



Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

Date: TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2015
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)	Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Alex Deane (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy John Barker	Councillor Melvin Cohen (London Borough of Barnet)
Karina Dostalova	Martyn Foster (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden)
Ann Holmes	Tony Ghilchik (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Clare James	Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association)
Edward Lord	Philip Wright (English Heritage)
Professor John Lumley	
Barbara Newman	
Deputy John Owen-Ward	
Tom Sleigh	

Enquiries: David Arnold
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020 7332 1174

Lunch will be served in Guildhall Club at 1PM
NB: Part of this meeting could be the subject of audio video recording

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
 - a) **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE (PAGES 1 - 8)**
To approve the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 24 November 2014.

For Decision
 - b) **HIGHGATE WOOD JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (PAGES 9 - 14)**
To note the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014.

For Information
 - c) **QUEEN'S PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP (PAGES 15 - 20)**
To note the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014.

For Information

Hampstead Heath

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Superintendent of Hampstead Heath to be heard on Hampstead Heath matters.

For Information
5. **THE STATE OF UK PUBLIC PARKS 2014 - RENAISSANCE TO RISK?**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 21 - 48)
6. **GATEWAY 5 AUTHORITY TO START WORK: PONDS PROJECT**
Joint report of the Director of the Built Environment and the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 49 - 72)

Highgate Wood & Queen's Park

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Superintendent of Hampstead Heath to be heard on Highgate Wood and Queen's Park matters.

For Information

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision
11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
To agree the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2014.

For Decision
(Pages 73 - 74)
12. **GATEWAY 5 AUTHORITY START WORK: PONDS PROJECT - APPENDICES 4 & 5**
Appendices 4 & 5 relating to Item 6 of the Public Agenda.

(Pages 75 - 80)
13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE Monday, 24 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 24 November 2014 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy John Barker
Revd Dr Martin Dudley
Ann Holmes
Professor John Lumley
Barbara Newman
Tom Sleigh
Councillor Melvin Cohen (London Borough of Barnet)
Tony Ghilchik (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association)
Philip Wright (English Heritage)

Officers:

David Arnold	Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	Chamberlain's Department
Nigel Lefton	Remembrancer's Department
Sam Cook	Remembrancer's Department
Edward Wood	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	Operational Service Manager
Paul Monaghan	Department of the Built Environment
Thomas Creed	Department of the Built Environment
Esther Sumner	Ponds Project & Management Support Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clare James, Edward Lord, Deputy John Owen-Ward, Martyn Foster (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), and Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden).

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous Committee meeting held on 15 September 2014 be agreed, subject to the following amendment:

Weddings & Civil Ceremonies at Hill Garden & Pergola

In response to Members' questions, the Superintendent advised that a Friday and Saturday ceremony had occurred on the same weekend once and that a report regarding the full costs and income generated from weddings and civil ceremonies would be presented at the next appropriate Committee meeting.

3.2 Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That the draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 3 November 2014 be noted.

4. OPEN SPACES LEGISLATION

The Committee considered a joint report of the Remembrancer and the Director of Open Spaces that outlined officer discussions which had taken place concerning possible modifications to the legislation governing the City of London Corporation's Open Spaces.

The Director of Open Spaces advised that this report was an introduction to the project, which will continue over the next 24 months. Members were advised that this informal consultation stage would involve the views of consultative committees and local interest groups.

The Remembrancer added that, once local views had been sought and considered, officers would present a detailed set of proposals to the relevant Committees. The earliest date for depositing a Private Bill in Parliament would be in November 2015.

RESOLVED – That officers be instructed to test the views of local interest groups on possible modifications to Open Spaces legislation.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath verbally updated the Committee on the following matters relating to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

Property

Hampstead Garden Suburb Great Wall

The Superintendent advised that maintenance works had been delayed by four weeks due to an investigation into parts of the Great Wall which were leaning.

Lido

The Superintendent advised that repairs works to the Café roof would last 16 weeks between December 2014 and April 2015. As part of a separate project,

the Lido wall would be re-built to original height with the addition of a fence on top to increase the level of security. The City Surveyor's Department was aiming to co-ordinate these two projects.

Parliament Hill

Members were informed that the tennis courts had been open for two weeks since completion of resurfacing works, which was one month ahead of schedule. Temporary markings had been put in place during winter which would be re-painted in spring 2015 when the top surface was applied. This would involve a closure of the courts for approximately two weeks.

Parking

Members were advised that they may be contacted by local residents regarding a parking amendment introduced by the London Borough of Camden in North End Avenue. The Superintendent was following up with officers from Camden.

Planning

Athlone House

The Superintendent advised that the City of London Corporation had applied for Rule 6 Status to enable the City to make a representation at the Planning enquiry in February 2015. An expert witness had been appointed to argue that the current planning application would have a negative impact on the surrounding landscape as well as a detrimental impact on Metropolitan Open Land.

Highgate Police Station

Members were advised that representations had been submitted to the London Borough of Haringey against the planning application to demolish the former Magistrates' Court and the Highgate Police Station and redevelop the site. In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the objections were based on the redevelopment having a negative impact on the views west from within Highgate Wood.

Highgate Wood

The Superintendent advised that a local resident had recently written to staff at Highgate Wood asking for the ban on cycling within the Wood to be lifted and to open the path running parallel to Muswell Hill Road. Members were advised that a report to consider these issues would be submitted the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee in April 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath's update be noted.

6. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2015/16**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces that updated the Committee on its latest approved revenue budget for 2014/15 and sought approval for a provisional revenue budget for 2015/16 for subsequent submission to the Finance Committee.

The report also outlined the effects of the Service Based Review proposals for the Open Spaces Department. Members were advised that, as part of these proposals, a saving of £332,000 would be made in year one (2015/16), £306,000 in year two (16/17), and £440,000 in year three (17/18). A saving of £252,000 would be made through the ending of the City Bridge Trust grant for educational and volunteering activities. As the educational activities of the department were judged to be suitable for funding from the Bridge House Estates' charitable funds, an application would be made before April 2015 to access this funding.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) The provisional 2015/16 revenue budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee;
- b) The draft capital budget be approved; and
- c) The Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces, be authorised to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, departmental reorganisations and other reviews and changes to the Additional Works Programme.

7. REVIEW OF ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2014

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided a review of the Management Operations and activities carried out on the Heath over the past 12 months as part of the 2014 Annual Work Programme and sought approval for the implementation of the new 2015 Annual Work Programme.

The Superintendent advised that the Work Programme had been reviewed and that the quarterly walks with the Heath and Hampstead Society had continued to prove beneficial in the development of the Work Programme. The Superintendent also thanked Heath Hands volunteers for their tremendous contribution to the 2014 Work Programme. Clearing storm damage from October 2013 had impacted on the 2014 Annual Work Programme as other planned work had to be postponed.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Open Spaces advised that the Service Based Review proposed savings focussed on income generation, sports and activities, and operational efficiencies rather than landscape management. The latter would be unaffected.

Members were advised that they could still submit their comments regarding the 2015 Annual Work Programme to the Superintendent for a short time.

RESOLVED – That the implementation of the proposed 2015 Annual Work Programme be approved.

8. MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR THE HAMPSTEAD FLEET STREAM COMPARTMENT

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that presented a detailed Management Work Plan for the Hampstead Fleet Stream compartment. The overall vision of the Work Plan was to management

the compartment in order to maintain the stream as a visible above-surface water course.

Members were advised that the Superintendent was discussing bramble management within the compartment with a member of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

In response to Members' questions, the Superintendent advised that the final Management Work Plan would be published online and reviewed in 2017/18. He added that he would make the Management Work Plan document more widely available to visitors at the Heath.

RESOLVED – That the Management Work Plan for the Hampstead Fleet Stream Compartment be approved.

9. FEES AND CHARGES REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out the proposed fees and charges for a range of facilities and services provided across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park for 2015/16. Members were advised that a more fundamental review of fees and charges, including benchmarking, would be carried out by the end of 2015.

The Superintendent advised that Children's Football Coaching at Highgate Wood and Queen's Park would not be included in the proposed changes to fees and charges because providers would be charged under a licensing regime from spring 2015.

RESOLVED – That the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16 be approved.

10. HAMPSTEAD RUGBY CLUB REQUEST FOR A THIRD RUGBY PITCH

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out a request received from the Hampstead Rugby Club to create an additional third rugby pitch on the Hampstead Heath Extension.

The Operational Services Manager advised that Hampstead Rugby Club had successfully increased their junior and women sections, so a third pitch would be required on designated sports area of the Heath Extension to incorporate their growing membership. Members were also advised that the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Sports Advisory Forum both supported the request for a third pitch.

In response to a Member's question, the Operational Services Manager advised that the new pitch would be created on the outfield of the cricket pitches during the autumn/winter rugby season. This would not impact the cricket squares during the spring/summer cricket season.

RESOLVED – That a third rugby pitch be allocated to Hampstead Heath Rugby Club with usage to be reviewed at the end of the 2016/17 playing season.

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

There were none.

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

The Committee congratulated the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath for being officially appointed in his post on a permanent basis. The Director of Open Spaces advised that she would circulate written confirmation of this appointment to Members in December 2014.

The Chairman advised Members that the next Committee walk would take place on Friday 20 March 2015 to ensure the availability of Members of this Committee who were also Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.

14 – 16

Paragraph No.

3

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the last meeting held on 15 September 2014 be agreed.

15. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk that informed Members of urgent action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, since the last meeting on 15 September 2014.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

16. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT - PRE AUTHORITY TO START WORK ISSUE REPORT**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of the Built Environment and the Director of Open Spaces regarding the current position of Hampstead Heath Ponds Project.

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

There was one question.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: David Arnold
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HIGHGATE WOOD JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Wednesday, 19 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee held at
Committee Room 4 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 19 November
2014 at 11.45 am

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Ann Holmes
Professor John Lumley
Barbara Newman
Stephanie Beer (Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association)
Jan Brooker (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Councillor Gail Engert (London Borough of Haringey)
Councillor Bob Hare (London Borough of Haringey)
Lucy Roots (Muswell Hill Friends of the Earth)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)

Officers:

David Arnold	Town Clerk's Department
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	Highgate Wood & Conservation Manager
Richard Gentry	Constabulary & Queen's Park Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Marguerite Clark (Highgate Society), Peter Corley (Tree Trust for Haringey), and Alison Watson (Friends of Queen's Wood).

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Professor John Lumley and Councillor Gail Engert to their first meeting of the Committee.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 April 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

LiDar Survey

In response to a question from Michael Hammerson, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that results of the LiDar survey would be made available to Members upon request.

Conservation Management Plan Objectives – Progress

The Superintendent advised that events in Highgate Wood during summer 2015 would be publicised on social media and a new online newsletter. Staff at the Wood had also recently obtained an iPad to aide with the publicising of events through social media.

Tree Management

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that a short presentation on iTree would be provided at the next meeting once the results of a London-wide survey had been finalised.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2014

The Consultative Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update to Members on management and operational activities in Highgate Wood over the past six months.

Budget-identifying cost saving and increasing income

The Superintendent advised the Committee that the Open Spaces Department was required to find £2.189 million of savings over the next three years. However, there was minimal scope for savings and reductions at the Wood other than increasing income from licensing, operational efficiency of sports pitches, and turnover at the Café. Members commended the Open Spaces Department for identifying the minimal savings at the Wood.

In response to a question from Councillor Bob Hare, the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that it would be difficult to increase income from filming as the Wood was not very vehicle-accessible and closures of certain areas would affect users of the Wood and local residents. He added that the fees charged for filming tended to be quite low.

In response to a question from Michael Hammerson, the Superintendent advised that the possibility of increasing income through the provision of higher and further education courses on conservation and woodland management would be considered as part of the Education Strategy, which was currently being developed. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Strategy should be presented to the Education Board for consideration.

Roman Kiln Project progress

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that a Gateway Two report regarding this joint community project would be submitted to the Corporate Project Board Sub Committee shortly. Members suggested that the report should include other historical aspects of the Wood too.

In response to a member's question regarding publicity for the project, the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that local media had covered a re-enactment of Roman Kiln use in 2010. The Chairman noted that a paper on the re-enactment had been published in the London Archaeologist journal.

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager added that information was provided for users of the Wood and the project was referenced on the City of London Corporation and the Highgate Wood websites. Further profile-raising would be possible once the project had progressed through the Gateway Two stage.

Sustainability

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that the bi-annual Sustainability Audit was coming to an end and the results would inform the Departmental Improvement Plan to be drafted soon.

Members were advised that the Wood's overall sustainability performance had been very good. The photo-voltaic system performed well over the protracted good weather during summer 2014 and there had been an increasing emphasis on moving away from petrol engine-powered toward battery-powered equipment.

Conservation Management Plan Summary Document

Members were advised that the maps, path profiles and fonts had all been amended and the Middlesex Forest quote removed following discussion and suggestions made at the previous meeting in April 2014. The document would be circulated shortly so Members were asked to submit any final minor comments to the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager as soon as possible.

Oak Decline

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that Oak Decline had reduced but there was still some significant leaf damage; a 'do nothing' approach could result in a loss of all Oak trees within 90 years. He added that 2014 had seen very few acorns at the Wood, which was not unusual due to the prolific mast year in 2013.

In response to a member's question, the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that there had been few leaf-lying moths found in this year's survey but a wide variety of weevil species were identified.

Tree Disease and Biosecurity issues

Members were advised that a programme of containment and eradication of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was launched by the Forestry Commission in summer 2013. There had been further advances by the pest and there was now an infestation at the Regent's Park Zoo, just over two kilometres from the Wood. The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager and the Division's Tree Officer were finalising an action plan to deal with OPM's inevitable arrival at one of the North London Open Spaces.

In response to a question from Councillor Bob Hare, the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that OPM would have little effect on established healthy trees but it could have a detrimental effect to stressed trees at the Wood.

Play Area and Recreation

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that the play area safety surface improvements were successfully completed in time for the busy summer holiday period. A total area of 350m sq. was converted to a rubberised surface consisting of the space net unit and the cluster of units immediately adjacent, all of which must have an impact-absorbing surface to protect against injuries. Members were also advised that the roof of the hut in the Play Area would be repaired shortly.

The Superintendent added that the new safety surface had received much positive feedback from users of the Wood. The feedback was endorsed by Stephanie Beer, who had recently experienced the new surface with her grandchildren.

Community and Events

Members were advised that the volunteering sessions led by Heath Hands, in which volunteers would carry out clearing and trimming throughout the Wood, were becoming more popular and more frequent. The Committee thanked Heath Hands' dedicated team of volunteers for their hard work over the past six months.

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that a Friends of Highgate Wood group could be developed to allow local volunteers to concentrate their work at the Wood. It was suggested that further incentives could be offered to volunteers, such as staff at the Wood giving CV references to acknowledge the important work they carry out.

Members were also advised that Heritage Day attracted around 2,000 visitors to the Wood. The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager added that the number of visitors in a year could reach one million soon.

Pavilion Café

The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that a temporary covered dog-friendly area had received only positive feedback since its inception so members of the Consultative Committee were whether or not it should be made a permanent feature. Members supported the dog-friendly area and agreed that it be made more permanent.

Development Issues

Members were advised that the Open Spaces Department had submitted an objection to the proposed redevelopment of the former Haringey Magistrates Court as it would have an adverse effect on the landscape at the Wood.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. **FEES AND CHARGES REPORT**

The Consultative Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out the proposed increase to fees and charges for cricket and football at Highgate Wood in 2015/16. Members were advised that a more fundamental review of fees and charges, including full benchmarking, would be carried out by the end of 2015.

Members were advised that the charges for children's football coaching at Queen's Park would not be included in the proposed changes to fees and charges as they would become part of the licensing regime with effect from spring 2015.

In response to members' questions regarding the possibility of weddings and civil ceremonies being held at the Wood, the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised the marriage licence would have to be attached to a built structure such as the Café or a named tree. Members noted that the lack of available car-parking at the Wood would be an issue for weddings but acknowledged that a limit could be placed on numbers within the licence. The Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager would look into the possibility of weddings and civil ceremonies being held at the Wood.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16 be noted; and
- b) the possibility of weddings and civil ceremonies being held at Highgate Wood be considered and a report be presented to the next meeting if appropriate.

6. **QUESTIONS**

In response to a question from Councillor Bob Hare, the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager advised that bee hives had been reintroduced to the Wood in spring 2014. He added that the Wood is an ideal environment for bees and reported that the general insect population had increased significantly in recent years.

It was **RESOLVED** that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

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

The Chairman advised members of the Consultative Committee that the Wood had recently been awarded a Green Flag and a Green Heritage Award.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee, to be held on Wednesday 22 April 2015, be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: David Arnold
David.Arnold@cityoflondon.gov.uk

QUEEN'S PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP Wednesday, 19 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group held at
Committee Room 3 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 19 November
2014 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Ann Holmes
Barbara Newman
John Blandy (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)
Helen Durnford (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)
Paul Stratton (Local Schools Liaison)

Officers:

David Arnold	Town Clerk's Department
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	Conservation and Trees Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Karina Dostalova and Councillor James Denselow (London Borough of Brent).

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Ann Holmes as a new Member of the Group and noted that Councillor Neil Nerva and Councillor Eleanor Southwood, although not present, would in future both represent the London Borough of Brent.

The Chairman also noted that Kensal Rise Residents' Association and Transition Town Kensal to Kilburn had been invited to observe this meeting, with a view to nominating a representative to become a member of the Group, but were not present. They would continue to be invited to observe meeting(s) and then consideration would be given to their addition to the Group as members.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 June 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Licensing of Commercial Activities

The Queen's Park Manager advised that legal advice was being sought from the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department regarding fees for commercial activities, such as football coaching, taking place at the Park. He reported that charges for these activities should come into effect by spring 2015.

The Chairman added that private legislation regarding licensing of all commercial activities across the Open Spaces Department was being considered. The earliest a Private Bill could be deposited would be November 2015.

Recreation

In response to a member's question, the Park Manager advised that there had been a delay to maintenance of the paddling pool due to slower than expected response times from the contractor.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE REPORT

The Consultative Group received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update to Members on management and operational activities in Queen's Park over the past six months.

The Park Manager advised that the Park had been very busy and well-used by the local community; there had been 978,450 visits to the Park between October 2013 and September 2014. This included 194,382 to the playground and 100,136 to the Farm.

Ecology and Environment

Members were advised that a Sustainability Audit was completed in May 2014, which had informed a Local Improvement Plan for the Park. Electric vehicles were being used extensively in the Park to move machinery, supplies and equipment, and the Park had also invested in quieter battery-powered hedge cutters and blowers to benefit park-users, local residents, and the environment. The Park Manager also advised that a compost tumbler had been purchased which had the capacity to compost up to 650 litres of garden waste and would enable the Park to produce as much as 4,000 litres of compost yearly.

A poppy meadow was seeded in the summer of 2014 as part The Centenary Poppy Campaign, a national initiative by the Royal British Legion to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the start of World War I, but the bund at the bottom of the Park had been seeded with limited success.

Sports and Recreation

Members were advised that tennis coaching sessions had attracted 31 participants during summer 2014, compared with 51 participants in 2013. The sessions were well-advertised through banners and posters. Consultation would take place with the tennis coach and the Hampstead Heath Sports and Leisure Manager to maximise income potential in 2015.

The Park Manager advised that he had met with the City Surveyor's Department to discuss maintenance issues on tennis courts five and six, which were currently closed. It was hoped that resurfacing and root barriers could be added to courts five and six in 2015/16. Members were also advised that the height of the hedges around the east, south and western side of the courts would be reduced and the hedge on the northern side would be removed. This would improve visibility of the courts and reduce on-going maintenance.

Members requested that regular users of the tennis courts should be consulted before the northern hedge was removed. It was agreed that all four hedges would be reduced in height by one metre during winter and that consideration of the possibility to remove the hedge on the northern side be postponed until 2015.

The Park Manager also reported that number of suggestions had been made by the local community regarding the installation of outdoor gymnasium equipment in the Park. In response to a member's question, he advised that it would be installed in the current Petanque square as it was an under-used facility. A Member of the Group added that the on-going maintenance costs of this equipment should be considered before its installation.

Conservation and Heritage

Members of the Group congratulated staff at the Park for receiving the Green Heritage Award, which the Park Manager advised would be displayed at the Café.

The Park Manager also advised that a summary document of the Conservation Management Plan was currently being finalised and would be made available to the public in early 2015. This summary document would be presented to the next Group meeting for information.

Children's Play Area

The Park Manager advised that funding opportunities were still being considered to complete the redevelopment of the Play Area. He added that members of the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association had been supportive in moving the project forward. Work still to be completed included repairs the rubber surface in the Play Area and repairs to equipment in the sandpit area.

Landscape Management

The Conservation and Trees Manager advised members that Massaria of Plane and Ash Dieback were still present at the Park due to the high population of Plane Trees and Ash Trees.

Members were advised that a programme of containment and eradication of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was launched by the Forestry Commission in summer 2013. There had been further advances by the pest and there was now an infestation at the Regent's Park Zoo. The Conservation and Trees Manager and the Division's Tree Officer were finalising an action plan to deal

with OPM's inevitable arrival at one of the North London Open Spaces. A small number of Oak Trees at the Park would have to be monitored closely.

In response to a member's question, the Conservation and Trees Manager advised that the OPM spray treatment could damage other feeding caterpillar species on treated trees but the threat of OPM was large enough to necessitate this.

The Park Manager also advised that he had worked with the Park Supervisor to develop an Annual Work Programme for the Park, which would pick up on the general maintenance of the Park and a number of projects. Members were asked to contact the Park Manager with feedback after the meeting.

Operational Management

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised the Group that the Open Spaces Department was required to find £2.189 million of savings over the next three years. However, there was minimal scope for savings and reductions at the Park other than increasing income from licensable activities, increasing operational efficiency and reducing staffing costs, and increasing turnover at the Café.

It was suggested that weddings and civil ceremonies and marquee receptions could be held at the Bandstand to generate additional income. Ann Holmes noted that cost implications on staff and loss of revenue elsewhere in the Park would have to be carefully considered. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that he would carry out some business planning to determine the viability of holding weddings and civil ceremonies and receptions at the Bandstand and would submit a report to a future meeting.

It was also suggested that a Beer and Pie Festival could be held at the Park, which members supported as a good way to increase visitor numbers, raise the profile of the Park and to generate additional income. The Park Manager would consider this and would approach Breweries to seek further advice.

Visitors and Community

Members were advised that four outdoor cinema screenings were held at the Park during summer 2014; 2,500 tickets were sold which generated an income of £5,700. Given the success of this year's screenings, the Group agreed that five events should take place in 2015 instead of four.

Queen's Park Day was held on 14th September 2014 and was attended by an estimated 14,800 visitors. The Group thanked volunteers from the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association for the organisation of this successful annual event.

The Park Manager advised that the Queen's Park Community School contacted the Park in the summer and, as a result, a number of sessions with seven Duke of Edinburgh Award students were held. Members were advised that pupils from other local schools in the area were currently planting bulbs in the Park and the Quiet Garden.

The Park Manager reported that the Park Supervisor was working with the Animal Attendant on the purchase and installation of an appropriate donation box for the Children's Farm to be installed by December 2014. Income would help support this facility and its longer term sustainability. In response to members' questions, the Park Manager advised that he would look into the possibility for park-users to sponsor animals and would submit a report to the next Group meeting providing the figures for the amount collected from the donation box.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. **FEES AND CHARGES REPORT**

The Group received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out the proposed increase to fees and charges for Petanque, Pitch and Putt, and tennis at Queen's Park in 2015/16. Members were advised that a more fundamental review of fees and charges, including full benchmarking, would be carried out by the end of 2015.

Members were advised that the charges for children's football coaching would not be included in the proposed changes to fees and charges as they would become part of the licensing regime with effect from spring 2015.

RESOLVED – That the proposed fees and charges for 2015/16 be noted

6. **QUESTIONS**

In response to a question from Helen Durnford regarding the financial challenge, the Chairman advised that the annual Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee dinner was an important function to thank all local stakeholders who contributed to the management of the North London Open Spaces over the past year. He and the Deputy Chairman added that discussions were taking place within the Open Spaces Department to assess the appropriate level for such hospitality.

A second question was raised by the same member regarding the financial challenge and the provision of a large lunchtime meal at the winter meeting of the Group.

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

The Chairman thanked members of the Group for their hard work and assistance towards Queen's Park matters over the past three years, as this was his last meeting as Chairman of the Group.

8. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group, to be held on Wednesday 10 June 2015, be noted.

The meeting ended at 3.05 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: David Arnold
David.Arnold@cityoflondon.gov.uk**

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	20 January 2015
Subject:	Public
The State of UK Public Parks 2014 – Renaissance to Risk?	
Report of:	For Decision
Director of Open Spaces	

Summary

The recent Heritage Lottery Fund report 'The State of UK Public Parks 2014 – Renaissance to Risk?' provides an important insight into the current state of Parks in the UK. This report summarises the key findings and considers the issues that are particular relevant to the City of London; both in managing green spaces across London and in supporting the wider green space agenda across London.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report; and
- Consider the following:-
 - i. appoint the Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee as the Park Champion in recognition of his/her role working with stakeholders at each open space; **or**
 - ii. seek to appoint those Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee, and the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group who are elected local Councillors as Park Champions for Hampstead Heath, Golders Hill Park, the Hampstead Heath Extension, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park; **or**
 - iii. approve a 'do nothing' approach on the basis that the City of London Corporation already has comprehensive consultative and partnership arrangements in place for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

Main Report

Background

1. On June 3rd 2014, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) published a report entitled 'The State of UK Public Parks 2014 – Renaissance to risk?' a copy is

attached at Appendix 1. HLF commissioned three surveys and compared results with pre-existing data to identify current issues and challenges.

2. The independent surveys sought views from:-
 - Local Authority Park Managers
 - Park Friends and User groups
 - Public Opinion by Ipsos MORI

Current Position

3. The HLF report demonstrates that the condition of parks across the UK has improved significantly since 2001. However, the surveys show that the future for parks is very uncertain. With government funding reducing by 20% in real terms in the last four years and future reductions expected, parks as a non-statutory service are highly vulnerable. The decline in spending is likely to be greater than public parks faced in the 1970 and 1980's; a period of chronic decline for UK parks. Unlike built facilities where closure is immediately clear, the reduction in park maintenance may go unnoticed until neglect results in a spiral of decline and sites are abandoned by the public. The report suggests that by 2020, some local authority's Parks Services may no longer be viable.
4. The cost to users. Most local authorities have increased fees for the use of facilities in the last 3 years and expect to continue this trend. The report highlights that charges need to be balanced against the provision of accessible services, to as wide a range of people as possible. At the very time when the need to tackle obesity and poor health is essential, the cost of sports facilities and activity is increasing. Further, 19% of local authorities surveyed mentioned disposing of parks and 45% are considering the disposal of some open spaces.
5. Loss of staff and skills. The survey results identify that 77% of councils have reduced frontline staff and 81% park managers. The loss of skills and staff results in less ability to support community groups, innovate or share management skills. The report highlights the importance of volunteers receiving training from motivated, skilled staff.
6. Regional inequalities. The largest proportion of good parks is found in London and the East Midlands, with the parks currently most in decline in Scotland, Wales and the North West. Urban metropolitan and unitary authorities, where the use of parks is greatest, received a higher proportion of cuts and staff losses in the last three years.
7. Communities. The number of Friends and user groups has increased by 30% in the last three years and membership by 47%. There are some 5,000 groups across the UK raising a significant £30million each year.
8. Quality of Life. User's value parks with 68% considering them important or essential to their quality of life; in urban areas this increases to 71% for family's and over 81% for those with children under five years old. The report summarises why parks matter under the headings of:
 - Family life

- Supporting health and happiness
- Improving social cohesion
- Promoting local economic development
- Delivering environment services

9. Call to action. The HLF report concludes that the research provides an early warning of the potential risk facing the UK's parks and sets out five key challenges for the future, calling on government, local authorities, business, the voluntary sector, academic institutions and the public, to take urgent action.

In summary, the challenges include:-

- Local authority commitment – ongoing and renewed commitment to fund staff and manage parks. Local authorities are asked to appoint an elected member as their Parks Champion, to report annually on the spend per resident in caring for parks and to commit to the provision of good accessible parks and a green space strategy.
- New partnerships – opportunities to diversify resourcing and establish long term viable partnerships require skills, commitment and resources. Consider opportunities to create innovative new partnerships to fund and manage parks and develop business management skills for staff.
- Getting communities more involved – expand the use of volunteers, with training and motivation to encourage their work; consider using existing national campaigns to support this work
- Collecting and sharing data – comparable data is essential to ensure consistency in park provision. HLF will support a pilot project to help the UK's top 20 cities to compare the quantity, condition and funding of their parks. Government, the Local Government Association and academic organisations are asked to facilitate the collection of comparable data for local authorities.
- New finance models and rethinking delivery – the future of parks will depend on developing new business models. A mix of public and private resource and expertise need to stimulate innovation, develop skills and share ideas.

Considerations for the City of London's Open Spaces

10. The Committee may consider the five HLF challenges from two perspectives; firstly, as the authority responsible for the green spaces in the Square Mile and secondly, as the provider of strategic green space across London. A commentary on some of the issues raised in the report is provided at Appendix 2.
11. Challenge one - Local authority commitment. The Corporation provides the core funding for both City Gardens and the strategic green spaces across

London, demonstrating a substantial on-going commitment. The regular satisfaction survey undertaken for City Gardens and reported to your Committee, demonstrates a high level of public satisfaction. We do not receive information from London Borough satisfaction surveys; where our strategic green spaces are located within or adjacent to a Borough, for example West Ham Park and Newham, Queens Park and Brent. Each site does undertake a varying range of user and non-user surveys, as well as participating in Green Flag and Heritage Green Flag judging.

12. The Open Spaces Act of 1878 and the various site specific statutes, afford protection, preventing open spaces use other than specific, defined activities, which addresses the HLF concerns but is not afforded to all public parks. The Committee at its last meeting on 2nd June, approved for public consultation, the City of London Open Spaces Strategy Supplementary Planning document. The HLF report calls for the appointment of Parks Champions and regular reporting of the spend per resident, used to care for parks. With Chairmen for each open space committee, Members views are sought on whether this provides a suitable level of Champion. The current budget for each Committee is a public document but we do not provide a link between spend and users. For City Gardens, this would need to demonstrate the use by City workers, as well as residents. The cost per resident would not be readily identifiable for the strategic spaces.
13. Challenge two – New Partnerships. The charitable trust model used by the Corporation to manage the strategic green spaces is considered an exemplar within the sector. However, relatively few similar examples exist e.g. Milton Keynes, because of the inability of local authorities to resource core property based, ring-fenced investment funding. Many Leisure Trusts rely on annual revenue grants from their local authorities, which are at risk as and when local authority budgets are reduced. For our strategic spaces, the statutory protection of the sites has limited the opportunity to develop some new partnerships. It is hoped that this can be addressed in the coming years. The challenges of delivering the savings required by the service based review, will provide the opportunity to review our current service delivery and should create the incentive to consider innovative new partnerships, as well as renewing and reinvigorating existing partnerships.
14. Challenge three – Getting Communities more involved. The HLF report recognises the importance of training and motivating volunteers and the value of supporting them through skilled, experience staff. The City is able to exemplify the commitment it has to volunteering, a report on last year's achievements is included on the same agenda. City Gardens have supported the newly formed Friends of City Gardens, who are already achieving new sources of grant support; likewise the Friends of Kenley Common have been essential to achieving the HLF grant for Kenley Airfield. We support both existing and newly forming Friends groups and will need to decide how to support the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces. In London, the London Parks and Green Spaces Forum (LPGSF), which has recently achieved independent charitable status, provides information, advice and

training for Friends. The challenge for Open Spaces will be to ensure the support for volunteers and Friends groups remains an important priority following the outcomes of the service based review. The Love Parks Week, is included in events programmes; although not yet heavily promoted across the sector it is hoped in time can achieve the level of recognition of Green Flags.

15. Challenge four – Collecting and sharing data. The HLF demand for national recognition of the need for collection of consistent and comparable data is important. There will always be a challenge for us with both City Gardens and strategic green spaces, being different from other local authority provision; for example, within the City the use by City workers as well as residents and strategic green spaces, providing more nature conservation objectives than the norm. The HLF offer to develop a pilot project to help the UK's top 20 cities compare the quantity, condition and funding of city parks is welcome.
16. Challenge five - New Finance Models and rethinking delivery. As part of the service based review we will recognise the need to rethink some service delivery and the Committee will have the opportunity to consider this further later this year. We also expect to need to develop new skills amongst our staff, as part of this work. With our links to LPGSF, the Parks Alliance and contacts with other key service providers, we are in a strong position to share ideas and innovation. It could be suggested that the biggest challenge facing all local authorities with responsibility for parks is, how to develop self help and support from communities to a substantial degree and continue to deliver the core funding needed to ensure parks have a sustainable future.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. The HLF report considers the future management of Parks. The City Together Strategy theme 'A World Class City which protects, promotes and enhances our environment, recognises the importance of Parks and green spaces. Likewise the Open Spaces Strategy aim is to 'Provide safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces and services for the benefit of London and the nation.

Implications

18. **Financial, Legal and Property and HR**– there are no direct implications in considering and responding to this report. However, the department will be preparing budget proposals for the Committee's consideration as part of the service based review; this will provide an opportunity to address some of the issues e.g. new partnerships and innovation, mentioned in the report.

Conclusion

19. The recently published Heritage Lottery Fund report 'The State of UK Public Parks 2014 – Renaissance to Risk?' provides an important insight into the current state of Parks in the UK. Although Parks have nationally improved since 2001, there are significant concerns about the next six years. This report has considered the issues that are particular relevant to the City of London; both in managing green spaces across London and in supporting the wider green space agenda across London; to ensure they will remain widely accessible and sustainable.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Heritage Lottery Fund State of UK Public Parks 2014 Renaissance to risk?
- Appendix 2 – The State of UK Parks commentary.

Background Papers:

Green Spaces: The Benefits for London by BOP Consulting, July 2013

Sue Ireland

Director of Open Spaces

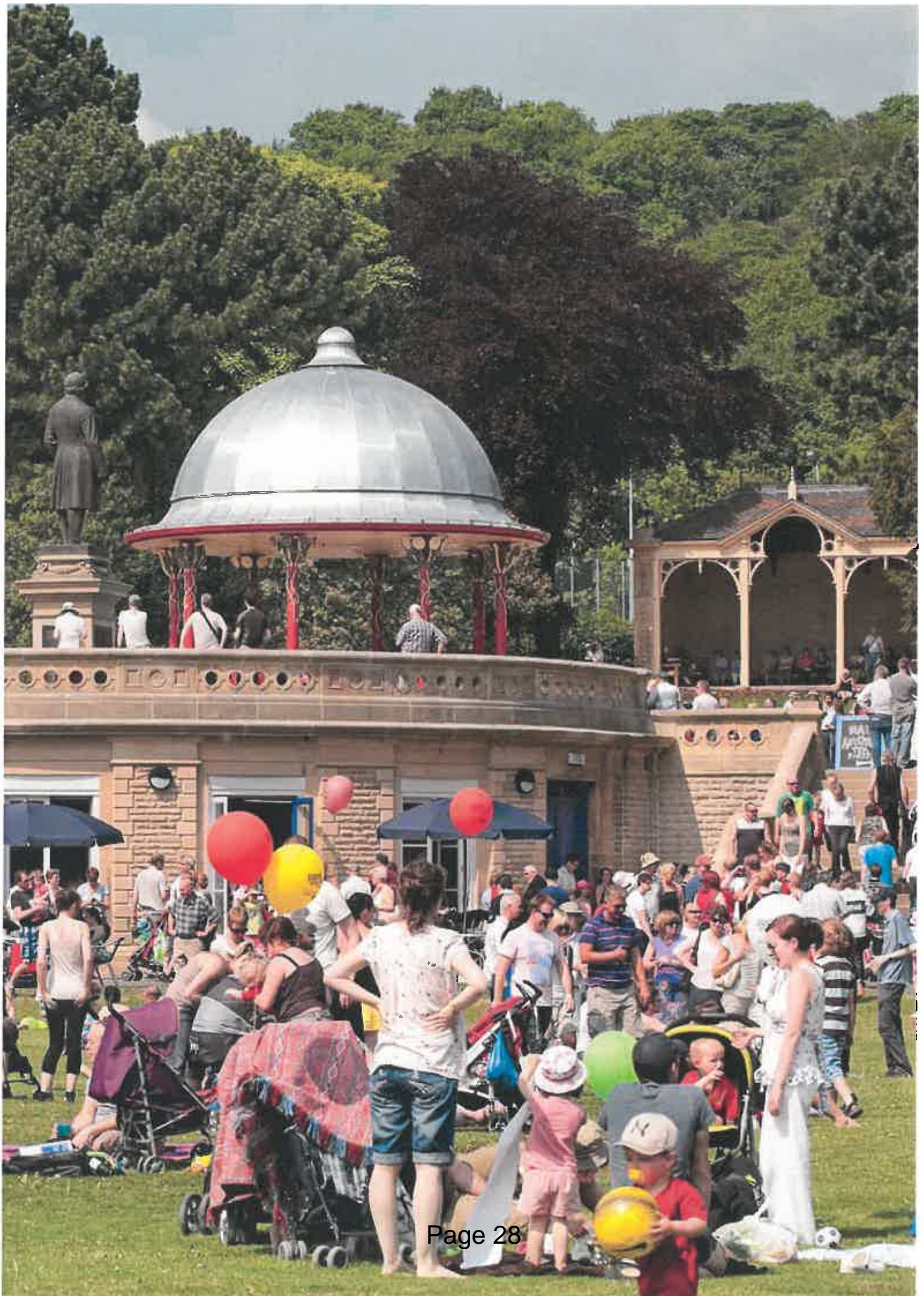
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State of UK Public Parks 2014

Renaissance
to risk?





Renaissance to risk?

As a result of the philanthropy and vision of our Victorian forebears, the UK is fortunate to have some of the world's greatest public parks, which 34 million of us visit regularly each year. Some of our earliest childhood memories are of visits to a local park to feed the ducks, enjoy the playground or picnic with friends. For our increasingly urban population the park is often the only green space where people can meet, play, relax and come close to nature.

But all is not well with the UK's public parks. Most are owned and maintained by local authorities, and increasing competition for council funding means that many face an uncertain future.

Parks have always been a priority for the Heritage Lottery Fund. We first started to invest in them in 1996 and have awarded over £620million across the UK, with the Big Lottery Fund joining us to invest a further £80million in England. Our funding has been matched with time and money from councils and community groups, collectively delivering a renaissance in the fortune of many parks. But our research shows that this investment, as well as thousands of parks and green spaces, may now be at risk.

This study, based on new research, establishes a benchmark on the current condition of the UK's public parks whilst also looking at how the quality and nature of parks might change in the future. It makes suggestions for action and better ways of working, including commitments from us here at the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We care passionately that everyone should have access to good-quality and exciting parks. We want this report to inspire all those who own, manage and use public parks to appreciate their importance and the critical role they have in modern life. Parks are vital community assets, essential to the local economy, to public health and wellbeing, to tourism, to social cohesion and to nature. We must keep them in good heart.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Abramsky', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dame Jenny Abramsky
Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund

The state of parks at a glance

The UK invented the municipal park movement, an enduring legacy of the industrial revolution that has been admired and imitated across the world. Every park has its own story, from Birkenhead Park in the Wirral, which opened in 1847 and provided the model for New York's Central Park, to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, created for the London 2012 Games.

We greatly value our public parks but as a national resource they are not represented by any national body, nor is there any statutory requirement governing their upkeep.

Since 1996, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has led a parks renaissance through its investment, and has developed knowledge and expertise through the projects that have been funded. This research report is in part prompted by the need to protect and sustain this investment in over 700 individual public parks. In addition, we are also keen to support everyone who uses and manages parks right across the UK, to ensure that every community has access to and can enjoy a good-quality local public park.

Our research

To establish a national picture of the state of UK parks we commissioned three new UK-wide surveys: a survey of local authority park managers, a survey of park friends and user groups, and a public opinion survey undertaken by Ipsos MORI. We have also drawn on other pre-existing data to assess how the condition of parks has changed over time, and to cross-check our results. Here we present the key findings. A fuller research report is available on www.hlf.org.uk/StateOfUKParks

Why we need to act now

After two decades of investment and improvement, the UK's parks are in a good state. However, they are at serious risk of slipping back into decline, as they did in the 1970s and 1980s. Without adequate maintenance, parks become underused, neglected and vandalised. Their immense social and environmental value is quickly eroded and they become a costly liability for those who manage them.

Our research shows that maintenance budgets are being reduced, capital will be less available for improvements, park facilities are becoming more expensive to use, management and maintenance skills are being lost, and some parks and green spaces may be sold or transferred to others to maintain.

However we know that people care passionately about their parks. We know that good parks are vital for our health and wellbeing, they support economic growth and tourism, and they play a significant part in addressing climate change in our cities.

At the end of this report you will find five key areas for action. For each we set out how HLF is intending to respond but we also call on others to work collaboratively to address this emerging risk. Our calls to action include:

- renewed local authority commitment;
- establishing new partnerships;
- getting communities more involved;
- collecting and sharing data; and
- developing new finance models and rethinking delivery.

Together we can avert this return to the past, but it will require the concerted effort of all those who use, own, manage, work in or have an interest in parks. We must also develop new ways of working, raise awareness of the hugely important role parks have, and continue to invest in their future.

2.6bn

estimated visits are made to the UK's parks each year

£30m

estimated to be raised each year by park friends and user groups

83%

of households with children aged five and under visit their local park at least once a month

70%

of park managers have recorded increased visitor numbers to their principal parks over the last year

47%

of park friends and user groups say membership numbers have increased over the last three years

Parks are valued and in good heart...

Key findings

We predict that the quality and condition of many parks will dramatically decline if action is not taken now to address this emerging risk.

86%

of park managers report cuts to revenue budgets since 2010 and they expect the trend to continue for the next three years

71%

of households with children under 10 are concerned that reductions in council budgets could have a negative impact on the condition of their local park

...but the future may not be so bright

81%

of council parks departments have lost skilled management staff since 2010, and 77% have lost front-line staff.

45%

of local authorities are considering either selling parks and green spaces or transferring their management to others

Park managers report higher visitor satisfaction, but many people are concerned budget cuts could have a negative impact on their local park.



What we found

About this report

We commissioned three new surveys for this report:

- a survey of local authority park managers;
- a survey of park friends and user groups; and
- a public opinion survey from Ipsos MORI.

CFP Consultants undertook an online survey of park managers. This targeted all local authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland alongside trusts which manage green space. The survey ran from 29 August to 8 October 2013.

A total of 178 local authorities completed the survey, representing 41% of UK local authorities, along with six responses from other organisations. These authorities collectively manage parks and green spaces for more than 31 million people, almost half the UK population.

CFP also undertook an online survey of park friends and user groups, to which 436 groups responded, representing a membership of 27,802 people. The survey was conducted between

29 August and 27 September 2013. It was promoted by CFP regional forums, the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, and GreenSpace Scotland.

Ipsos MORI surveyed a representative sample of 1,037 adults aged 15 and over living in the UK. The survey ran between 11 and 17 October 2013. Interviews were conducted face-to-face in-home using the Ipsos MORI Capibus. Data has been weighted to the known population profile for the UK.

The changing condition of parks

Our surveys show that the condition of parks across the UK has improved significantly since 2001. However this picture is about to change.

We found that 59% of park managers, as well as 50% of friends groups and the park-going public, considered their parks to be in good condition. In 2001 only 18% of park managers considered their parks to be in good condition. The improvement in parks is reflected in the number of Green Flag Awards (the voluntary, nationally recognised quality accreditation scheme for parks and green spaces). In 2001 Green Flags were awarded to only 81 parks in England. By 2010 this had risen to 905, and by 2013 there were 1,116 awards.

We also recorded increases in visitor satisfaction and numbers. 50% of managers said that visitor satisfaction had increased over the last three years, and 47% reported that visitor numbers had risen over the last year. For principal parks (the main parks a council manages) 70% of park managers said that visitor numbers had risen over the last year.

Turning to the condition of parks over the coming three years, we found that only 21% of managers and 32% of friends groups

anticipate that their parks will still be improving, while 37% of managers and 34% of friends groups anticipate that their parks will be declining.

Evidence suggests that the renaissance of our public parks that has been underway for the past 15 years is fast coming to an end. Our Ipsos MORI survey found that 63% of the park-going public are either 'fairly concerned' or 'very concerned' that reduced council budgets could have a negative impact on the condition of their local park. This level of concern increases to 74% for those who also say that their local park is currently in poor condition. And 71% of households with children under 10 are concerned that reductions in council budgets could have a negative impact on the condition of their local park.

"Parks and open spaces have been an easy hit for council savings. The provision and maintenance of open space is not a statutory requirement."

Park manager

Pressure on budgets

The Audit Commission¹ reports that Government funding to local authorities reduced by an average of almost 20% in real terms between 2010-11 and 2013-14. Some of the poorest councils in the most deprived areas of England have experienced cumulative cuts that will average 25% by 2016². Council budgets are expected to continue falling for the rest of the decade.

As parks are a non-statutory service, their budgets are highly vulnerable. We found that:

- most parks budgets have been cut since 2010, many above the 20% average reported by the Audit Commission;
- 86% of park managers report that revenue budgets for day-to-day maintenance have been cut;
- over half of park managers report that capital budgets for investing in fabric and facilities, such as play areas, toilets and paths, have been cut.

This situation is likely to worsen. The Local Government Association³ warns that, for England, funding for services other than social care and waste disposal will drop by 46% by 2020. Our survey shows that over the next three years:

- 87% of park managers expect further cuts to revenue budgets;
- 63% of managers also face further cuts to capital budgets.

“Floral features removed, no budget for infrastructure maintenance. We have substantially increased park charges to compensate.”

Park manager

This decline in spending is potentially greater and more rapid than that faced by public parks in the 1970s and 1980s, a time of chronic decline in the state of the UK's parks.

To give an example of the scale of cuts, Liverpool City Council's parks department budget of £10million will be cut by 50% over the next three years⁴.

Unlike some cuts to services, such as closing a leisure centre or library, reductions in park maintenance may go unnoticed before a tipping point is reached. The reduction of management tasks such as grass cutting, weeding beds or repairing seats may initially result in few complaints, but eventually the build-up of neglect may lead to the abandonment of the park by the public. A spiral of decline quickly follows.

Those working in parks voice concern that by 2020 some local authority park services will no longer be viable. A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation⁵ suggests that local government may cease to provide some services altogether, transferring responsibilities to other agencies, sectors and partnerships.

The cost to park users

Over the last three years most local authorities have increased charges for facilities in parks.

- 83% of managers reported increasing fees for facilities such as sports pitches, car parks, allotments and the hire of grounds or buildings for private events;
- 85% of managers intend to increase fees in the next three years.

While revenue generation needs to be part of the mixed economy that will support parks in future, charges need to be balanced against provision of accessible services to as wide a range of people as possible. The cost of hiring sports facilities is increasing at a time when there is urgent need to promote active lifestyles to tackle obesity and poor health.

Sale of parks and green spaces

A significant number of authorities are considering selling or transferring management of their parks and green spaces over the next three years.

- 45% of local authorities are considering disposing of some green spaces;
- 19% of local authorities specifically mentioned disposing of parks as opposed to other green spaces.



Buildings in parks are at risk of being sold, and parks decline where there is a lack of investment.

“Our park ranger service took a 50% cut – the rangers have gone from a team of 32 to 10 in the last three years.”

Park manager

Loss of staff and skills

The staffing of parks has fallen in line with the decline in funding over the last three years.

- 77% of councils have reduced frontline parks staff; and
- 81% of councils have cut park management staff.

The loss of park management staff means that local authorities will be much less able to support the work of community groups, promote innovation or assist the process of transferring or sharing management with local organisations and partners.

Evidence from Lottery-funded projects shows that volunteering plays a critical part in creating vibrant community parks. If, however, groups are not developed, trained and motivated by skilled staff, volunteer numbers quickly dwindle.

Regional inequalities

Our survey of park managers highlights that there are differences in the condition and funding of parks across the UK.

- The largest proportion of good parks is in London and the East Midlands.
- The largest proportion of parks reported to have improved over the last three years is in London and the East of England.
- The largest proportion of parks declining is in Scotland, Wales and the North West of England.

In terms of funding and staffing, park managers in the North West of England are reporting the highest proportion of cuts to revenue over the last three years and are also expecting the highest cuts to both revenue and capital over the next three years. They also reported the highest loss of frontline and management staff over the last three years.

The North East and Yorkshire and the Humber expect high levels of budget cuts and staff loss over the next three years, but the limited number of survey returns from these particular regions precludes firm conclusions.

Our research suggests a proportionately higher level of budget cuts and staff losses in the north of England. Furthermore, the urban metropolitan and unitary authorities, where the use of parks is greatest, received a higher proportion of cuts and staff losses in the last three years. This trend is expected to continue.

The power of communities

Community groups have an increasing role in championing and supporting local parks. In the last three years:

- managers have seen an increase of over 30% in the number of friends and user groups, and over half of managers expect this to continue;
- 47% of groups have seen an increase in membership.

There are an estimated 5,000 friends groups or park user groups across the UK. Each group raises on average £6,900 per year, representing over £30million raised for parks annually.

Impact on quality of life

Those who use parks value them highly. Some 68% of park users consider spending time in their local park important or essential to their quality of life. This rises to 71% for park users in urban areas, and over 81% for households with children under 10.

The highest percentage of park users are those households with children. 83% of households with children aged five and under visit their local park at least once a month. In the UK it is astonishing that almost 600 million visits are estimated to be made by households with children under the age of 16 each year. In total 2.6 billion visits are estimated to be made to the UK's parks each year.



Parks provide a range of volunteering opportunities, and make a real difference to family life.

Skilled staff are needed to maintain horticulture in historic parks.



Local urban parks are often the only green spaces where people can meet, play and relax.



Why parks matter

Central to family life

Some of our earliest childhood memories include visits to local parks. Socially, parks offer opportunities to rest and meet friends, for children and young people to play, to hold events, to pass through on the way to work, to exercise and take time out from the pressures of everyday life.

Other reports also acknowledge the importance of parks to children. *Making Britain Great for Children and Families*⁶ – a manifesto launched by 4Children, the national charity working towards a more integrated approach to children's services – includes better provision of parks in its list of ways to create good places for children to grow up in.

Supporting health and happiness

Parks have a positive effect on people's wellbeing and the health of their neighbourhoods. Evidence from the University of Exeter's European Centre for Environment and Human Health, published by the Association for Psychological Science⁷, reveals that people who live in greener urban areas report greater wellbeing and lower levels of mental stress than city dwellers without nearby parks and gardens.

An increase in visitor numbers, particularly in urban parks, was recorded by Natural England in their annual Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) surveys⁸. In 2012-13 there were fewer visits to the countryside and a significant increase in visits to green spaces in towns and cities. This points to the growing importance of parks as the only place some people encounter nature.

The *State of the Nation's Waistline* report⁹, published by the National Obesity Forum, states that over 25% of adults in England are considered obese. By 2050 the figure is expected to rise to 50%. Parks provide vital health resources that help to support healthy populations. Their value to public health is emphasised in *Public Health and Landscape*, a recent position statement by the Landscape Institute¹⁰, which demonstrates parks are a key ingredient in creating healthy places.



"Parks are particularly important as for many people they provide their back garden."

HLF Parks for People programme evaluation¹¹



Parks are great biodiversity hotspots and a place where children can learn about nature. They also provide opportunities for local businesses such as cafés, and help to support local economies.



Improving social cohesion

Recent research highlights that “there is good evidence suggesting that the natural environment contributes to social cohesion. This appears to be particularly the case for well-maintained green spaces”¹². An example from Chicago suggests that parks can actively promote “inter-community relations in a way which is almost unique in urban life”¹³. A Joseph Rowntree report¹⁴ notes that, as communities across the UK become increasingly mixed and diverse, local social amenities will become more and more important. Public parks offer one of the most important social spaces in a neighbourhood, but, as interviews in the research highlight, their condition is a key issue, as poor-quality parks can have a detrimental effect on cohesion.

Promoting local economic development

Public parks have been used throughout history to promote investment and growth. Developers frequently use the proximity of parks to attract investors. A study on improving the competitiveness of England’s core cities¹⁵ notes that “soft location factors are an increasingly important part of economic decision-making”. Good-quality parks and public spaces contribute to these factors, which help to attract and retain skilled workers and their families.

Forward-looking cities with a good environment and easy access to natural amenities are working at preserving and improving them. They know that for skilled employees “the quality of life for themselves and their families is an increasingly important factor”¹⁶ of location. Recent research from Natural England¹⁷ draws together a growing evidence base on ways the natural environment, including parks, can enhance the economic competitiveness of a particular region and increase employee productivity.

Good parks also boost the tourist economy. Visit Britain¹⁸ has found that, of the 31 million tourists visiting Britain, over a third enjoy visiting a park or garden, making it one of the most popular activities (ranking above visiting a museum, castle, historic house or art gallery). Cilsold Park, a local neighbourhood park in the London Borough of Hackney, receives the same number of annual visitors as London’s National Portrait Gallery, and more than St Paul’s Cathedral (2.1 million, 2.1 million and 1.8 million visitors respectively).

Investing in parks is a recognised way of helping to regenerate and re-vitalise an area. There are economic indicators to show this works, and strong evidence of the impact of parks in protecting and enhancing land and property values. The presence of a well-maintained park has been shown through research by CABE Space¹⁹ to add on average a 5% to 7% premium on house prices. Equally, a declining park has the opposite effect.

“Open space provides habitats and green corridors for safe species movement. (It) should be valued for its potential to mitigate climate change.”

Park manager

Delivering environmental services

Parks are a key component of the ‘green infrastructure’ of towns and cities, complementing the heavily engineered and costly ‘grey infrastructure’ of roads, utilities and sewerage systems. Properly planned, attractive green networks of parks, green spaces and river corridors provide natural systems and ecological services that collect and clean water, improve air quality and reduce peak summer temperatures. There is increasing interest in parks’ ability to improve the resilience of neighbourhoods to the impacts of climate change.

Parks also provide biodiversity hotspots. The qualities of an ecologically rich functional landscape were built into London’s Olympic Park at the outset. As the UK’s newest large public park, it not only provided an attractive and dramatic setting for the London 2012 Games but also continues to reduce flood risk, store surface water, and accommodate a rich diversity of plant and animal species.

A call to action

Our research provides an early warning of the potential risk facing the UK's parks. It is a risk that can be averted if action is taken in time.

Here we set out five key challenges for the future. For each we state how HLF intends to respond, together with calls on Government, local authorities, business, the voluntary sector, academic institutions and the public to take urgent action.

1 Local authority commitment

Local authorities' ongoing and renewed commitment to fund, staff and manage parks is essential. There is a strong link between people's satisfaction with their local parks and their satisfaction with their neighbourhood and council. Parks are one of the most heavily used public services, particularly by families, and are therefore a priority for voters.

2 New partnerships

The transfer of park management from local authorities to other organisations is expected to almost double by 2016. Whilst this can help diversify funding and resourcing, establishing long-term, financially viable, locally based partnerships requires commitment and resources. Budget cuts and the loss of skilled senior managers are hindering and adding risk to this process.

3 Getting communities more involved

Park user groups contribute valuable volunteer time and funding to local parks. There are more than 5,000 such groups in the UK estimated to provide almost a million volunteer days and generating over £30million per year through fundraising. However, they need more support to expand this work. When groups are trained and motivated, they are better able to support park management, and their efforts will be sustained.

4 Collecting and sharing data

To ensure consistency in the provision of good parks across the UK it is essential to collect and compare data between individual cities and local authorities, as in the USA. Regular collection of comparable data between core cities, for example, would highlight poor provision and allow local authorities to benchmark standards and resources.

5 New finance models and rethinking delivery

The future of many parks depends on developing new business and finance models. Time, resources and skills are needed to develop new ideas, test and deliver them. Public and private resources and expertise need to be pooled to stimulate innovation, develop skills and share ideas.

Action

HLF will actively monitor and champion parks projects we have funded to ensure standards are maintained, and will evaluate projects to demonstrate the value of investing in public parks.

HLF will invest up to £24million per annum in public parks and cemeteries until the end of our current strategic framework period in 2018, with the Big Lottery Fund investing an additional £10million per annum in England until the end of 2015.

We call on all local authorities to appoint an elected member to be their parks champion, to report annually how much they spend per resident in caring for their parks, and to commit to the provision of good, accessible parks by adopting an up-to-date parks, green space or green infrastructure strategy.

Action

HLF will use our Parks for People, Start-Up Grants and Rethinking Parks programmes (see 5 below) to support a greater diversity of organisations in managing public parks.

We call on the public, private and voluntary sectors to create innovative new partnerships to fund and manage parks, and provide opportunities for park managers to develop new business skills. Good practice examples are needed to avoid duplicating effort and negotiating poor deals for the public.

We call on Government and local authorities to provide the support, resources and skills development needed by park friends and user groups who are considering entering into new partnerships to jointly manage parks.

Action

HLF will support people to take a more active role in the parks projects we fund through investing in training, resources and activities to encourage and promote volunteering.

We invite the public and business to support Groundwork's X Marks The Spot campaign and Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks Week to get more people actively involved through volunteering and fundraising, and making the case for parks in modern life.

We recommend that those using, managing and championing parks actively support the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, a national forum for park friends and user groups, to help them provide a central hub of information and advice for park groups.

Action

HLF will encourage the development of a pilot project to help the UK's top 20 cities compare the quantity, condition and funding of their city parks.

HLF will commission and publish a second *State of UK Public Parks* study in 2016 to monitor changes in the condition, quality and resourcing of the UK's public parks.

We call on Government, the Local Government Association, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and academic organisations to encourage and facilitate the central collection of consistent and comparable data on parks across all local authorities.

Action

HLF, the Big Lottery Fund and Nesta will invest up to £1million through our Rethinking Parks programme to encourage innovation. The funding will support projects to develop creative new approaches to financing and managing parks.

We call on Government to focus their support for innovation and community rights on the delivery and funding of good quality public parks and green spaces.

We encourage innovators considering new ideas and solutions to evaluate and share their ideas so others can learn from their experiences.

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Acknowledgements

Research supporting this report was undertaken for HLF by Peter Neal Consulting and Community First Partnership in association with Peter Hamik from the Centre for City Park Excellence in Washington DC, Ben Hurley Communications, Dr Edward Hobson and Ipsos MORI.

HLF is particularly grateful to all the local authority park managers, friends of parks and park user groups who gave their time to complete the surveys providing the evidence for this study. We also wish to acknowledge the support for this study from:

Association of Public Service Excellence

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum

Green Connect

Greenspace Scotland

Greenspace South East

Greenspace Wales

Groundwork UK

Keep Britain Tidy and the Green Flag Award Scheme

London Parks Benchmarking Group

London Parks and Green Spaces Forum

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces

Natural England

Newcastle Parks Forum

West Midlands Parks Forum

Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, HLF sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF was set up in 1994 and is the only heritage body that operates across the whole of the UK. It is administered by the trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

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Topic	Remarks
Changing condition of parks	The HLF report provides evidence to support concerns being expressed within the sector.
Budget pressures	Both City Gardens and Open Spaces have been subject to financial pressures over the last five years; in line with other City of London services. However, during the last 15-20 years unlike local authorities, these spaces had not had to cope with sustained budget reductions. Currently, as part of the service based review, we will be considering proposals for some 15% reduction over the next four years. This is a significant challenge for all services, doing more with less and finding different ways to provide services.
Charges for services	Historically, local authority sport provision has been subsidised; including football, cricket, tennis, bowls and swimming. Any changes to charging policy have to take account of other local providers, as well as meeting the challenge of ensuring facilities are accessible. There are inconsistencies in our approach, for example, on car parking, where increased charges are warranted.
Staff and skills	We have evidence of the impact of reduced local authority management, having recently struggled to achieve strong short-lists for several middle management posts. Many of the potential middle managers have either moved into the consultancy field or left the sector. With changing requirements, new skills need to be developed. To provide appropriate support and development for volunteers, it is important to use the knowledge, skill, enthusiasm and experience of staff. We are developing volunteers who can supervise and/ or lead teams but the need for experience remains a key factor

	in ensuring volunteering is sustainable.
Community groups	Our City gardens and Open Spaces are supported by a wide ranging network of support from local communities; including Consultative Committees, user groups, volunteers and Friends. We can demonstrate that these are growing, for example the new Friends of City Gardens and Kenley Common.
Quality of Life	The City of London report published in July 2013 "Green Spaces: The Benefits for London" recognised the environmental, physical, mental health, social and economic benefits of green space in London.

Committees:	Dates:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	20 January 2015
Projects Sub	21 January 2015
Resource Allocation Sub	22 January 2015
Policy & Resources	2 January 2015
Court of Common Council	Urgency
Subject:	Public (with non-public appendices)
Gateway 5 Authority to Start Work: Ponds Project	
Report of:	For Decision
Joint report of Director of the Built Environment and Director of Open Spaces	

Summary

Dashboard

Project status:	Amber due to final costs exceeding previous estimates
Timeline:	Preparation works to commence in February 2015 prior to main work commencement in April 2015. Project completion October 2016.
Total estimated cost:	£21,198,475 – this figure includes specific risk items totalling £884,000 and provisional sums of £1.515,000.
Resources spent to date:	£3,359,085

The Ponds Project has continued to progress to programme since the Gateway 4c Report. The City's decision to approve the Gateway 4c report was the subject of judicial review proceedings in the High Court. The Heath & Hampstead Society's claim was dismissed following a hearing in November 2014 and they are not pursuing an appeal.

The next step is for Camden Council's Development Control Committee to consider the planning application on 15 January 2015. Assuming that consent is granted and issued in a timely manner, and there are no unexpected additional pre-start conditions, the project will be ready to start on site in February. As part of Authority To Start Work (Gateway 5 of the City's project approval procedure), this report also recommends the signing of the commencement agreement which is the next stage in our partnership contract and is necessary to facilitate the start of works. Works will be managed through to completion by the City's project team together with the contract partners – Bam Nuttall (constructor), Atkins (lead designer) and Capita (cost consultant).

If site preparation takes place as expected in February 2015, works will commence in April 2015. The 18 month construction programme should complete in October 2016.

The Agreed Maximum Price for the works is £13,139,749 with a further provisional sum of £1.5M for the Ladies Bathing slab and facility, and a second provisional sum

of £15,000 for electrical cabinet upgrades. An additional £884,000 has been identified for specific risk provisions. The construction work together with fees, staff costs and spend to date total £21.2M.

The anticipated cost now exceeds the current allocation of £18.54M and the envelope as agreed by the Court of Common Council in 2011 of £15.M +/- 20% at 2010 prices, which subject to inflation is between £20.5M and £21M depending on whether RPI or BCIS is used. An additional allocation of £2.66M is therefore requested to meet the increased costs.

As there is currently only £2M available this financial year for allocation to capital projects, it is recommended that an additional £2M be allocated by Resource Allocation Sub, Policy & Resources and Court of Common; and that a further allocation of £0.66M be made in April 2015 when further capital funds become available for allocation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Noting that the total outturn including various risk items and provisional sums is now £21,198,475 and so will exceed the £18.54M currently allocated (i.e. £15.2M +20% plus the £300,000 allocated for judicial review costs but not including inflation from 2010 prices), approval of the Resource Allocation Sub, Policy & Resources and the Court of Common Council be sought to allocate funds to meet the shortfall of £2.66m from the 2014/15 and 2015/16 City's Cash provisions for new schemes
- Subject to the additional budget allocation and planning permission being secured and planning consent being issued, Members grant Authority to Start Work for the Ponds Project in accordance with the City's project procedure
- Authority be delegated to the Director of the Built Environment to make representations to Camden Council as to the form of the planning conditions, and to settle the terms of the section 106 agreement; and the Comptroller & City Solicitor be authorised to sign the section 106 agreement
- Authority be delegated to the Director of the Built Environment to submit all necessary applications and details to Camden Council to discharge planning conditions
- Authority be delegated to the Director of the Built Environment in consultation with the Chamberlain to agree the release of the specific risk provisions identified within the risk register and the provisional sum identified
- The Director of the Built Environment and the Comptroller & City Solicitor be authorised to sign the commencement agreement with BAM Nuttall, Atkins and Capita
- Authority be delegated to the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath to appoint and manage specialist contractors to provide additional support in managing protestors if required
- It is proposed that authority be delegated to the Director of the Built Environment in consultation with the Chamberlain to authorise the transfer of the budget for some reinstatement activities to Hampstead Heath to enable some of the smaller scale reinstatement works such as planting and seeding to be undertaken in-house if this felt to be appropriate and cost effective as the project progresses

Main Report

1. Background	<p>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.</p> <p>Between 2011 and summer 2014, a highly iterative and consultative process was undertaken to consider firstly the design criteria and approach and then a wide range of options. In June 2014, an option for each chain of ponds was selected and approved on the basis that it was felt to satisfy the existing requirements of the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the anticipated additional obligations under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, whilst preserving the natural aspect and state of the Heath in the most effect manner, in accordance with the City's duties under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871, and was in accordance with the agreed design principles.</p> <p>Following Committee approval in June 2014, a planning application was submitted to the London Borough of Camden. The application will be considered by Camden's Development Control Committee on 15 January 2015. At the time of writing, the outcome of that consideration is not known. However, given that there is an officer recommendation to approve the application, the positive result of the judicial review, robust support for the application from the Camden's appointed Independent Panel Engineer review, demonstrable benefits arising from the scheme to the safety of downstream residents and the limited comments received from Camden officers, we must proceed on the basis that the application will be approved. Members will of course be aware of the objections received by Camden, many as a result of the "Dam Nonsense" campaign.</p> <p>Many of the objections to the planning application (and responses to the City's own consultation) challenged the legal basis for the project. Although this has now been settled by the dismissal of the Heath & Hampstead Society's judicial review claim, Members should be aware that the "Dam Nonsense" group have stated their intention to continue to attempt to block the project and have suggested that they will lobby Camden and potentially government to this end. While the project team and our planning consultants remain confident that there are no planning grounds on which the application can reasonably be rejected, the decision is a matter for Camden's Development Control Committee.</p> <p>Due to the timing of the planning determination, the recommendations of this report are subject to securing planning approval and Camden issuing planning consent as works will not be able to start on site without this. Officers have made Camden aware of the importance of the project being able to</p>
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	<p>start on site in February but there remains a risk that a delay in Camden issuing consent could adversely impact on the project.</p> <p>The recommendations of this report will also be conditional on a budget allocation under urgency by Resource Allocation Sub, Policy & Resources and the Court of Common Council.</p> <p>A number of additional delegations to officers are also requested to allow the project to quickly progress to site preparations prior to the start of the bird nesting season.</p>
<p>2. Design summary</p>	<p>Since approval of the Gateway 4c report in June 2014, the project team has continued to progress the detailed design, including submission of a planning application. There have not been any major changes to the design, although further details on material finishes are now available. Pond by pond detail of the scheme are summarised at Appendix 1, and any changes are explained below.</p> <p><u>Highgate Chain</u></p> <p>The main focus of works on the Highgate Chain will be the 2.5m dam raising at the Model Boating Pond, the associated extension of the pond and creation of a new island in order accommodate the retained lime trees. The crests of the dams at Stock Pond, Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond and Bird Sanctuary Pond will be restored (i.e. the surface of the dam will be levelled to the current highest point). The dams at Men's Bathing and Highgate No.1 Pond will be raised using sheet pile walls capped with oak.</p> <p><u>Stock</u></p> <p>As approved at Gateway 4c, the crest of the Stock pond dam will be raised by up to 500mm and a small bund created in the eastern corner. A spillway will be created in the south-west corner of the pond and a new overflow pipe will be installed.</p> <p>The creation of a spillway necessitates the removal of several panels of the current iron railings which surround the pond. These cannot be replaced due to their potential to obstruct the flow of the water in a flood event. Consideration was given to commissioning a fence that would look similar but would be on a hinge so that in flood events it could swing upwards, allowing the water to flow freely. While this seemed an attractive idea, it was felt to be too complex, had too high a risk of failure and would have been prohibitively expensive. A simple wire fence is now proposed which will collapse in a flood event. This will prevent dogs accessing the pond (which is the principal aim of the current fencing). The wire fence over the spillway will also have the effect of opening up views into the pond as it will be less visually intrusive than the current railings.</p>



At gateway 4c, it was proposed to create additional marginal planting on the eastern bank, but this has been relocated to the south west bank where it will establish more readily given the higher light levels. Additional tree planting is now proposed on the dam.

Stock pond will be de-silted.

Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond

The design for the crest restoration on dam and the creation of a spillway remains as approved at Gateway 4c.

As reported to your Committees in November 2014, a dive inspection of the underside of the slab which supports the changing room facilities revealed that the slab was in significantly worse structural condition than anticipated. It was therefore agreed that the slab would be replaced as part of the project. The need to undertake these additional works will slightly extend the programme at the Ladies Bathing Pond. BAM Nuttall are currently integrating the detailed design of the facility with the slab in order to reduce costs and build time and to increase buildability. As this final element of the design is not yet complete, a provisional sum has been included in the budget.

Additional aquatic planting will also be installed in front of the spillway for both ecological benefit and to discourage unauthorised access to the water from the spillway.

The Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond will be de-silted.

Members should also be aware that there is a suspected leak at the Ladies Pond dam. There is however some doubt as to whether the water currently visible on the dam is the result of a leak or a problem with the drainage at the facilities. The current position of the slab on the dam crest makes further investigations difficult. As part of the works, the source of this water will be investigated and appropriate remedial measures undertaken.

Bird Sanctuary

There are no changes to the designs proposed for this pond, which remains crest restoration and ecological interventions to enhance wetland habitat.

There are a number of damaged fence panels around the pond, and it is anticipated that some of the fencing removed from Catchpit will be used to replace these panels.

Works will also be undertaken to repair the sink hole on the dam.

Model Boating Pond

The design and height of the dam, extension of the pond, new island and spillway remain unchanged. It has been confirmed that access to the island will be across a dry causeway.

Ground investigations revealed a greater depth of silt than previously thought. This silt will be removed to hard bed level, and this means that the dam itself will be built up from a lower level. This means that the temporary dam to enable construction of the raised dam will need to be sheet piling rather than the previously proposed aqua dam. The requirement for more material has increased the size of the borrow pit and the associated costs of the earthworks.

New marginal planting will be introduced on the western side of the pond and next to the island whereas the eastern side will retain its hard edge to facilitate access to the water for model boating and for fishing. Fishing will also be facilitated by gaps in the planting. New trees will also be planted.

It was intended at Gateway 4c that only 1/3 of the pond would be de-silted, but due to the increased size of the borrow pit, it is likely that the entire pond will be de-silted. This additional de-silting to win further material will be conducted as required.

Men's Bathing Pond

As confirmed at Gateway 4c, sheet piling will be used to raise the height of the dam and to repair the leak in the dam by driving the sheet piles into the core of the dam. The sheet piling will be capped with oak and climbing plants will be planted on either side. New marginal aquatic planting will be placed in front of the dam. A spillway is being created in the southwest corner.

Men's Bathing Pond dam – upstream view:



The Men's Bathing Pond will be de-silted.

Highgate No.1 Pond

The dam at Highgate No.1 pond will be raised 1.25m using a sheet pile wall capped with oak. A spillway will be introduced in the southwest corner. It is proposed that climbing vegetation will be used to disguise the sheet piling. Officers are confident that the sheet piling could be quickly disguised due to the quantities of ivy and scrub regeneration already prevalent in this area.

The landowners to the east of Highgate No.1 have objected to the scheme because the current proposal impinges on their land. The City is negotiating with these landowners and has a number of alternative design solutions. An amicable agreement is sought with the landowners, but Members should note that if necessary the works could be carried out entirely on the City's land.

Hampstead Chain

The main focus of the works will be the new 5.6m high (from lowest point in the valley) dry dam at the location of the current Catchpit. There will be crest restoration works at the Vale of Health, Viaduct and Hampstead 2. The dam at Mixed Bathing Pond will be raised by 1m. Buried culverts will be installed at Hampstead 2 and 1.

Vale of Health Pond

The crest of the dam is being restored using a combination of raising the path and a conservation curb. A spillway is being introduced in the southern corner of the pond.

Viaduct Pond

The crest of the dam will be restored and a spillway created in the southeast corner. Where the current wood cladding which disguises the sheet piling around the edge of the pond has been

damaged, it will be replaced.

New marginal planting will be created on the eastern bank of the pond (below the Viaduct bridge). The pond will be de-silted to improve water quality, and it is anticipated that this will once again allow the pond to be fished.

Catchpit

The 5.6m dry earth dam is unchanged but the outlet pipe from the dam to the Mixed Bathing Pond has been “broken out” to create a natural stream. This will enhance bio-filtration, improve water quality and create habitat. A wooden, informal crossing point will be provided across this stream. New wetland scrapes and a small catchpit have been included above the new dam.

Informal crossing point:



It has been confirmed that there will be shrub planting on the upstream face while the downstream face will have pre-grown turf. There will be some new tree planting south of the dam.

Mixed Bathing Pond

As outlined at Gateway 4c, the dam will be raised by 1m using a combination of raising the dam and footpath by 500mm and by creating a 500mm earth bund on the upstream side of the dam. New aquatic marginal planting will be created in front of the dam and at the northern end of the dam to improve water quality.

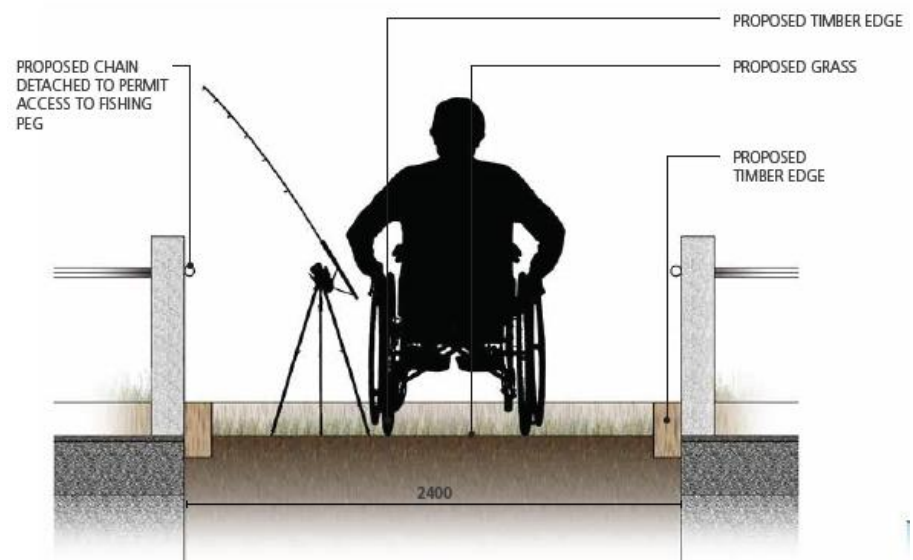
The Mixed Bathing pond will be de-silted.

Hampstead 2

The crest dam at Hampstead 2 restored and a 200mm wooden curb will be installed. A buried concrete culvert is being created in the southwest corner.

Earlier in the design process it was hoped that it would be possible to incorporate disabled fishing access from the wooden platform above the inlet to the culvert. This has not been possible due to the requirement to have a parapet at least 1.1m high because of the drop into the water. Disabled fishing has therefore been incorporated into the design of the dam itself. Sections of the current scaffold poles in between the wooden pillars which currently fence the pond will be removed and replaced with a removable chain and an even surface provided to allow wheelchair access to the water for angling.

Hampstead No. 2 Fishing Peg



At Gateway 4c, it was noted that the designs put two London plane trees at risk, and it was hoped that it would be possible to retain one of these trees. As the designs progressed it has unfortunately become clear that it will not be possible to retain the second tree. This is because the culvert will pass in close proximity of the tree, damaging too many of its roots for it to remain stable. The stability of these trees is particularly important as they are on the crest of the dam and were a tree on a dam to fall over, it could lead to failure of the dam.

Hampstead 1

An additional culvert and a high capacity overflow have been added to the design. These will not be visible from the banks of the pond as the culverts are within the ground and the inlet will be screened by aquatic planting. As agreed at Gateway 4c, new aquatic planting will also be created on the western bank

Tree loss

Tree loss figures are included at Appendix 3. These reflect the tree loss numbers submitted as part of the planning application

in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment reflect the worst case scenario. There are a total of 174 trees at risk, of which 2 are Category A, 30 are Category B, 129 are Category C and 12 are Category U.

These figures include those trees which maybe coppiced and allowed to regenerate rather than felled. This may be the case for some crack willow, ash and hawthorn at Catchpit where feasible; some holly and hawthorn at the Ladies' Bathing Pond to facilitate construction access and some sycamore and elm at Highgate 1 to facilitate the installation of the sheet pile wall.

Tree loss numbers will be finalised as part of the issue of the construction drawings after the receipt of planning permission and the pre-start conditions.

Desilting

When the project was reported to Committee at Gateway 4c, it was intended to de-silt five ponds (Stock, Men's, Mixed, Viaduct and Ladies). Some additional de-silting is now proposed due to the need to secure additional material to reinstate the borrow pits. It is now proposed that additionally Hampstead 1 and 2 be de-silted, and additional parts of Model Boating Pond will be de-silted as required. This will avoid additional importing of material which would generate truck movements and increase costs. Additional de-silting will be of benefit to the ecology of the Heath ponds.

The de-silting will be undertaken using a new suction method so draining the ponds will not be necessary. Aerators will be placed at the opposite end of the pond from where the de-silting is happening in order to attract fish and other aquatic animals to the oxygen rich water, away from the de-silting. De-silting has been programmed to avoid the fish spawning season.

The material which has been sucked up will be put through a centrifuge to separate out the solid components from the water. The remaining water will then be put into settlement tanks to allow sediment to be filtered out before the water is pumped back into the pond. The "de-watered" silt will then be used to reinstate the borrow pits.

Reinstatement

It is currently considered that some of the smaller reinstatement works could potentially be carried out directly by the Heath staff rather than by a BAM Nuttall sub-contractor. This could reduce costs, create staff buy-in to the project and build on existing staff expertise and local knowledge. The more complex and difficult elements of reinstatement (such as the aquatic planting and mature tree planting) will be carried out by BAM Nuttall.

It is proposed that authority be delegated to the Director of the Built Environment in consultation with the Chamberlain to authorise the transfer of the budget for some reinstatement

	<p>activities to Hampstead Heath to enable some of the smaller scale reinstatement works such as planting and seeding to be undertaken in-house if this felt to be appropriate and cost effective as the project progresses.</p> <p><u>Memorial benches</u></p> <p>As part of site preparation, it will be necessary to temporarily remove a number of memorial benches. Heath staff have already started to make contact with owners of the benches to discuss the removal and reinstatement as appropriate.</p>
<p>3. Planning permission</p>	<p>The planning application for the ponds project was submitted to Camden on 4 July 2014. The City signed two Planning Performance Agreements with Camden. It was originally anticipated that the application would be considered by Camden's Development Control Committee in October. However delays in appointing the Independent Panel Engineer Reviewer meant that this was not possible. Camden will consider the application on 15 January 2015.</p>
<p>4. Delivery team</p>	<p>BAM Nuttall who were appointed as constructor in a partnership contract in March 2014 will carry out the works. Most of the works will be undertaken directly by BAM Nuttall but some small areas will be subcontracted. Capita will continue to provide cost consultant services. Atkins, the design team, will continue to play a role as leader designer providing site supervision with the City acting as Client Representative (project management).</p> <p>Representatives of the Core Group (City, Atkins, BAM Nuttall and Capita) will continue to meet monthly to administer the partnership contract. The City's project board will also continue to meet monthly. Weekly site meeting will be introduced with the BAM Nuttall site agent, City engineers and Heath Operational Services Manager to monitor progress.</p>
<p>5. Programme and key dates</p>	<p>The outline programme is included at appendix 2. Site preparations will start in February 2015. The main works start on site in April 2014 and will conclude in October 2016.</p> <p>The main works in the first year will be at the Model Boating Pond and at Pryors Field and Catchpit in the second year.</p> <p><u>Impact on swimming</u></p> <p>The Men's and the Mixed Ponds will only close for de-silting – scheduled for November 2015 at the Men's Pond for up to six weeks and January 2016 for up to four weeks at the Mixed Pond. De-silting was purposefully programmed to take place during the winter when the ponds are least used.</p> <p>The Ladies Pond will need to be closed for the works to the changing room facility and slab, and this closure has been programmed for the winter period to minimise disruption to swimming. During the closure, alternative provision will be made for the Ladies. Further discussion will be undertaken with</p>

	<p>the user groups later this year, but it is anticipated that this will involve Ladies only swimming sessions at the Mixed Pond.</p> <p><u>Impact on events</u></p> <p>The events programme has been considered as part of the programming, and it has been confirmed that all the usual events such as cross country will be able to take place as planned.</p>
<p>6. Managing the works on site</p>	<p>The constructor BAM Nuttall have been on site since commencing Ground Investigations in spring 2014. They have become familiar with the Heath and the particular constraints of the site, for example in terms of volumes of people, dogs and the variability of ground conditions.</p> <p><u>Site compounds</u></p> <p>As works progress areas of the Heath will be fenced off to allow BAM Nuttall to undertake their works. BAM Nuttall will be responsible for the security of their sites, and when works are not being undertaken (such as evenings and weekends), BAM Nuttall will have security present.</p> <p><u>Access routes and divisions</u></p> <p>The construction access routes were presented as part of the planning application. On the Highgate Chain, access is through the main entrance at Parliament Hill, along the path next to Duke's Field and then along the western side of Highgate No.1 Pond and the Men's Bathing Pond. A new temporary track will be created to the west of the Model Boating Pond borrow pit to provide access to Bird Sanctuary Pond, Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond and Stock Pond. On the Hampstead Chain, access to the Viaduct Pond and the Vale of Health Pond will be from East Heath Road, close to Lime Avenue. Access to the Catchpit borrow pit, Hampstead No.1 Hampstead No.2 and Mixed Bathing Pond will be from East Heath Road, next to the East Heath car park.</p> <p>With the exception of the fenced track to be created between the Pyrrors field borrow pit and the Catchpit work site, all access routes will remain open for public use. This is possible because of the relatively low vehicle numbers and the fact that each vehicle will be preceded by a banksman and will progress at walking pace. Where paths are too narrow to allow for pedestrians and vehicles to pass one another, a series of pedestrian refuges will be created.</p> <p><u>Signs and information</u></p> <p>Signs informing people of the works will be posted at the main entrances. Where paths are diverted for works to take place, diversions will be signposted. The most significant diversion is the causeway at the Model Boating Pond which is part of the east-west cycle route across the Heath.</p>

	<p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>Heath users will be kept informed of the progress of the works and any potential impacts for their usage of the Heath through signs, information on the website, Twitter and Facebook. The Communication Officer will spend time on site and will make her contact details available. Staff will be regularly briefed so they are able to answer questions about the project and advise on alternative routes.</p> <p><u>Ponds Project Stakeholder Group (PPSG)</u></p> <p>As previously reported to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, the PPSG will continue to meet but its role will change. As options have now been fixed, the focus of the group will move from one of consultation to one of information sharing. To this end, the group will concentrate mainly on site visits and will also consider issues associated with diversions. The PPSG will next meet on Monday 26 January and the agenda will focus on diversions and communications during construction.</p>
<p>7. Additional landowners</p>	<p>Negotiations with the one landowner who could potentially impact on the progress of the works have been progressing well, and it is anticipated that a transfer agreement will be signed in January.</p>
<p>8. Future management</p>	<p>New management plans will be developed by the Heath's ecology team in consultation with Atkins. Prior to the full development of the revised management plans, schemes will be developed for the protection of new planting while it establishes – for example, fencing of aquatic planting to prevent its destruction by dogs.</p>
<p>9. Outstanding risks</p>	<p>The project's risk register has been reviewed in preparation for construction. The risks have been divided between the City, BAM Nuttall and Atkins, and the City's risks have been costed. There are currently 37 risks on the City's part of the risk register, of which 7 are rated as red after mitigation. Of those risks where a specific sum has been included as part of the project, the most significant in cost terms are onerous conditions associated with the planning consent, site security issues and the potential for design changes.</p> <p><u>Planning permission and conditions</u></p> <p>At the time of writing, the planning application has not yet been determined by Camden Council. Assuming Camden Council resolve to grant the planning permission, the section 106 agreement required by Camden will have to be completed before the permission can be issued. Once the permission is issued any pre-commencement conditions will have to be discharged before works can commence. Although Camden are aware of the project implications of any delay and officers have</p>

had advanced sight of the proposed conditions, there is still some risk that the issuing of the consent and conditions could be delayed.

One of the planning conditions is for three apprentices to be employed. Following conversations with the contractor, it has been agreed that the apprentices will be employed to work on the Heath as part of the broader Heath support to the project rather than on the construction site itself. This has been agreed with Camden. The costs for this will be included as staff costs.

Design changes

Any further changes to the design could have significant costs.

Cut/fill balance

The risk that contamination of the silt would prevent its re-use in the borrow pits has been included on the risk register. However the costs associated with this risk have not been included in the budget because were the silt to be unusable, this would be of sufficient detriment to the reinstatement proposals that a fundamental reconsideration would be required. Members should note that testing of the silt and geotechnical modelling has been undertaken in order to mitigate this risk.

Potential protest

The City will of course accommodate peaceful protest which does not put the safety of Heath users, City Staff, BAM Nuttall staff or the protesters themselves at risk, and does not infringe on project progression. Accommodating peaceful protest is something that the project team have already started to discuss with BAM Nuttall and Heath staff.

Whether protest will take place or what form it might take is not known.

Officers have also started to give consideration to how protest which breaches bylaws, is disruptive or dangerous, or inhibits the project will be managed. Provisional sums have been identified within both the budget and additionally within the risk register (appendix 4) for this. The project team have already liaised with the Comptroller & City Solicitor and the City of London Procurement Service to identify specialist contractors to provide support if necessary.

It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath to appoint and manage such contractors as required, up to the limit set out in appendix 4. Should such an appointment be necessary, Members will be informed.

Other works on the Heath

Officers are continuing to liaise with colleagues in the City Surveyors about other works on the Heath – principally the upgrade in the water supply to the Kenwood Ladies Bathing

	<p>Pond and the forthcoming surveys of the jetties at the Mixed Pond and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond being undertaken as part of the Additional Works Programme.</p> <p>Neither of these projects is part of the Pond Project works but are likely to be undertaken alongside.</p>																																
<p>10. Budget</p>	<p><u>Agreed Maximum Price</u></p> <p>The Agreed Maximum Price (AMP) for construction is 13,139,749. A breakdown of these costs is included at Appendix 3.</p> <p><u>Budget</u></p> <p>The anticipated cost of £21.2M now exceeds the current allocation of £18.54M (i.e. £15.2M +20% plus £300,000 for JR costs) and the envelope as agreed by the Court of Common Council in 2011 of £15.M +/- 20% at 2010 prices, which subject to inflation is between £20.5M and £21M depending on whether RPI or BCIS is used. Members noted in November 2014 that costs were expected to be in the region of £20M.</p> <p>It is proposed that the funding shortfall of £2.66M is funded via request to the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee for an allocation from the City's Cash provisions for new schemes. As there is currently only £2.21M remaining from this financial year's provision, it is recommended that an advance allocation of £0.45M be approved from the 2015/16 provision on an exceptional, one-off basis.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="534 1276 1452 2016"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Estimate cost at last Gateway (£)</th> <th>Variance (£)</th> <th>Revised estimated cost (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Preliminary evaluation costs</td> <td>271,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>271,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction</td> <td>12,292,624</td> <td>3,246,125¹</td> <td>15,538,749</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fees</td> <td>4,026,876</td> <td>450,800²</td> <td>4,477,676</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judicial review</td> <td>300,000</td> <td>-190,950³</td> <td>109,050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td>802,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>802,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estimated project sum</td> <td>17,692,500</td> <td>3,505,975</td> <td>21,198,475</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allocation</td> <td>18,540,000</td> <td>2,658,475</td> <td>21,198,475</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>1: The increases in costs are largely due to construction inflation</i></p>		Estimate cost at last Gateway (£)	Variance (£)	Revised estimated cost (£)	Preliminary evaluation costs	271,000	0	271,000	Construction	12,292,624	3,246,125 ¹	15,538,749	Fees	4,026,876	450,800 ²	4,477,676	Judicial review	300,000	-190,950 ³	109,050	Staff costs	802,000	0	802,000	Estimated project sum	17,692,500	3,505,975	21,198,475	Allocation	18,540,000	2,658,475	21,198,475
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	<p><i>(the likelihood of this was recognised by the Court in its 2011 decision), the increased scope of the work at the Ladies Bathing Pond and the project risks.</i></p> <p><i>2: This figure relates to increases mainly Atkins' fees which are still being negotiated and the allocation funds to support the superintendent in dealing with potential protests.</i></p> <p><i>3: The judicial review costs were less than allocated but as this was capitalised cost, it is recommended that sum be reallocated to the project.</i></p> <p>The cost of construction includes provisional sums for the Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond facility and slab at £1.5M and £15,000 for electrical upgrades identified by the constructor, and £884,000 of specific risk items in addition to the AMP. The specific risks detailed and quantified in Appendix 4.</p> <p>A further breakdown of the budget is included at Appendix 5. In addition to the Agreed Maximum Price, it includes risk items, staff costs, fees (Atkins and Capita) and all expenditure to date.</p>
<p>11. Success criteria</p>	<p>Officers are optimistic that trust in our constructor BAM Nuttall can be further developed once works start on site. By delivering each successive element of works in a sensitive manner, we will be able to demonstrate our commitment to protecting and enhancing the Heath. We are therefore using BAM Nuttall's contractual KPIs as success criteria for the delivery of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero tolerance of accidents • Zero unacceptable defects • Carrying out the Project in accordance with the Partnering/Project Timetable • Carrying out the Project in accordance with agreed budgets • Protection of the Heath's environment and Stakeholder satisfaction <p>In considering the long term success of the project, it is recommended that success be measured by how well the new planting has established, consideration of whether the new landscape is coherent with the surrounding areas of the Heath, and public, stakeholder/user and staff response at completion, after one year, two years and five years.</p>
<p>12. Progress reporting</p>	<p>Quarterly progress reports to Spending Committee and any project changes not covered by delegated authority or specific risk provision will be sought by exception via Issue Report to Spending and Projects Sub Committees.</p>

Appendices

Appendix 1	Scheme summary
Appendix 2	Programme
Appendix 3	Tree loss table
Appendix 4	Risk Register (NON PUBLIC)
Appendix 5	Budget table (NON PUBLIC)

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 pond
- 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

Previous committee reports are available at:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/committees

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Highgate Chain

Pond	Dam	Spillway	Ecological mitigation and reinstatement
Stock Pond	Crest restoration by up to 500mm and a small bund created in the eastern corner..	New grass lined spillway at the western end of the dam, 21m wide at the base, with side slopes of 1:12. Two new 900mm overflow pipes to run parallel with the existing overflow pipe	Pond to be de-silted. New marginal planting on south west bank Japanese Knotweed to be managed. New tree and shrub planting Wetland scrapes and mini check dams will be created to catch sediment and channel the normal flow from Stock pond and the existing stream to the east of the pond into the Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond. The path across the dam will be restored to its current finish of tar and chip.
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	Crest restoration by up to 300mm New concrete slab and facility to be built. Concrete slab to have the same footprint as existing.	New grass lined spillway at the western end, 19.4m wide at the base, with side slopes of 1:3. New 600mm diameter overflow pipe alongside the new spillway.	Pond to be de-silted 3 woody debris check dams and scrapes to be installed along inflow streams upstream to control sediment ingress and improve water quality of discharge to Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. Screening of the western perimeter of the pond to be enhanced with new tree/scrub planting. Additional aquatic planting will also be installed in front of the spillway The path across the dam will be reinstated as currently.
Bird Sanctuary Pond	Crest restoration by up to 80mm.	No spillway but the slope downstream to the Model Boating Pond is to be smoothed and lined with a turf reinforcement mat. Relocation of the two overflow pipes	Additional channel (46m) to be dug to enhance wetland area. Development and extension of existing reed bed New wetland scrapes constructed along existing inflow stream to south-west arm to control sediment ingress and improve water quality of discharge to pond. The path across the dam will be restored with tar and chip dressing.
Model Boating Pond	Dam raised by 2.5m with a new earth embankment upstream of the existing dam. West bank excavated to win material to raise dam and to extend pond. Island created to preserve existing mature trees. A second borrow pit will provide material for the raised dam. This borrow pit is proposed for the top of the hill west of the Model Boating Pond. Borrow pits to be reinstated with silt from the de-silted ponds. Model Boating Pond is the main focus of works on the Highgate Chain	New upper grass lined spillway over the raised dam and lower grass lined spillway over the existing at the western end to retain existing mature trees on existing dam.	Partial de-silting New island to be formed around the preserved group of existing mature lime trees, London plane and English Oak, and linked to west bank with causeway. New marginal planting on west bank, upstream edge of raised dam and around new island. The eastern side will retain its hard edge to facilitate access to the water for model boating and for fishing. Fishing will also be facilitated by gaps in the planting. New trees will also be planted. New footpath on upstream face of the raised dam and along realigned west bank providing continuous access to pond edge. The path around the pond will be re-laid as hoggin, while the path which will be reinstated on the western side part way up the bank and the path across the dam will be tar and chip.
Men's Bathing Pond	Raising of the dam by 1m, using a sheet pile wall capped with English oak. Current leak in the dam to be repaired.	New grass lined spillway at existing ground level at the western end of dam, 25m wide.	2 check dams and a small reed bed created on existing inflow to north west corner to control sediment ingress and improve water quality of discharge to pond. Climbing plants either side of the sheet pile wall There are no changes to the finish of the paths.
Highgate No.1	Raising of the dam with a 1.25m high wall, using a sheet pile wall capped with English oak.	New grass lined spillway at the western end of the dam, 64m wide. Return wall along east side of spillway.	Extension of the existing reed beds along the north bank and new marginal planting on east bank. There are no changes to the finish of the paths.

Hampstead Chain

Pond	Dam	Spillway	Ecological mitigation and reinstatement
Vale of Health	Crest restoration up to 560mm achieved by 300mm of fill and 260mm kerb	New grass lined spillway at the western end where the dam is currently lower, 5m wide. Additional new overflow pipe, 500mm, to run parallel to the existing pipe.	Marginal planting on south-east bank. The footpath will be re-laid to match the current one. The existing fence will be retained
Viaduct	Crest restoration up to 200mm	New grass lined spillway at the eastern end, 4m wide, 1:12 slide slope. New overflow pipe 500mm diameter.	Pond to be de-silted. Marginal planting on the east bank below the Viaduct bridge The path will be reinstated as a compact aggregate self-binding gravel and will have a slight camber to improve drainage.
Catchpit	New flood storage provided by earth embankment dam, 5.6m high at the lowest point in the valley and 40m wide at the widest point. Crest of the dam approximately 100m long. Slopes 1:3 upstream and 1:4 downstream. Catchpit is the main focus of works on the Hampstead Chain.	Reinforced turf spillway along the whole crest of the dam. 750mm pipe under the dam to pass normal flows. Current pipe between Catchpit and the Mixed Pond to be removed to allow the natural stream to be restored. This will create a new wetland area. A cross point will be installed	A new mini catchpit incorporating reed bed filter systems upstream of the dam. Wetland scrapes and informal flow channels downstream of dam to control sediment ingress to Mixed Bathing. New trees to be planted south of the new dam Scrub to be planted on upstream face, downstream face to be turfed. The informal path across the dam will be grass reinforced with an open 3D grass reinforcement system.
Mixed Bathing	Dam raised by 1m within footprint of existing dam achieved by raising pond edge by 500mm with 500mm low bund along upstream face. 4m wide path reinstated on crest surface. Downstream slope of raised fill to be 1:3 and lined with reinforced turf to match existing slope, which will be lined with reinforced turf.	Spillway over the majority of the crest of the dam with 1:20 ramp either side of spillway to preserve existing mature trees. Existing overflow pipe extended further in to the pond.	Pond to be de-silted. New marginal planting on the north bank and along the upstream face of the dam. The path across the dam will be reinstated as presently with tar and chip.
Hampstead No. 2	Crest restoration with a 0.2m high edging	A new overflow at the western end formed with a precast concrete box culvert, 2.1m wide, with a drop inlet within the pond.	Marginal planting on the west bank. Culvert route and width redesigned so that the London Plane trees on the dam, visible from Mixed Bathing Pond are preserved. Platform designed to screen drop inlet Disabled fishing access to be provided along the dam The path across the dam will be reinstated as currently with tar and chip. New trees are being planted by the southwest corner of the pond.
Hampstead No. 1	No raising or restoration proposed.	New box culvert overflow through and over the embankment at eastern end of dam, Culvert to be buried with topsoil and located to retain existing mature London plane trees.	Marginal planting along south and east bank. Paths will remain as existing.

Appendix 2 - Outline Construction Programme (AMP Issue)

Apr-15 May-15 Jun-15 Jul-15 Aug-15 Sep-15 Oct-15 Nov-15 Dec-15 Jan-16 Feb-16 Mar-16 Apr-16 May-16 Jun-16 Jul-16 Aug-16 Sep-16 Oct-16

Hampstead Chain

Viaduct Pond																			
Vale of Health																			
Hampstead No.2																			
Hampstead No.1																			
Mixed Bathing																			
Catchpit																			

Highgate Chain

Bird Sanctuary																			
Stock Pond																			
Ladies' Bathing																			
Model Boating																			
Men's Bathing																			
Highgate No.1																			

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Tree loss

Trees are categorised as being:

A: large, high quality, veteran trees;

B: smaller, not particularly high quality trees. However these trees still make a significant impact on the environment and have a significant life expectancy;

C: smaller trees or those considered of low quality; they may have a limited life expectancy of contribute little to amenity; U: poor condition.

Pond	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category U	Total
Stock Pond	0	8	15	0	23
Ladies Bathing Pond	0	3	15	0	18
Bird Sanctuary	0	0	0	0	0
Model Boating	0	2	6	0	8
Men's Bathing Pond	0	0	15	0	15
Highgate No.1	0	4	12	1	17
Total for Highgate Chain	0	17	63	1	81

Vale of Health	0	1	0	0	1
Viaduct Pond	0	0	5	1	6
Catchpit	0	12	49	10	71
Mixed Bathing Pond	0	0	7	0	7
Hampstead 2	2	0	0	0	2
Hampstead 1	0	0	5	1	6
Total for Hampstead Chain	2	13	66	12	93

Scheme total	2	30	129	13	174
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