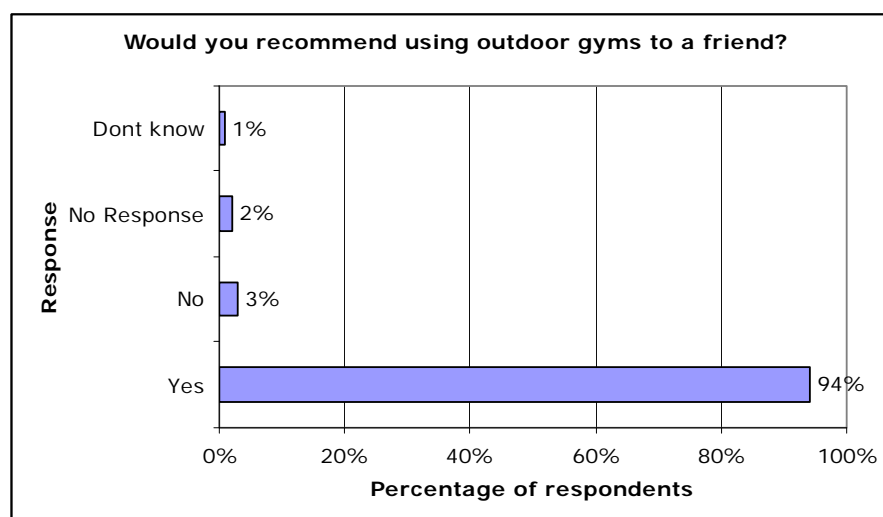
Table 1: What would encourage further use of outdoor gyms by site

What would encourage more people to use the outdoor gyms?		Selected responses			
		Safer parks	Organised sessions	Personal Trainer	More widely publicised
Outdoor gym site	Polygon (n=46)	33% (n=15)	26% (n=12)	48% (n=22)	48% (n=22)
	Kilburn (n=105)	12% (n=13)	10% (n=11)	16% (n=17)	62% (n=65)
	Lismore (n=41)	17% (n=7)	29% (n=12)	10% (n=4)	78% (n=32)
	Cantelowes (n=56)	37% (n=21)	27% (n=15)	25% (n=14)	34% (n=19)

2.37 Recommend outdoor gyms to others

One of the key measures of success of the outdoor gyms is whether the users of the equipment would recommend them to other people. Of the 249 people interviewed, an overwhelming majority of people (94%) said that they would recommend them. Only 3% of users said they wouldn't (see chart 7).

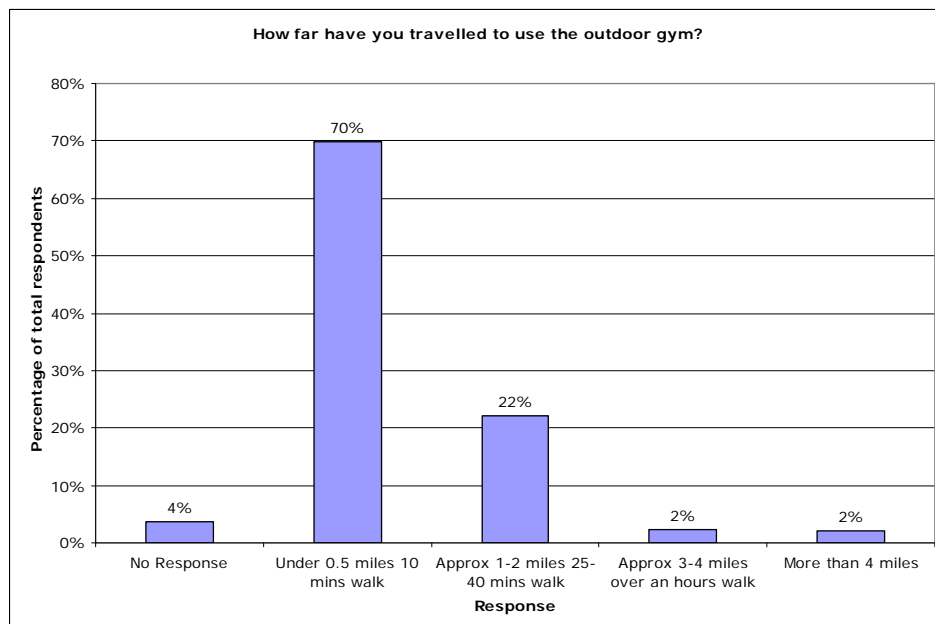
Chart 7: Recommend outdoor gyms to a friend



2.38 Distance travelled to use outdoor gym

Chart 8 shows the distance that users travelled to use the outdoor gyms. A large majority of the users travelled relatively short distances to use them with 70% travelling under 0.5 miles (or 10 mins walk); 22% travelling approximately 1-2 miles (25-40 minutes); and 4% travelling more than 3 miles.

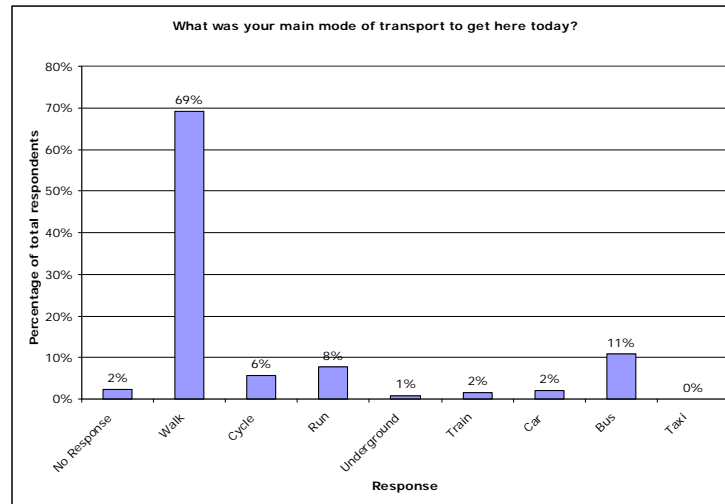
Chart 8: Distance travelled to use the outdoor gym



2.39 Mode of transport to use the outdoor gym

Chart 9 shows the mode of transport people use to travel to the outdoor gyms. Of the 249 people interviewed, a majority of them had used active forms of travel to get there, with 69% walking; 8% running and 6% cycling. Of the 11% that used the bus, 8% travelled between 1-2 miles and 3% travelled 3 miles or over.

Chart 9: Mode of transport to get to the outdoor gym



2.310 Physical activity undertaken in the last week

Of the 249 participants interviewed, 17% had undertaken at least the recommended weekly amount of exercise as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer¹. 7% had exercised on 7 days, 1% had exercised on 6 days and 10% had exercised on 5 days. A number of people were also close to achieving the recommended daily amount with 9% on 4 days. 26% of respondents had exercised 3 days in the past week and 23% on 2 days (see chart 10).

Chart 10: Number of days physical activity in the last week

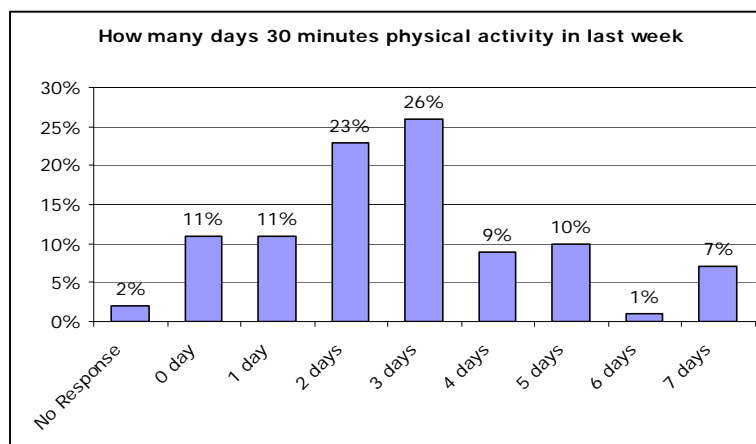


Table 2 provides a comparison between activity levels of respondents before installation of outdoor gyms and levels of physical activity in the week prior to completing the questionnaire survey.

Figures to the right of the red line in table 2 denote where an increase in physical activity levels were present when activity levels from the previous week were compared with levels of activity prior to using the outdoor gyms. The comparison suggests that 46% of people surveyed had increased their levels of physical activity since the outdoor gyms were installed.

Table 2: Comparison of exercise levels pre-outdoor gym installation with days exercised in previous 7 days prior to completing survey

Comparison of physical activity pre and post outdoor gyms		Number of days exercise (including outdoor gym use) of 30 minutes or more in past week								Total increase
		0 days	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 Days	5 days	6 days	7 Days	
Exercise levels before using outdoor gyms	Never	n=3	n=17	n=8	n=16	n=10	n=4	n=4	n=1	n=60 (24%)
	Less than 1 day per month	0	n=3	n=3	n=7	n=1	n=2	0	0	n=13 (5%)
	1-3 days per month	0	n=1	n=3	n=3	0	n=1	0	0	n=4 (1.5%)
	1-2 days per week	n=6	n=12	n=22	n=22	n=6	n=3	0	n=4	n=34 (14%)
	3-5 days per week	n=2	n=3	n=9	n=18	n=8	n=11	0	n=4	n=4 (1.5%)
	6-7 days per week	n=1	0	n=2	n=4	n=4	n=4	0	n=8	n=0 (0%)
										n=115 (46%)

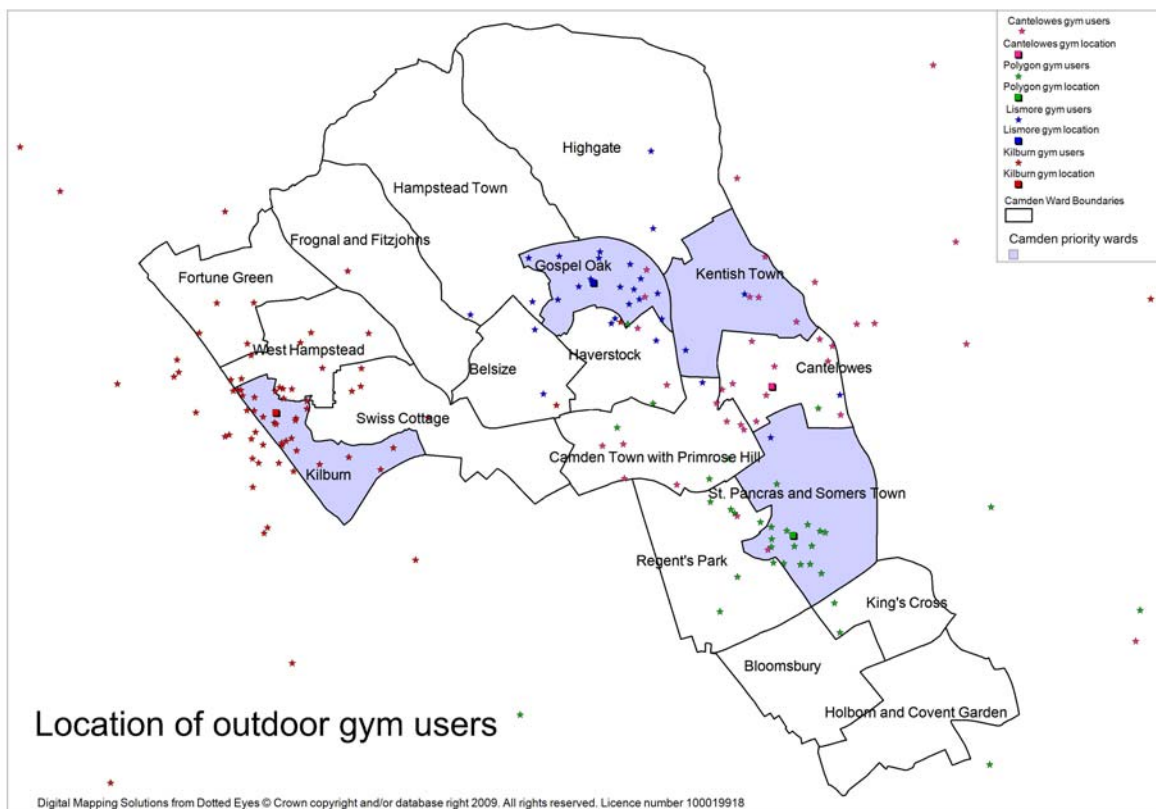
2.4 About the outdoor gym users

2.41 Outdoor gym user's place of residence and site visited

The majority of outdoor gym users lived within a short distance of the outdoor gym sites that they used. There were, however, instances where other sites were used. Map 2 shows place of residence, the outdoor gym site used and the four priority wards. It is also evident from Map 2 that a number of users lived in the

priority areas and used the gym closest to them. Interestingly, several respondents were from outside Camden and lived in the neighbouring boroughs of Brent, Westminster and Islington. Several people were also from outside the London area.

Map 2: Residence of outdoor gym users surveyed and outdoor gym site visited with overlay of four priority wards



2.42 Age of outdoor gym users

The age of those using the outdoor gyms was varied and fairly evenly spread across the middle age ranges, with under 16s and over 75s accounting for less. The percentage of users by age were: 16-24, 7%; 25-34, 20%; 35-44, 25%; 45-54, 24%; 55-64, 13%; 65-74, 7% and over 75, 2% (see table 3). Comparison with Camden population suggests that the people in the 35-64 age range were better represented when compared with the Camden average and the Active

People Survey 4³. The level of respondents under 16 was below the Camden average as most of those under 16 did not take part in the survey.

Table 3: Age of respondents compared with the Camden population

What age are you?	% of respondents (with actual no.)	Camden population age based on GLA projections 2010 ² .	Difference (+ or -) with the Camden population	Active People Survey 4 Camden 2010 ³
No Response	0.8% (n=2)	-	-	-
Under 16	2% (n=5)	17.4%	-15.4	-
16-24	7.2% (n=18)	9.5%	-2.3	30.3%
25-34	19.7% (n=49)	24.5%	-4.8	
35-44	24.5% (n=61)	18.8%	+5.7	27.5%
45-54	23.7% (n=59)	11.8%	+ 11.9	
55-64	12.9% (n=32)	8.4%	+4.5	13.3%
65-74	7.2% (n=18)	5.1%	+2.1	
75 +	2% (n=5)	4.5%	-2.5	

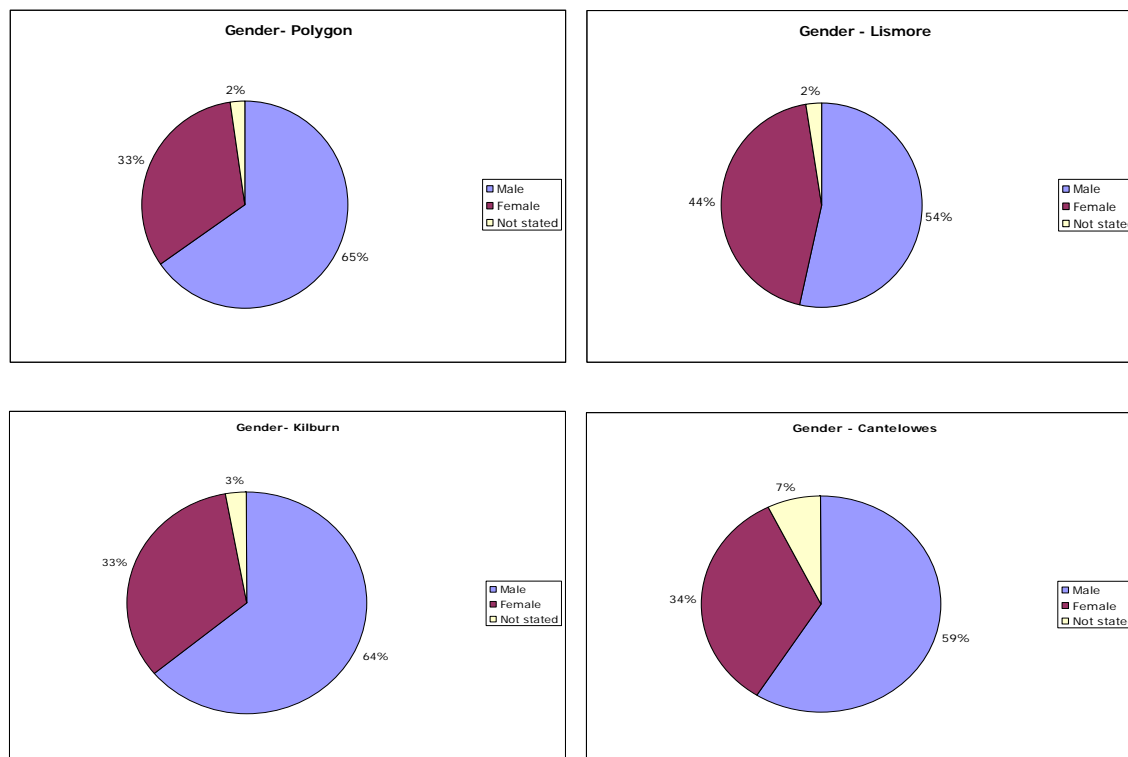
2.43 Gender of outdoor gym users

The majority of those surveyed were male with almost double the number of men than woman. 61% of respondents were male, 35% were female and 4% didn't respond. Clearly far fewer women are using the outdoor gyms, especially when women account for 51.5% of the Camden population. While a variation in levels between male and female would be expected as found in Camden Active People Survey², it is the level of the variation found that is of interest. Chart 13 shows the gender breakdown for each individual outdoor gym site.

² Population data from GLA 2008 using mid year estimate projections 2010. Available from www.london.gov.uk

³ Active People Survey 4. Available from http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/active_people_survey_4.aspx

Chart 13: Gender breakdown of each outdoor gym site



2.44 Ethnicity of outdoor gym users

The ethnicity of outdoor gym users was in the main representative of the Camden population (see table 4). However, variations were evident with three groups. 37.8% of the respondents described themselves as White British which is below the estimated Camden population of 52.4%, a variation of 14.6%. Respondents describing themselves as Black or Black British: Black Caribbean accounted for 5.6% of the survey while the estimated population in Camden is 1.6%, which is a variation of 4%. Similarly respondents describing themselves as Black or Black British: Black African accounted for 12.4% of people surveyed which is above the estimated Camden population of 4.8%, a difference of 7.6%.

Table 4: Ethnicity of respondents compared with the Camden population

How would you describe your ethnicity?	% of respondents (with actual no.)	Camden population based on ONS data 2007 ⁴	Difference (+ or -) with the Camden population
No Response	0.4% (n=1)	N/A	-
White: British	37.8% (n=94)	52.4%	-14.6
White: Irish	3.2% (n=8)	3.1%	+0.1
White: Other White	15.7% (n=39)	15.7%	-
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	2.4% (n=6)	0.8%	+1.6
Mixed: White and Black African	1.2% (n=3)	0.5%	+0.7
Mixed: White and Asian	2% (n=5)	1.5%	+0.5
Mixed: Other Mixed	3.6% (n=9)	1.5%	+2.1
Asian or Asian British: Indian	2.8% (n=7)	4.1%	-1.3
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	2.6% (n=4)	1.1%	+1.5
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	2% (n=5)	5.5%	-3.5
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	3.6% (n=9)	1.3%	+2.3
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	5.6% (n=14)	1.6%	+4.0
Black or Black British: Black African	12.4% (n=31)	4.8%	+7.6
Black or Black British: Other Black	0.4% (n=1)	0.5%	-0.1
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	3.2% (n=8)	2.9%	+0.3
Other Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	3.2% (n=8)	3.3%	-0.1

2.45 Employment status of outdoor gym users

The employment status of outdoor gyms users was fairly representative of the Camden population with the exception of those in full time employment. 32% of

⁴ Ethnicity data taken from ONS Experimental statistics 2007. Available from www.statistics.gov.uk/

outdoor gym users surveyed were in full time employment compared with the Camden rate of 52% (see table 5). A high percentage of respondents (17%) were also part of the student population. The ONS 2001 census suggests that about 11% of the Camden population are students, however that figure is now likely to be higher.

Table 5: Outdoor gym users employment status v Camden average

Employment status	Outdoor gym users	Camden (ONS Nomis 2010) ⁵
No Response	2%	Na
Full-time employment	30%	52%
Part-time employment	16%	12%
Student	17%	Na
Unemployed	12%	8%
Self-employed	7%	12%
Incapacity benefit	0.5%	6%
Retired	10%	20%
Carer	5%	

2.46 People with long-term limiting illness

Of the 249 people surveyed 10% (n=25) had a long-term limiting illness which compares with around 16% in the ONS 2001 census.

⁵ Camden data from www.nomisweb.co.uk

3.0 Discussion and recommendations

3.1 Principal findings

Overall the level of use of the outdoor gyms was high with 43% of those surveyed using the outdoor gyms between 3-7 days per week. In addition, and perhaps the most notable finding, was that 26% of people surveyed described themselves as never having previously exercised prior to using the outdoor gyms.

The survey also identified that 46% of users had increased their levels of physical activity since the outdoor gyms were installed, with around 18% of those surveyed undertaking the recommended amount of exercise in the previous week before the survey. Most participants live in close proximity to the gyms and travel to the gym by either walking, cycling or running. The gyms are more popular with men than woman and a high number of users live in one of the four priority wards: Kilburn; Gospel Oak; Kentish Town; and St Pancras and Somers Town.

More Black Caribbean and Black African people used the gyms when compared with the Camden population, while less White British people used them when compared with the population. 94% of people surveyed said they would recommend the outdoor gyms to a friend.

Factors that would encourage more people to use the outdoor gyms were, publicise them more widely, have sessions with personal trainers and make the parks feel safer.

3.2 Limitations

The survey had a number of limitations which are important to acknowledge. Given time constraints the questionnaire had to be concise and some questions were excluded. As a result information which might have proven to be beneficial during analysis was omitted. This included, the length of time users spent during each outdoor gym visit, the type of equipment (cardio etc.) used and how many outdoor gyms sessions contributed towards the previous seven days of physical activity in the week before.

In addition, the survey was undertaken at the end of British Summer Time which meant daylight hours were reduced. Anecdotal evidence has previously suggested that the outdoor gyms are more frequently used in the summer months.

3.3 Conclusion

The findings of the survey are very encouraging as demonstrated by the levels of use of the outdoor gyms and satisfaction levels (94% of participants willing to recommend the outdoor gyms to friends and family). The findings also show that the outdoor gyms are used by people of all ages, ethnicities and employment status. Crucially, in the four sites where the survey took place the outdoor gyms were being used by people that didn't previously exercise and by those living in areas of deprivation, which again can be witnessed by the number of respondents residing within any one of the four priority wards of Kilburn, St Pancras and Somers Town, Gospel Oak and Kentish Town.

There are also several issues which need to be explored further. For example, lower participation of woman using the gyms, associated barriers for women and also potentially running more targeted or 1-1 sessions at certain sites. It is also interesting to note that 55% of people suggested that the gyms could be better publicised especially given that significant resources were allocated to publicise the launch of the gyms in 2009, including local leaflets, bus shelter adverts, billboards and publicity in London Borough of Camden publications. Further consideration will need to be given on how the outdoor gyms are publicised or promoted in the future, which potentially means that there should be a greater emphasis on integrating with a wider physical activity offer or potentially through clinical care pathways.

A list of recommendations can be found below.

3.4 Recommendations

3.41 Promotion

- Encourage more women to use the outdoor gyms especially through organised sessions or 1-1 support. Initial pilot could be considered at Polygon, Kilburn or Cantelowes, which had lower levels of female use.
- Consider how best to promote outdoor gyms locally. For example, given the high percentage of people willing to recommend friends or family an incentivised recommend a friend/family scheme or another option might be to make the sites more family friendly.
- Further work required with health care providers to promote outdoor gyms and wider physical activity offer including the getting Camden active z-card.

3.42 Supervised or 1-1 sessions

- Consider additional organised sessions or 1-1 personal trainer support at sites with lower levels of activity. Initial pilot might be considered at Polygon site.
- Work with local leisure providers to run more 1-1 personal trainer supervision or organised sessions.
- Further work to encourage more users to do the recommended weekly level of physical activity on the outdoor gyms. This could be supported through supervised or 1-1 sessions.

3.43 London Borough of Camden parks

- Work with LBC parks to identify where and how safety could be improved at certain outdoor gym sites. Initial pilot work might focus on Polygon or Cantelowes where improving safety was raised as a way of encouraging more use.

3.44 Outdoor gyms phase II evaluation

- Phase II evaluation should have a particular focus on barriers for female users, barriers associated with park safety issues, family friendliness of sites and patterns of use i.e. time spent using equipment and types of equipment used.

3.45 Pro-Active

- Ensure that outdoor gyms are utilised as part of Pro-Active Central and Camden Olympiad proposals.

References

¹ Marmot, M. (2010). Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010. www.marmotreview.org

² Faculty of Public Health (2010). Great outdoors: how our natural health service uses green space to improve wellbeing: an action report. www.fph.org.uk/uploads/r_great_outdoors.pdf

³ Natural England (2009). Our natural health: role of natural environment in maintaining healthy lives.

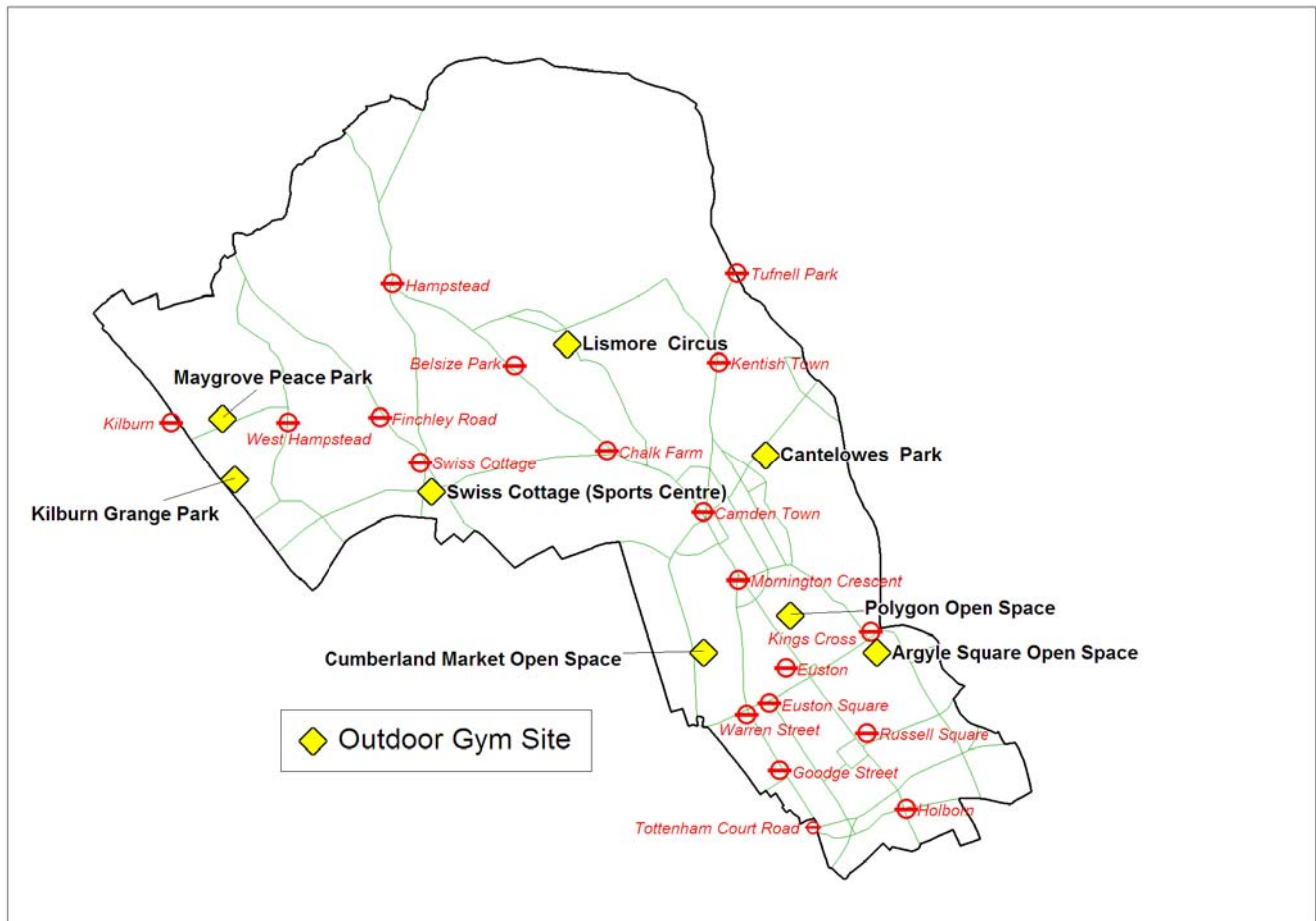
<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NE179>

⁴ The Great Outdoor Gym Company (2010) The Adizone programme: a team effort. [www.tgogc.com/pdfs/adiZone impact study.pdf](http://www.tgogc.com/pdfs/adiZone%20impact%20study.pdf)




⁵ Jubilee Hall Trust (2010) Demographic data from sessions held at Lismore Circus outdoor gym. Available on request from Phil Rumbelow Jubilee Hall Trust philrumbelow@jubileehalltrust.org

⁶ HAFOS (2009) Health & Fitness Omnibus Survey 10 Local Report for: Jubilee Hall Clubs. Available on request from Phil Rumbelow Jubilee Hall Trust philrumbelow@jubileehalltrust.org

Appendix I – Location of Camden outdoor gyms



Appendix II

Evaluation of Camden Outdoor Gyms

*The questionnaire should be completed by the **Interviewer***

Date of interview Time
(e.g. 10 10 2010) (e.g. 18:45)

Outdoor gym site? ☐ Polygon ☐ Kilburn ☐ Lismore ☐ Cantelowes

ABOUT USE OF OUTDOOR GYMS

Q1) On average, how often do you use the Outdoor gym?

☐ 1-2 days per week

☐ 3-5 days per week

☐ 6-7 days per week

☐ 1-3 days per month

☐ Less than 1 day per month

Q2) How often did you exercise before you started using the outdoor gym?

☐ never (if never, please go to Q4)

☐ 1-2 day per week

☐ 3-5 days per week

☐ 6-7 days per week

☐ 1-3 days per month

☐ less than 1 day per month

Q3) Which of these statements best describes your current position with regard to exercising?

☐ As well as using the outdoor gyms I also pay to use a leisure centre or fitness club

☐ I used to pay to go to a leisure centre or fitness club but I have replaced this with using the outdoor gyms

☐ I exercise outdoors (e.g. run, walk) and have added outdoor gyms to my routine

☐ I used to exercise outdoors (e.g. run, walk) but have replaced this with using the outdoor gyms

Q4) What encouraged you to first use the outdoor gym?

☐ Noticed them in park and decided to try them ☐ Through the Camden Active Health Team or physical activity peer activator project (PAPA)

☐ Advertisement (including leaflets, Your Camden etc.) ☐ Other (please state)

☐ As part of an organised session (Jubilee Halls etc.)

Q5) What do you think would encourage more people to use the outdoor gyms? (please tick all that apply)

☐ More widely publicised ☐ Park opening times

☐ Supervised/organised sessions (PAPA, CAHT) ☐ Safer parks

☐ Personal trainer ☐ Other (please state)

☐ Cycle parking

Q6) Would you recommend using outdoor gyms to a friend?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

Q7) How far have you travelled to use the outdoor gym?

☐ Under 0.5 miles (10 mins walk)


☐ Approx 1-2 miles (25-40 mins walk)

☐ Approx 3-4 miles (over an hour's walk)

☐ More than 4 miles

Q8) What was your main mode of transport to get here today?

☐ Walk ☐ Cycle ☐ Run ☐ Underground ☐ Train ☐ Car ☐ Bus ☐ Taxi



Q10) What age are you?

☐ Under 16 ☐ 16-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+

Q12) How would you describe your ethnicity?

<input type="checkbox"/> White British	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - White/African	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Black African
<input type="checkbox"/> White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - White/Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Black other
<input type="checkbox"/> White other	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed other	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian other	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - White/Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Q13) What is your current employment status?

☐ Full-time employment ☐ Student ☐ Self-employed ☐ Retired

☐ Part-time employment ☐ Unemployed ☐ Incapacity benefit ☐ Carer/Parent

Q14) Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q15) What is your post code?

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Q16) Would you be happy for us to follow up in 3 or 6 months time to ask how your outdoor gym use is going?

☐ Yes (If yes, please provide e-mail address or mobile phone number below)

☐ No

Q17) Would you like to be kept up to date about outdoor gyms or other similar activities

☐ Yes (If yes, please provide e-mail address or mobile phone number below)

☐ No

Q18) If you answered yes to Q16 or Q17, please provide your e-mail address or mobile number:

[illegible]

TO: **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**
Monday 18 May 2015

FROM: **OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS COMMITTEE**
Monday 20 April 2015

APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT FUNDING OFFERS

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which informed Members that the City of London Corporation's local authority's responsibilities included education, learning, health, social care and leisure; including play and well-being. Members noted that current resource restrictions were resulting in new opportunities for partnership working. Officers said that at the Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting on 12th January 2015, consideration was given to a request from the London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) to install natural play equipment on Forest Land at Hollow Ponds, Leyton Flats and thus remedy a local play deficiency. Members noted that the many benefits of natural play, including positive impacts on the mental, physical and social wellbeing of children and their relationship with nature. Installing natural play structures was in line with corporate strategy and had no major legal or property implications. In response to a query from Members, it was noted that the funding would apply solely to equipment and not services. Members clarified that although the proposal would encourage play and well-being, it would also encourage members of the public to take part in sport activities.

RESOLVED – that option 2 "Decision on sport and play equipment funding offers should be made by the respective Management Committee based on the principle that any offer should be self-funding for the lifetime of the equipment and its removal" be approved.

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Committee(s):			Date(s):
Open Spaces & City Gardens	-	For Decision	20 April 2015
West Ham Park	-	For Decision	20 April 2015
Port Health	-	For Decision	5 May 2015
Epping Forest & Commons	-	For Decision	11 May 2015
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park	-	For Decision	18 May 2015
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	-	For Information	6 July 2015
Subject: Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18			Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces			For Decision
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>The Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18 focuses on delivering our charitable objectives and our four departmental objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites • Embed financial sustainability across our activities by delivering identified programmes and projects • Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging learning and volunteering offer • Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities through access to green space and recreation <p>The delivery of these objectives is supported by a number of corporate, departmental and divisional projects and programmes. These are illustrated on our roadmap. These programmes are an ambitious plan for change which will allow our charities to operate more effectively both individually and as a collective, to deliver of objectives in a way that is effective and sustainable.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>It is recommended that members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee note the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18</p>			

Main Report

Background

1. In line with City of London business planning guidance, the Open Spaces Business Plan covers a three year period and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Current Position

2. The business plan for 2015/16-17/18 presents a slightly changed approach from previous years as it focuses on the department's roadmap for key programmes and projects. Roadmaps have started to be introduced across the City of London to illustrate priority projects including a timeline and milestones.
3. The roadmap presents an overview of programmes and activities and it is supported by a suite of project and programme management documents which include a new "Opportunity Outline", "Corporate Impact Assessment", "Project Initiation Document" and "Highlight Report". These documents form the basis of a new corporate gateway process for the scoping, delivering and monitoring of non-capital projects.
4. The Open Spaces department has been at the forefront of adopting the new roadmap approach as we believe it will help us in delivering our ambitious programme of change. This programme will allow us to achieve our departmental savings over the next three years while focusing our attention and activities on delivering and understanding outcomes for our communities.

The Open Spaces Charities

5. This year the business plan also reflects the significance of our eight charities – Ashted Common, Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common, Coulsdon & Other Commons, Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park, West Ham Park, West Wickham Common and Spring Park. Although each of the charities has slightly differently stated charitable objectives, they focus on the preservation of the open space for public recreation and enjoyment. These twin goals of preservation of space and community benefit are reflected in our vision and our departmental objectives.
6. The recognition of our charities has been highlighted this year as a reminder of our obligations as custodians of our open spaces for the benefit of our communities. This is reflected by the new Open Spaces identity which highlights each individual charity.

Departmental Objectives

7. The business plan presents four departmental objectives, which support our charitable objectives:

- Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites
 - Embed financial sustainability across our activities by delivering identified programmes and projects
 - Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging learning and volunteering offer
 - Improving the health and wellbeing of our communities through access to green space and recreation
8. Our achievement of these objectives is supported by our roadmap projects and programmes.

Key Projects and Programmes

9. The projects and programmes which form the roadmap are:
- Learning
 - Sports
 - Various Powers Bill
 - Promoting our services
 - Energy efficiency
 - Fleet and equipment review
 - Wayleaves
 - Ponds Project
 - Lodges and operational property review
 - Car parks
 - Cafes
10. The roadmap also reflects a number of corporate projects which will have an impact on the work of the department – service based review; strategic energy review; customer service transformation; oracle business intelligence; City People (I-Trent) upgrade; Investors in People and revised appraisal system roll out.

Key Performance Indicators

11. A new set of indicators were introduced in last year's business plan. The department is now looking to develop these indicators further with a "basket of indicators" which will sit behind each KPI which will allow us to consider a broader range of performance measures.
12. An additional KPI – energy efficiency and sustainability – has been introduced to reflect the importance this is considered by the department. The targets have been taken from the department's Sustainability Improvement Plan.

The Cemetery and Crematorium

13. As in the previous business plan, a different set of KPIs are included for the Cemetery and Crematorium to reflect their operation as a business rather than a charity. These are:
- Maintain 23% market share of cremation
 - Maintain 8% market share of burials
 - Income compared to income target
 - Target of 60% of cremation using the new fully abated cremator

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. The delivery of the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18 will support the City of London's strategic aim "to provide valued services to London and the nation" and the key policy priority of "maintaining the quality of our public services whilst reducing our expenditure and improving our efficiency".

Conclusion

15. The roadmap which forms the basis of the Open Spaces Business Plan illustrates the eight key programmes that will deliver change and improvement across the department over the next three years. By working together more effectively as a department, we will support each of our charities in delivering to their communities and the Cemetery & Crematorium in delivering their services.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1 - Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18**

Esther Sumner

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Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18

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1. Director's introduction

We began 2014/5 by looking at the longer term; considering what Open Spaces will need to provide for communities over the next 50 years. Many of the landscapes we manage require long term planning. With the projected growth in London's population, pressures on the NHS and education, as well as substantial reductions in central government grants which have left local authorities with major decisions to make over the levels of service they provide; we determined to focus on ensuring our green spaces would be able to meet the challenges of these changes. Whilst the City of London Corporation is not simply a local authority, we do provide local services. Like other organisations, we are facing serious economic challenges; we are, however, working hard to ensure our financial position remains stable. In reviewing our services we are challenging what and how we provide them, as well as the way we currently operate. This will, allow us to explore more efficient, effective and innovative ways of working. We have used this work to develop a programme of change for 2015 onwards.

As well as planning ahead, there were some significant achievements in 2014. The two reservoir projects – Hampstead Heath's Ponds and Epping Forest's Highams Park Lake – have been examples of excellent joint working with engineers from the Department of the Built Environment, as well as community engagement. Highams Park now has a new dam and significantly less silt, as well as achieving a solution for the home of the local scout canoeists. At Hampstead Heath, following a successful outcome of the Judicial Review and planning permission, work has been able to start on site; achieving the tight planned timescale. Both projects have benefitted from some great staff support, working closely with a wide range of community groups.

Other projects that have made good progress include the Cemetery and Crematorium Shoot, providing additional burial space, where work is now ready to be commencing on site in 2015/6. The Kenley Heritage Lottery Project, involved an interesting workshop on maintaining heritage assets and now has all resources in place to commence work on site later in 2015. As significant part of the grazing strategy was achieved with the completion of the Great Gregory's buildings providing overwintering facilities for 170 cattle including Epping's longhorn and red poll cattle as well as City Common's Sussex cattle. This will enable the herd to grow further in subsequent years, improving wood pasture management.

We are indebted to both staff and volunteers for all their achievements in 2014; with nearly 50,000 volunteer hours, up 10% on 2013, volunteers enable us to together achieve some significant projects; for example the visitor surveys at Epping Forest and the woodland management at City Commons. I was delighted that two Superintendents, Bob Warnock and Andy Barnard, were successful in their appointments to new roles within the Department.

The introduction of a new visual identity, focussing on our charitable trusts, has started to draw together messaging for each site. We continue to focus on improving our web site; seeking to understand the requirements of our customers and using social media to support their interest. We have made good use of QR codes on some sites to direct further information and visitor experience.

This Plan provides our direction for 2015/6 and beyond; focussing on ensuring our green spaces are preserved for recreation and enjoyment, whilst protecting local biodiversity and heritage; providing opportunities for both community and individual enrichment. Our projects are challenging all of us

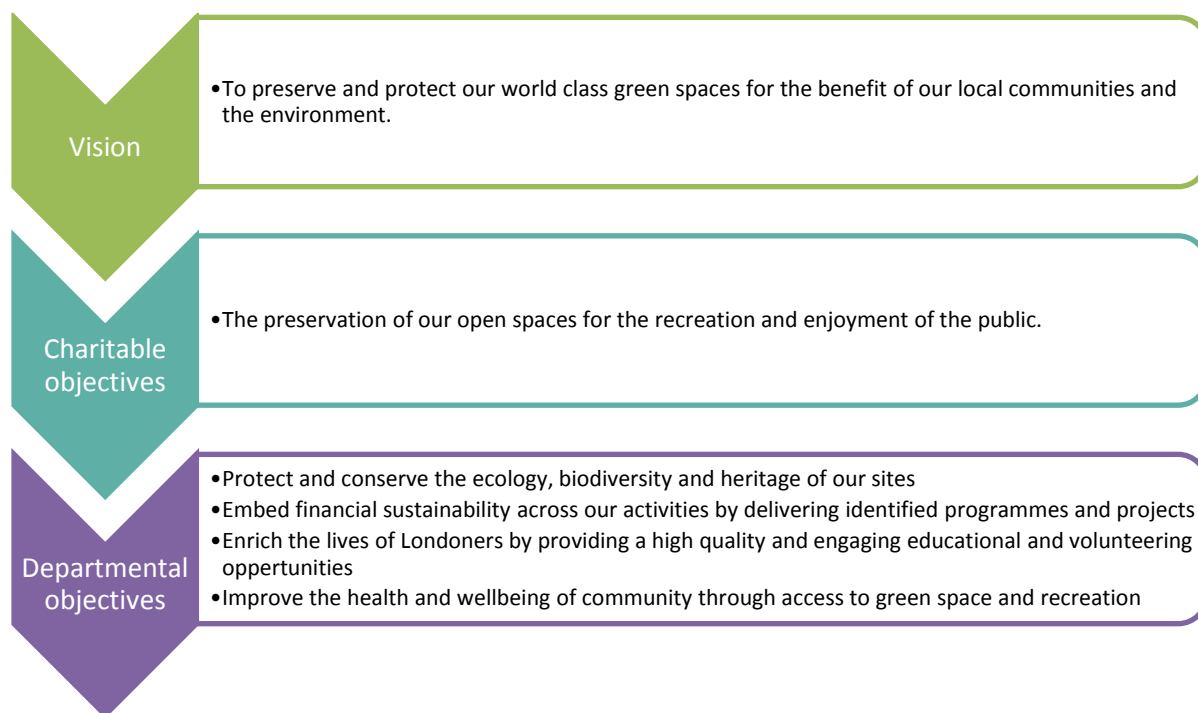
to do things differently and some of them will require our staff to develop new skills – particularly around developing ideas into financially viable projects, managing projects and managing change. Each of our divisional training plans will need to reflect these new requirements alongside day-to-day operational considerations.

In preparing for change, we recognise the need to develop staff skills both in project management, leadership and managing change; as well as developing management information to better understand our customers, empower staff and achieve improvements and efficiencies. Specific projects will focus on the opportunity that the introduction of a Various Powers Bill will enable; a strategic property review and a new Learning Strategy. We will seek further opportunities to become more efficient through energy and fleet reviews, together with achieving additional funding from wayleaves, car parking, cafes and other opportunities to promote our services. Although our focus must be on developing our skills, reducing costs and increasing income; there are several significant projects that must also be delivered. The Ponds Project will be a year for considerable upheaval on site, whilst construction starts; working with the community to ensure the short term impact is limited where possible. At Epping Forest the new management plan will be presented for public consultation.

These projects present an ambitious programme of change that will allow our charities to operate more effectively in delivering their objectives and our Departmental objectives, in a way which is effective, efficient, sustainable and wide reaching.

2. Our vision and objectives

The Open Spaces Department is integral to the service that the City of London offers to the community of London and beyond. Our green infrastructure contributes to ecological diversity and conservation as well as positive outcomes for people - enjoyment, recreation, wellbeing and health.

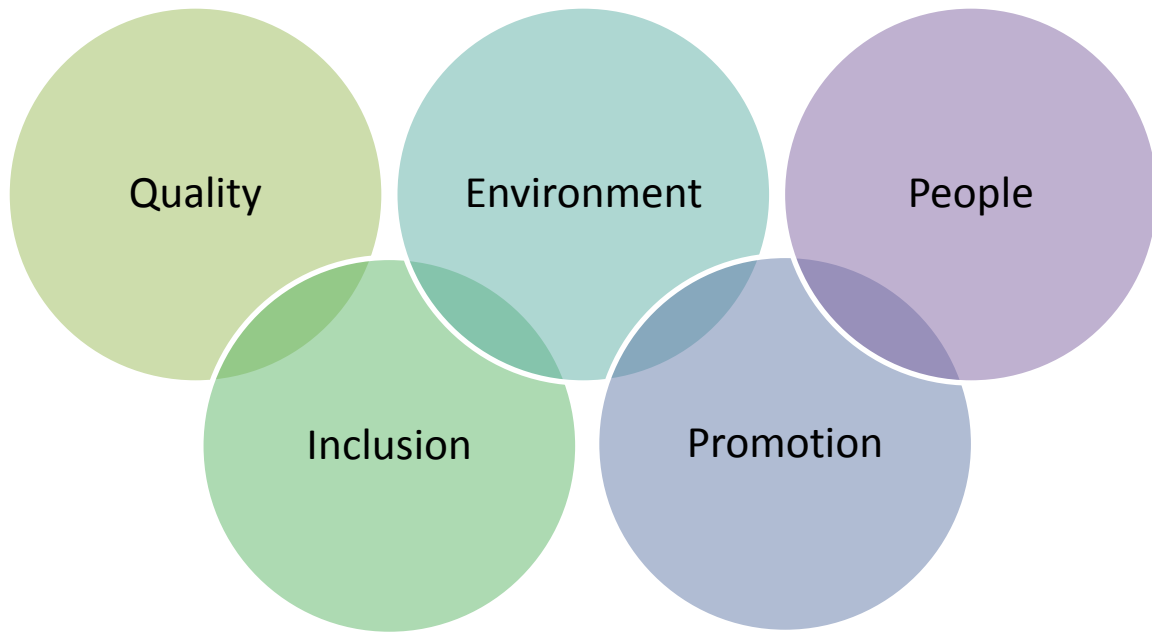


This vision reflects the objectives of each of our eight charities, which focus on the preservation of our green spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The objectives for each of our charities are included in appendix 2.

The Department's objectives reflect our charities' joint focus on communities and the landscape we all enjoy. Through this business plan, the Open Spaces Department through its charities at Ashted Common, Burnham Beeches & Stock Common, Coulson Common & Other Commons, Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park, West Ham Park, West Wickham Common & Spring Park and as well as our Cemetery & Crematorium will:

- Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites
- Embed financial sustainability across our activities by delivering identified programmes and projects
- Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging educational and volunteering opportunities
- Improve the health and wellbeing of community through access to green space and recreation

In delivering our charity and departmental objectives, we are also conscious of our five departmental values of quality, inclusion, environment, promotion and people; and the City's values of lead, empower and trust.



3. Delivering our key priorities

The delivery of our charitable objectives for each open space and our four departmental objectives is supported by a number of corporate, departmental and divisional projects and programmes. These are illustrated on our departmental roadmap.

Roadmaps are being introduced across the City of London to illustrate priority projects including a timeline and milestones. Each roadmap presents an overview of programmes and activities and it is supported by a suite of project and programme management documents which include new “Opportunity Outlines”, “Corporate Impact Assessments”, “Project Initiation Documents” and “Highlight Reports”. These documents form the basis of a new corporate gateway process for the scoping, delivering and monitoring of non-capital projects.

Our departmental roadmap also reflects those corporate cross cutting projects which will impact on the department, as well as those projects that we are running as a Department. Our departmental programmes are:

Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •City Bridge Trust Bid Education strategy and operating model Golders Hill Park Zoo and Queen's Park Children's Farm One O'Clock Club Volunteering and outreach work at City Gardens and West Ham Park Hampstead Heath education and play facilities
Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sports strategy Charging Paddling pools Wanstead Park changing facility improvement Hampstead Heath Lido Golf course recovery Online sports booking Operating model
Various Powers bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Management powers Income generation Enforcement
Promoting our services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Market research Events Charging Commercial activity Promotion of charities Increase awareness of services Understanding of costs Digital development
Energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Audit of property Reduction in utility usage Increase electricity generation
Fleet & equipment review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Audit of equality and costs Disposal Management options
Wayleaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •New charging model Annual process of review Enforcement
Ponds Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Engineering and landscaping project to improve dam safety, improve water quality and create diverse habitats
Lodges and operational property review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Identification of surplus property Exploration of short and long term leasing opportunities Disposal of surplus assets Income generation
Car Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Divisional based projects considering charging strategy and infrastructure to support this
Cafes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Development of food sales, concessions and cafe Service improvements Increased income

Together these projects present an ambitious programme of change that will allow our charities to operate more effectively together in order to deliver each of the charities' objectives and our departmental objectives in a way which is effective, efficient, sustainable and wide reaching. Our roadmap is attached at appendix 1.

A separate list of future capital projects is included at appendix 3. However over the next three years the Department will primarily be focusing on our roadmap projects and programmes. As a result only those capital projects associated with roadmap projects have been added to the business plan.

4. Performance measures

As the Directorate undertakes the change programme as part of our key priority projects and programmes to secure financial sustainability and to meet our key objectives, it will be increasingly important for staff to have access to information about our customers and our business performance to inform decisions.

New Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were introduced in 2014/15 – Conservation, Customer Satisfaction, Finance and People Management. These will continue as: Preserving the ecology and biodiversity of our sites, Customer Satisfaction, Finance and Developing our staff. A new indicator, Energy efficiency and sustainability, has been added to reflect two of our roadmap projects – Energy Efficiency and Fleet Review.

To enable decisions to be based on good evidence, we are developing the performance indicators established by the previous business plan. To facilitate this, a broader basket of site specific indicators will sit behind each KPI. These will drill down into further detail. The development of a broader range of indicators will also enable us to recognise the variety and differences between each of our 14 open green.

KPI	Performance 2014/15	Basket of Indicators for 2015/16
Preserving the ecology and biodiversity of our sites	Target of all sites having either a current management plan or work on next plan initiated met by the end of 2014/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with current management plan • Green flags awards • Green heritage awards • SSSI condition • London in Bloom awards • Heritage assets at risk
Customer satisfaction	Target of all divisions to have completed a hundred “60 second surveys” met in 2014/15	<p>Completion of hundred 60 second surveys for each site</p> <p>A basket of indicators will be developed during 2015/16 following a market segmentation exercise and as part of the Promoting our Services roadmap project. These indicators will link to COL Customer Strategy</p>
Finance - Income as a percentage of local expenditure (actuals)	<p>Goal of increase percentage for 14/15 compared to 13/14</p> <p>TBC at year end</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road map projects successfully delivered • Net profit evaluation of events • Net profit evaluation of commercial activity
Developing our staff	<p>Target of trainings spend of 1.5% of direct employee costs</p> <p>TBC at year end</p>	<p>Target of training spend of 1.5% of direct employee costs</p> <p>A basket of indicators will be developed during 2015/16 that link to Investors in People, a training analysis and a departmental workforce strategy. It</p>

		is anticipated that these indicators will consider the effectiveness of training and how it is contributing to the business; staff progression and retention; development of core skills over and above business specialist.
Energy efficiency and sustainability	Performance against the Department Sustainability Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce utility consumption by 2.5% per annum • Reduce fuel consumption by 5% per annum • Increase in electricity generation of 100KW (two additional buildings generating at least 50KW each)

The Cemetery & Crematorium has an additional set of Key Performance Indicators which reflect the commercial and regulatory environment in which it operates.

Target 2014/15 and 2015/16	Performance 2014/15
Maintain 23% market share of cremations	Under KPI to date due to reduced operating in January and February as a result of operational issues
Maintain 8% market share of burials	7Under KPI due to a slight shift away from burial this year.
Income compared to income target	To be confirmed at end of year – expect to exceed income target
Percentage cremations using the new fully abated cremator – target of 60%	48.5% due to the failure of our abated cremator during parts of November, January and February.

In addition to our KPIs, as part of our roadmap projects, we are also embedding consideration of outcomes in each project and programme as they are developed. Over time the development, monitoring and refinement of our outcomes will feed into our KPIs and indicators.

5. Our People

The Open Spaces Department employs 350 staff across a broad range of activities including arboriculturalists, litter pickers, rangers, constabulary, lifeguards, bereavement services, grounds maintenance, administration, marketing, sports, fleet management and education. A structure chart is included at appendix 6.

Our roadmap projects are challenging all of the staff in the Open Spaces Department to do things differently and some of them will require some of our staff to develop new skills – particularly around developing ideas into financially viable projects, managing projects and managing change. Each of our divisional training plans will need to reflect these new requirements alongside day-to-day operational considerations.

Investors in People

The City of London Corporation being assessed over a period of three years against the Investors in People (IIP) core standard and the wider IIP framework. In year one (September 2014) the assessment focused on validating the 'one team' culture and effectiveness of leaders and managers. In September 2015 the assessment focus will be on the effectiveness of engagement of frontline teams in all elements of strategy implementation and in year three the assessment focus will be on the skills of managers in evaluating the outcomes from learning and development activities.

In September 2014 the City Corporation met the evidence requirements of the IIP core standard and enough of the wider framework evidences from indicators 1, 3, 4 and 5 to secure recognition as a Bronze Investor in People. It is hoped that by the last assessment in September 2016 enough of the wider IIP framework evidences will have been met to secure the Gold award.

An Open Spaces Departmental action plan based on the 2014 assessment has been developed. Superintendents and their teams are working towards imbedding the IIP principles into everyday management, develop and share areas of good practice and gathering evidence for the next assessment.

Workforce planning

In recognition of our need to effectively manage and develop our workforce, we will be replacing our Human Resources Improvement Group with a Workforce Planning Group. This departmental group will contribute to a broader corporate programme of activity around workforce planning.

Succession Planning

The Department recognises the need to succession plan both as part of individuals development but also to secure positive outcomes for the Department. The Senior Leadership Team will be discussing how to take this forward with our HR Business Partner.

Learning priorities and outcomes

The department has a suite of learning priorities which are: project management, people management, leadership, financial awareness, managing and working with volunteers, operational training and coaching/mentoring skills. In setting our learning priorities for this business plan period, consideration has been given to our charitable and departmental objectives, and our roadmap projects and programmes.

Our learning priorities will be used to identify appropriate learning opportunities. Learning outcomes will be set for each learning opportunity, such as courses, conferences or events, and outcomes will be evaluated on completion of learning and cost-benefit will be evaluated. This will allow the Department to understand the impact of its learning programme and to highlight those learning opportunities which have proved particularly valuable.

Volunteers

We are hugely grateful for the work of our volunteers who support a wide range of activities across our green spaces including woodland management, ecological surveys, ecological enhancements, event organisation & delivery, mentoring, visitor engagement and installing new planting schemes. Some of activities and services are only possible due to the time given by volunteers.

In recognising the support of our volunteers in managing and maintaining our green spaces, we also recognise that volunteering should be a beneficial and enjoyable experience for those who volunteer. Volunteering can contribute to a range of outcomes including: connectivity to open space and the wider community, exercise, a sense of wellbeing, engagement with others and skills development. As part of our learning programme, we will be developing a series of outcomes and indicators which will help us to assess and understand the impact of volunteering for those who participate.

A volunteering programme is now embedded at each of our sites with the exception of the Cemetery & Crematorium. The Department will continue to develop its volunteering offer and ensure that the contribution of volunteers is maximised through its Volunteering Improvement Group which brings representatives from across the Department together to share good practice.

As we progress our roadmap projects and programmes we will continue to work with communities and volunteers to deliver the services they need.

6. Risk Register

The Open Spaces Department manages risk through a Departmental risk register, divisional risk registers, generic risk assessments and dynamic risk assessments. The Department also currently has one risk on the Corporate Risk Register – Corporate Risk 11.

Risks are managed on a divisional basis and each divisional management team is responsible for managing risks locally. Risks are escalated to the Departmental risk register to reflect those risks which cut across divisions, or which would have an impact which would be felt beyond the division. Risks are escalated to the Corporate Risk Register in accordance with the City of London Risk Management Strategy.

Generic risk assessments have been produced by the Open Spaces Risk Assessment Group and agreed by Senior Leadership Team to ensure a common standard across the Department. These generic risk assessments are then used as a basis for preparing risk assessments and safe systems of work in each of the divisions.

Dynamic risk assessments are conducted by staff prior to undertaking any risky activity. Where alterations are made to agreed safe methods of working these decisions must be documented.

The most significant risks facing the Department are our ability to deliver our roadmap projects & programmes; animal, plant & tree disease; and health & safety.

Each roadmap project will develop its own risk register for the project and the associated change implementation. These risks will be managed by the project lead and reported to the programme board or programme executive. Risks and issues will be escalated by the programme executives to the Department's Senior Leadership Team as necessary, who in turn may choose to escalate risk further through the corporate process.

7. Health and safety

Health and Safety is managed in the Department through the Health & Safety Improvement Group which meets quarterly and is chaired by the Director. Each division is represented at this meeting, and each divisional representative is charged with communicating the outcomes and

recommendations of the Health & Safety Improvement group to their divisions. The minutes of the meetings are circulated through the Department and made available on divisional notice boards.

The Health & Safety Improvement Group has a Risk Assessment Sub Group which is currently reviewing and rationalising risk assessments and safe systems of work.

Each division also has its own Health & Safety group which escalates issues up to the Departmental Health & Safety Improvement Group as necessary.

The Director represents the Department on the City of London Health & Safety Committee which is chaired by the Town Clerk. The Open Spaces Technical Manager also attends the City of London Safety Managers Forum.

The Open Spaces Department uses 12 indicators to monitor Health & Safety which are attached in appendix 5. An annual Health & Safety audit is carried out to monitor the 12 Health & Safety indicators. The audit is carried out by each division carrying out a self-assessment which is followed in alternate years by a validation from another division.

The current areas the Department is focusing on to improve are:

- Managing contractors
- Maintenance of equipment
- Working with the public/lone working
- Musculo-skeletal issues
- Premises fire risk assessments
- Noise and vibration
- Risk assessments for the use of chemicals.

8. Property and asset management

The Open Spaces Department is the custodian of the City's open space land, while the City Surveyor is responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and other built infrastructure. The Open Spaces Department will be working together with the City Surveyors and Chamberlains as part of the operational property review during the course of this business plan to review our operational assets to ensure that assets are used effectively and sustainably and any surplus assets are identified.

Preparations for this review have already identified surplus assets including surplus lodges, the "rabbit triangle" and a toilet block at the Cemetery and an empty office at Farthing Downs. This work is reflected on our roadmap. Discussions have also started to consider cases where assets could become surplus in the future, such as Heathfield House which currently houses the management and administration team for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park.

9. Summary Business Plan

Our Vision is:	To preserve and protect our world class open spaces for the benefit of our local communities and the environment.
Our Charitable Objectives are:	The preservation of our open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.
Our Departmental Objectives are:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites • Embed financial sustainability across our activities by delivering identified programmes and projects • Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging educational and volunteering opportunities • Improving the health and wellbeing of community through access to green space and recreation

Our Key Performance Indicators are:		
Description:	2013/14 performance	2014/15 target
Preserving the ecology and biodiversity of our sites	Target of all divisions to have completed a hundred "60 second surveys" met in 2014/15	Basket of indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with current management plan • Green flags awards • Green heritage awards • SSSI condition • London in Bloom awards • Heritage assets at risk
Customer satisfaction	Target of all divisions to have completed a hundred "60 second surveys" met in 2014/15	100 surveys per site completed. A basket of indicators will be developed during 2015/16 following a market segmentation exercise and as part of the Promoting our Services roadmap project. These indicators will link to COL Customer Strategy
Finance - Income as a percentage of local expenditure	TBC at year end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road map projects successfully delivered • Net profit evaluation of events • Net profit evaluation of commercial activity
Developing our staff	TBC at year end	Target of training spend of 1.5% of direct employee costs

		A basket of indicators will be developed during 2015/16 that link to Investors in People, a training analysis and a departmental workforce strategy. It is anticipated that these indicators will consider the effectiveness of training and how it is contributing to the business; staff progression and retention; development of core skills over and above business specialist.
Energy efficiency and sustainability	New indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce utility consumption by 2.5% per annum • Reduce fuel consumption by 5% per annum • Increase in electricity generation of 100KW (two additional buildings generating at least 50KW each)

Our Financial Information:					
	2013/14 Actual 000	2014/15 Original Budget 000	2014/15 Revised Budget 000	2014/15 Forecast Outturn (latest) 000	2015/16 Original Budget 000
Employees	£13,777	£14,206	£13,850	£13,850	£14,256
Premises	£2,118	£1,849	£1,983	£1,983	£1,771
Transport	£639	£597	£1,027	£1,027	£622
Supplies & Services	£2,455	£2,142	£2,100	£2,100	£2,152
Third Party Payments	£61	£78	£112	£112	£78
Transfer to Reserve	£213	£100	£66	£66	£74
Total Expenditure	£19,263	£18,972	£19,138	£19,138	£18,953
Total Income	-£8,344	-£8,376	-£8,376	-£8,626	-£8,280
Total Local Risk	£10,919	£10,596	£10,762	£10,512	£10,673
Central Risk	-£2,235	-£1,203	-£516	-£516	-£619
Total Local and Central	£8,684	£9,393	£10,246	£9,996	£10,054
Recharges	£4,019	£3,829	£4,031	£4,031	£3,992
Total Net Expenditure	£12,703	£13,222	£14,277	£14,027	£14,046
City Surveyor Local Risk	£3,164	£4,785	£4,181	£4,181	£5,039
Total Net Expenditure	£15,867	£18,007	£18,458	£18,208	£19,085

Our People														
Total staff	353													
Full time	314													
Part time	39 (figure does not include seasonal casual staff at Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest)													
Turnover	10-15% of permanent posts become vacant in any one year													
Vacancies	All vacancies are advertised internally within the City of London. From April 2015, all vacancies for Team Leaders and above it will be advertised across the department prior to any further recruitment in order to identify existing employees would like to be considered for secondment, acting up or to have development experience.													
Sickness absence	<p>The Open Spaces department is predominantly a manual worker department and the average number of days lost for the 12 months ending December 2014 was 6.2 days per employee. This compares favourably with the corporate average.</p> <p>The main areas which caused the sickness absence in late 2014 were musculo-skeletal problems such as knee, back, neck, hip and shoulder injuries and infections such as flu, coughs, cold etc. These absences accounted for 52.6% of all sickness absences during the period October to December 2014.</p>													
Gender	74.2% of staff are males, whilst 25.8% of staff are females													
Age range	<p>The Open Spaces Department has an aging workforce, with over 70% employees over 41</p> <table><tr><td>20 and under</td><td>0.6%</td></tr><tr><td>21-30</td><td>9.1%</td></tr><tr><td>31-40</td><td>20.1%</td></tr><tr><td>41-50</td><td>36.3%</td></tr><tr><td>51-60</td><td>27.8%</td></tr><tr><td>61 plus</td><td>6.2%</td></tr></table>		20 and under	0.6%	21-30	9.1%	31-40	20.1%	41-50	36.3%	51-60	27.8%	61 plus	6.2%
20 and under	0.6%													
21-30	9.1%													
31-40	20.1%													
41-50	36.3%													
51-60	27.8%													
61 plus	6.2%													
Ethnicity	89.39% of the workforce are white British/European, 1.52% are Asian, 3.33% are black, 5.57% are classified as being of mixed ethnicity													

10. Appendices

1. The Open Spaces Department Roadmap and divisional roadmaps
2. Charitable objectives
3. Capital projects
4. Risk register
5. Health & Safety indicators
6. Structure charts

Guide to the roadmaps

Open Spaces Roadmap and Business Plan

There is one main roadmap for Open spaces that contains the department priorities. This is supplemented by 5 division level roadmaps.

The Open Spaces Departmental roadmap features key corporate projects which will impact on the work of the Department. These are directly taken from the Corporate roadmap and can be seen in the top portion of the document, and below this are the Open Spaces Departmental priority projects.

Each division roadmap shows the Open Spaces Departmental projects in the top portion, and below this are the specific projects the Division are undertaking.

Programme tracking and progress

The roadmaps illustrate the progress of projects against milestones. The milestones are shown as blue diamonds, with activities shown in oblongs. As activities are progressed or completed the orange oblongs are highlighted in Green, while those yet to be completed remain in orange. . Not all project have been fully scoped, this is undertaken using the Corporate Opportunity Outline process and engagement with key stakeholders across the organisation. Once an opportunity outline has been completed and signed off, the activity boxes and key milestones are added to the roadmap for that project.

New projects or programmes that arise during the course of the business planning period may also be added and priorities changes – these will be highlighted through the reporting process.

Dates are shown horizontally across the top of the page. These focus on a 12 month period, longer term projects may appear on the roadmap without milestones or activity.

At the end of each programme line is a traffic light which gives a status of the overall programme – red, amber or green. Red and Amber projects will report on actions required to bring the status of delivery back on track or agree changes to maintain controls around the cost, quality or timeframes for delivery. There is also an arrow to indicate direction of travel (i.e. things are improving, steady state or getting worse). The arrow will also highlight the effectiveness of controls put in place on a red or amber project. The red amber green status and the direction status updates are confirmed through programme highlight reports at our Senior Management Team.

For example, the Education programme is currently listed as amber. This reflects the significant degree of risk and uncertainty associated with the application to the City Bridge Trust, although all activities to date have been completed to agreed timescales.

Committees will receive an update on progress against the roadmap as part of the quarterly business plan update. This will include commentary on any projects which are falling behind schedule or are subject to higher levels of risk.

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Project is in a critical state, guaranteed that the project will go, or has, gone beyond agreed tolerances (financial, benefits, timescales, quality)

Project is slipping, project has slipped or will about to slip into agreed tolerances

Project is on track



Project Closed



Project is in a controlled state



Positive direction of travel



Negative direction of travel



Partnership project

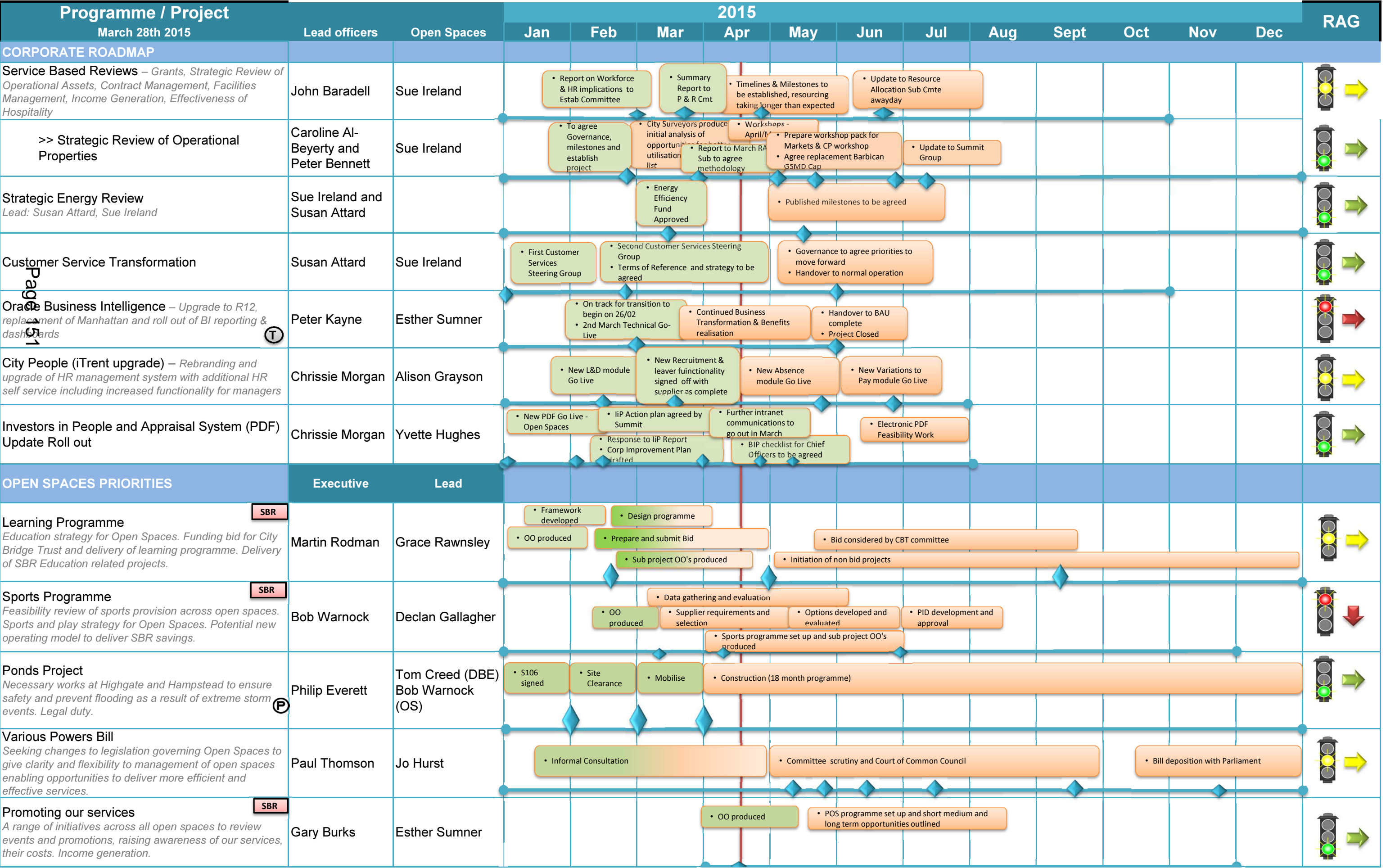


Technology led project

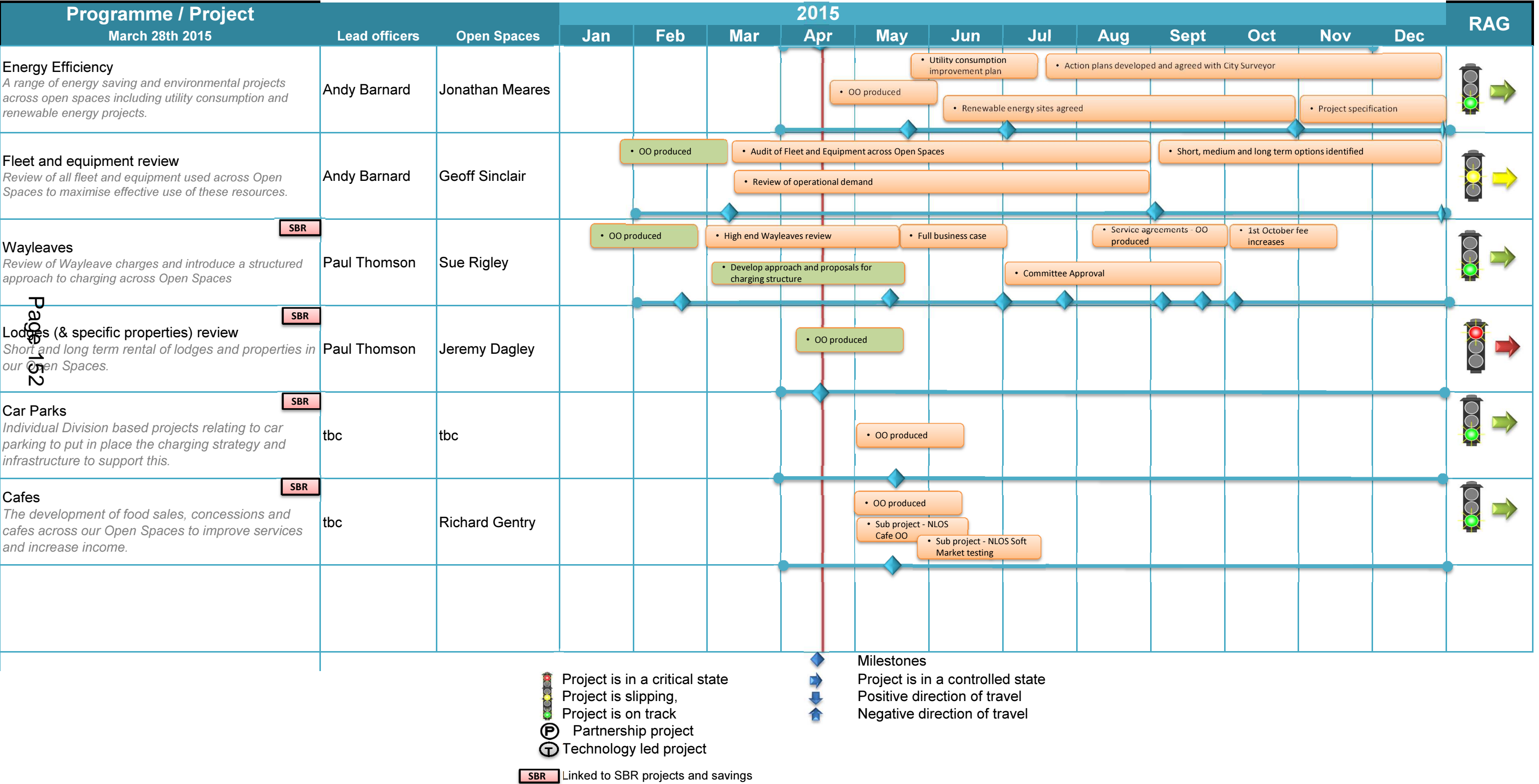


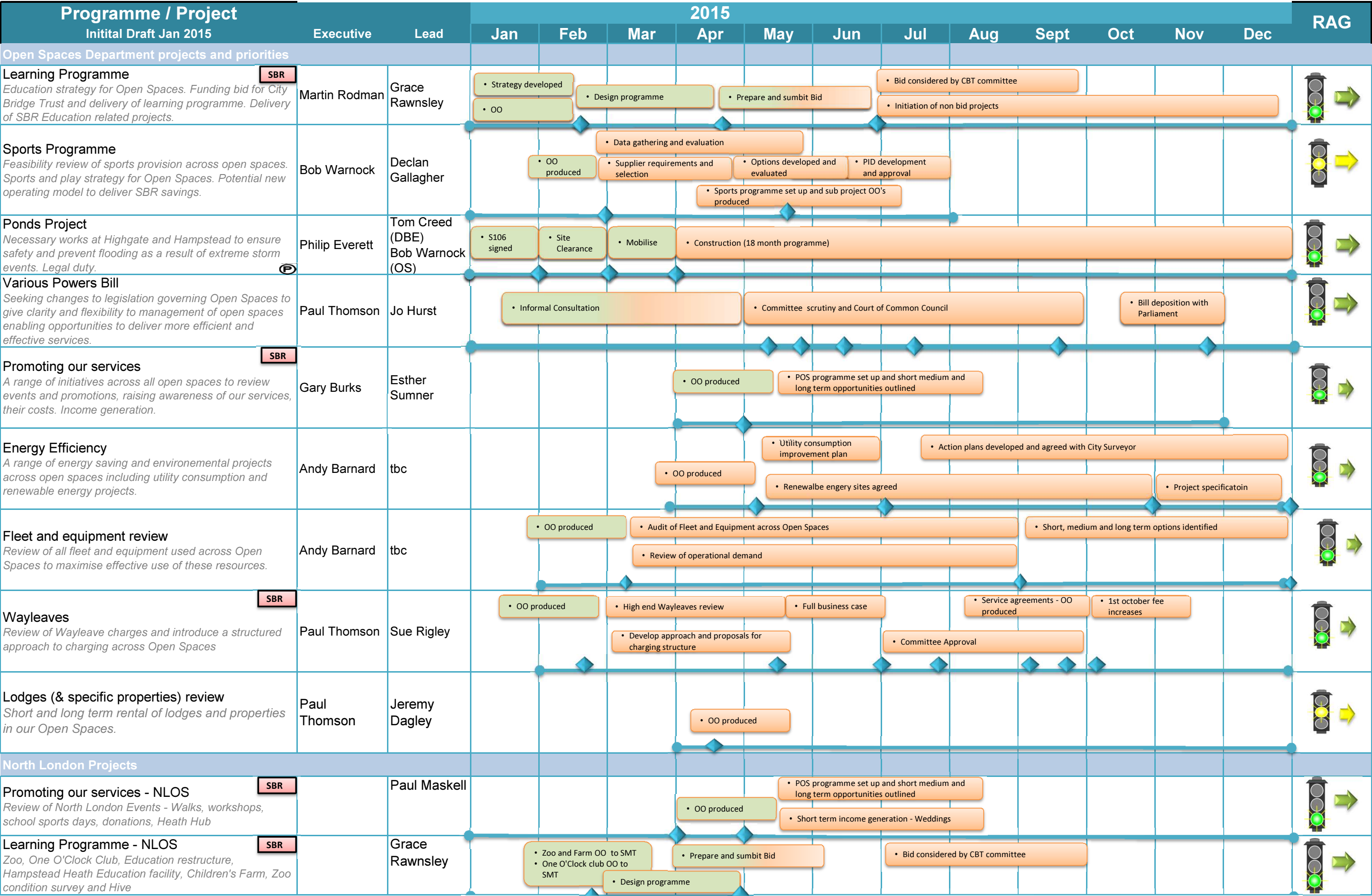
Open Spaces SBR linked project

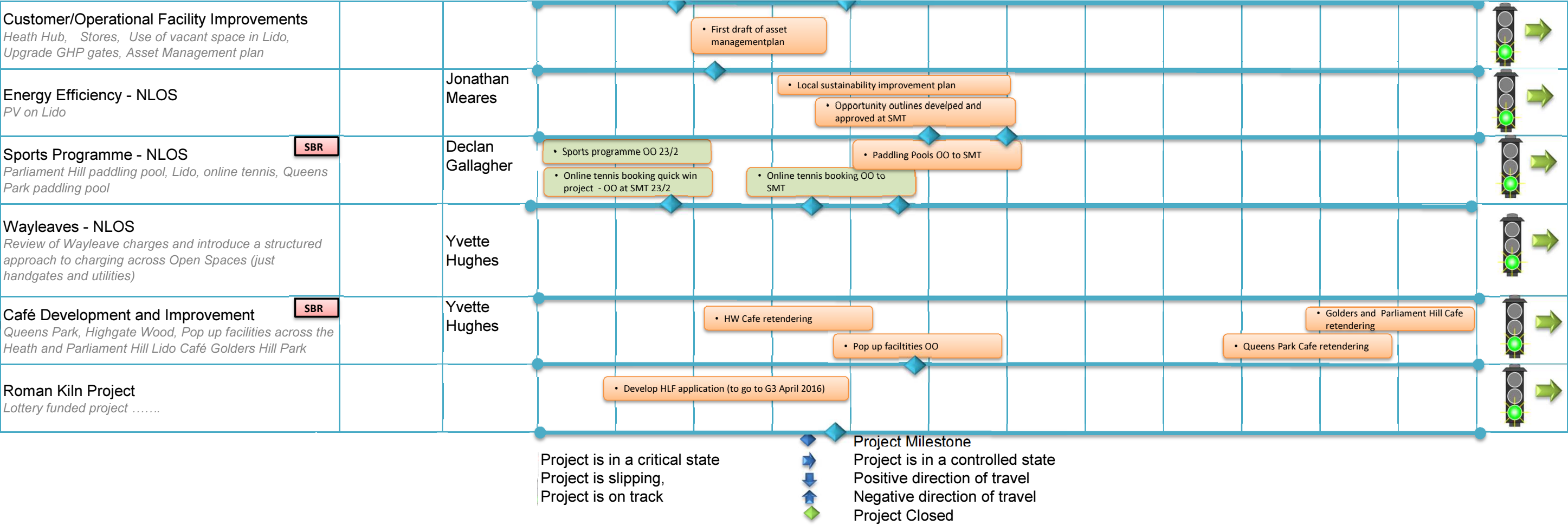
Open Spaces Roadmap



Open Spaces Roadmap







Charitable objectives

Charity	Objective	Charity Number
Ashtead Common	The Ashtead Common charity was established under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, which states that the purpose of the charity is the preservation of the Common at Ashtead for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.	1051510
Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common	The Burnham Beeches charity was established under the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, which states that the purpose of the charity is the preservation of the open spaces known as Burnham beeches, "The Beeches", for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.	232987
Coulsdon & Other Commons	The objectives of the Charities are the preservation of the open space known collectively as West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood, and Coulsdon and other Commons for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The charities have identical objectives and are managed and accounted for as one unit, therefore separate accounts and financial statements are not published for each charity.	232989
Epping Forest	The purpose of the charity is the preservation of Epping Forest in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation as the conservators of Epping Forest, as an open space for the reaction and enjoyment of the public	232990
Hampstead Heath	The objective of the charity is the preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public	803392
Highgate Wood & Queen's Park	The purpose of the charity is the preservation in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation of the open spaces known as Highgate Wood, Highgate and Queen's Park, Kilburn for the use by the public for exercise and recreation	232986
West Ham Park	The park is held on trust forever "as an open public grounds and garden for the resort and recreation of adults and playgrounds for children"	206948
West Wickham Common & Spring Park	The objectives of the two Charities are the preservation of the open space known collectively as West Wickham Common and Spring Park Wood, and Coulsdon and other Commons for the recreation and enjoyment of the public	232988

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Projects

In progress

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project – due to complete October 2016

Shoot project – due to complete October 2016

Queen's Park playground modernisation – due to complete early summer 2015

Short term (2016-18)

Kenley Revival project

Queen's Park Café improvements

Parliament Hill Café improvements

Seething Lane Garden (S106)

St Botolph's Bishopsgate (S106)

Medium term (2018-2020)

Parliament Hill paddling pool

Queen's Park paddling pool

Hampstead Heath educational facility change of use

Changing Room renovation at Wanstead Flats

Burnham Beeches Pond embankments

Wanstead Park HLF bid

Senator House Garden (S106)

Long term (beyond 2020)

City Churchyard management arrangements

Restoration of memorials at Bunhill Fields

Hampstead Heath operational buildings

Hampstead Heath lido

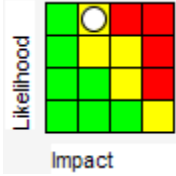
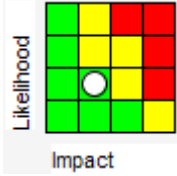
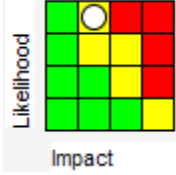
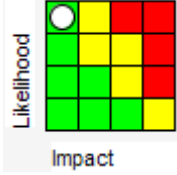
Open Space signs

Replacement of the cremators

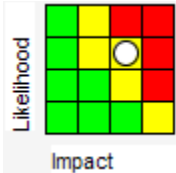
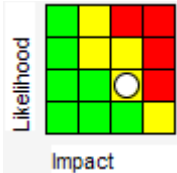
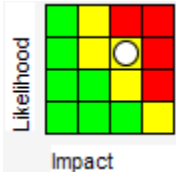
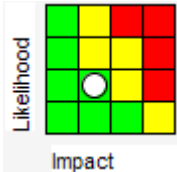
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Open Spaces Risk Register

Code	Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Risk owner	Current Risk Matrix	Target Risk Matrix	Target Date
CR11	<p>Cause: The earth dams on Hampstead Heath are vulnerable to erosion caused by overtopping</p> <p>Event: Severe rainfall event which causes erosion which results in breach, leading to failure of one or more dams</p> <p>Impact: Loss of life within the downstream community and disruption to property and infrastructure – including Kings Cross station and the Royal Free Hospital. A major emergency response would need to be initiated by Camden Council and the police at a time when they are likely to already be dealing with significant surface water flooding. Damage to downstream buildings and infrastructure would result in significant re-build costs. The City's reputation would be damaged. An inquiry and legal action could be launched against the City.</p> <p>The Ponds Project has been</p>	Sue Ireland			31-Oct-2016

Code	Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Risk owner	Current Risk Matrix	Target Risk Matrix	Target Date
	initiated to mitigate this risk as the current interim mitigations of telemetry, weather monitoring, an on-site emergency action plan do not address the issue of the dam's vulnerability to overtopping				
OSD 001	<p>Causes: Poor understanding or utilisation of health and safety policies, procedures and safe systems of work; inadequate training; failure to implement results of audits; dynamic risk assessments not undertaken</p> <p>Event: Staff or contractors undertake unsafe working practices</p> <p>Impact: Injury or death of a member of staff, contractor or a member of the public.</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016
OSD 002	<p>Causes: Severe wind, prolonged heat, heavy snow, heavy rainfall – potential to increase with climate change</p> <p>Event: Severe weather at one or more site</p> <p>Impact: Strong winds cause tree limb drop, prolonged heat results in fires, snow disrupts sites access, rainfall results in flooding and impassable areas, site closures</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016

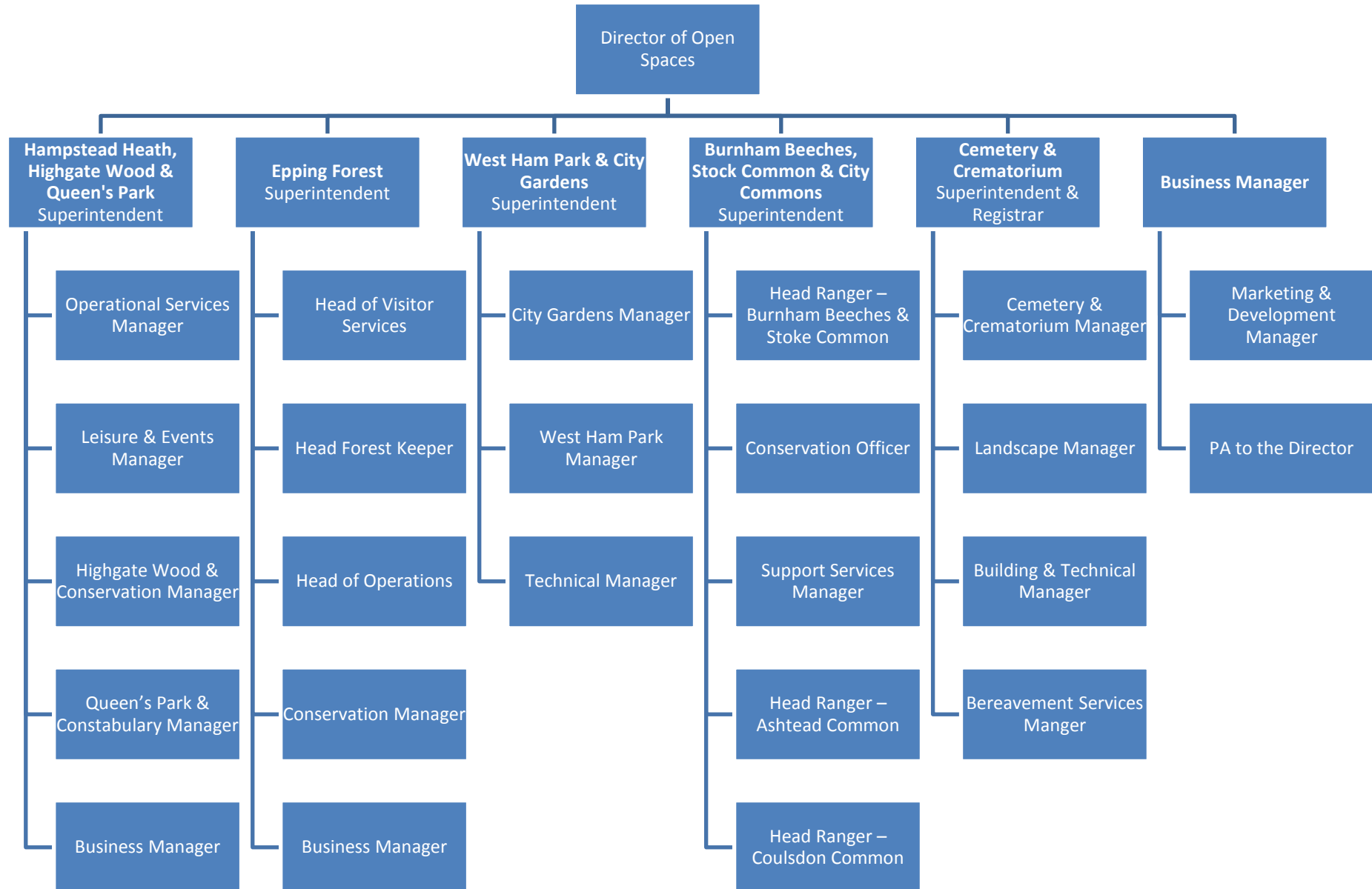
Code	Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Risk owner	Current Risk Matrix	Target Risk Matrix	Target Date
OSD 003	<p>Causes: Lack of appropriate skill sets to deliver projects; cultural resistance; initial scoping of project outcomes and timescales inaccurate</p> <p>Event: Department is unable to deliver its roadmap projects and programmes in agreed timescales or achieve agreed outcomes</p> <p>Impact: Alternative savings undertaken which may not be consistent with achieving cultural change or improving outcomes.</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016
OSD 004	<p>Causes: Inadequate proactive and reactive maintenance; failure to identify and communicate maintenance issues</p> <p>Event: Operational or public buildings become unusable</p> <p>Impact: Service capability disrupted; ineffective use of staff resources; damage to corporate reputation; increased costs for reactive maintenance</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016
OSD 005	<p>Causes: Inadequate biosecurity, buying of infected trees, plants or cattle, spread of windblown Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) from adjacent sites</p> <p>Event: Sites become infected by animal, plant or tree diseases</p> <p>Impact: Public access to sites restricted, animal culls, tree decline, reputational damage, cost</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016

Code	Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Risk owner	Current Risk Matrix	Target Risk Matrix	Target Date
	of control of invasive species, risk to human health from OPM or other invasives				
OSD 006	<p>Cause: Pressure on housing and infrastructure in London and South East; failure to monitor planning applications and challenge them appropriately; challenge unsuccessful; lack of resources to employ specialist support</p> <p>Event: Major development near an open space</p> <p>Impact: Permanent environmental damage to plants, landscape and wildlife, access issues, potential for encroachment</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016
OSD 007	<p>Cause: Failure to provide attractive employment prospects for skilled staff.</p> <p>Event: Staff capacity greatly reduced as skilled workers move to other fields.</p> <p>Impact: Reduced capacity, decline in quality of work, reduced ability to deliver core responsibilities, staff motivation declines.</p>	Sue Ireland			01-Apr-2016

Health & Safety Indicators

1. **Organisation, Implementation and Communication.** Each Division must have a local Health & Safety Plan and statement, and ensure that is regularly updated, clearly communicated and understood by all staff.
2. **Risk Management.** Each Division should have Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work in place that cover all activities, operations and premises and adhere to current legislation and City Codes of Practice.
3. **Training.** All staff shall receive a thorough health & safety induction followed by regular recorded and evaluated training determined by legislation, risk assessments and duties.
4. **Volunteers, Contractors and Suppliers.** Each Division should have local arrangements to ensure that all third parties are working in accordance with health & safety legislation.
5. **Accident and Near Miss Reporting.** Each Division must have procedures to ensure the reporting, investigation and analysis of accidents, incidents and near misses in accordance with City and Departmental Codes of Practice.
6. **Central Support.** Each Division should have arrangements in place with the City Surveyors Department, the Occupational Health Section and the central Health and Safety Section to ensure central support according to the schedules defined in the Open Spaces Health & Safety Policy.
7. **Checklists, Inspections and Maintenance Records.** Each Division should ensure that all statutory tests and inspections are undertaken in accordance with current legislation and that infrastructure is regularly inspected according to an accurate asset inventory.
8. **Policies.** Based on Departmental guidance, each Division should define site specific policies (as applicable) on Water Safety, Tree Safety, Play Equipment, Vehicle Safety, Events and Lone Working.
9. **First Aid.** Each Division should have appropriate first aid arrangements relating to training and provision according to current legislation and local risk assessments.
10. **Emergency Action Plans.** Each Division should have plans and procedures to deal with emergencies and disasters.
11. **Fire Safety.** Each Division should have appropriate fire safety equipment, training and procedures based on local fire risk assessments.
12. **Monitoring and Review.** Each Division should review their local Health & Safety Plan on an annual basis, advising the Open Spaces Health & Safety Committee of any key issues arising from this process.

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