

QUEEN'S PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP
Wednesday, 10 June 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group held at
Committee Room, St Anne's & St Andrew's Church, 125 Salusbury Road, London,
NW6 6RG on Wednesday, 10 June 2015 at 12.00 pm

Present

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)
Karina Dostalova
Ann Holmes
Barbara Newman
John Blandy (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)
Cllr James Denselow (London Borough of Brent)
Helen Durnford (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)

Officers:

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

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neil Nerva (London Borough of Brent), Councillor Eleanor Southwood (London Borough of Brent), and Paul Stratton (Local Schools Liaison).

2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Ann Holmes declared a non-pecuniary interest in any discussions relating to the Queen's Park Café as she knew the owner personally.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record, subject to the following addition:-

A Member noted that Committee lunches at Guildhall Club were not paid for through the City of London Corporation's operational budget and that this should be specified in the minutes.

Matters Arising

Additional Group Membership

The Queen's Park Manager advised local Residents' Associations and the Transition Town Kensal to Kilburn group had been invited to attend the last two Group meetings but they were unable to attend, possibly due to the timing of

the meetings in the middle of the week. It was agreed that the Park Manager would circulate the minutes of each meeting once they had been published and the local groups could contact him or the Town Clerk with any enquiries arising.

Events

In response to a Member's question, the Park Manager advised that he and a representative from the Queen's Park Residents' Association recently visited a local brewery that were keen to support a Beer and Pie festival held at the Park. He added that external companies did exist to organise events such as these but employing one would reduce income generation.

Members expressed their concern that the festival should be family and food oriented and were mindful that external companies did not cause damage or mess in the Park. The Park Manager advised that an external company would be charged to set up a base area and would have to pay security deposit to hold against any necessary maintenance following the festival. The Park Manager would carry out a benchmarking exercise and quotes would be obtained shortly.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE REPORT**

The Group received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on operational and management activities and the achievements of the Queen's Park Team since the last meeting in November 2014. The Park Manager provided updates on the following matters:

Budget

£332,000 of savings had been identified across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park in 2015/16, as part of the Service Based Review proposals. Savings were being addressed through eleven programmes that focussed on specific areas. At Queen's Park, income generation at the Children's Farm would be reviewed as part of the Learning and Development programme and an online tennis court booking system would be considered as part of the Sports programme. A further update would be provided at the next Group meeting.

Café

The current three year Café lease was due to expire later this year. A meeting to discuss the procedure for tendering would take place shortly but there was already plenty of interest from several parties. The Park Manager would be advertising the tender in local and specialist media after consultation with the City of London Procurement Service.

Licensed Events

The Nomad outdoor cinema would be returning for four film screenings across August and September, which would provide useful additional income.

In response to a Member's question, the Park Manager advised that a template had been produced by the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department for the introduction of charges to commercial activities. The regular football coach had been made aware that a charge would be imposed from July or August 2015.

Ecology and Environment

The London Borough of Brent (LBB) was no longer in a position to remove green waste from Queen's Park, having reduced the number of vehicles in their fleet that managed this operation. The Park Supervisor was working with colleagues to review the removal of green waste from Queen's Park. Consideration would be given to the most environmentally sustainable, cost-effective and efficient process to achieve this.

Sports and Recreation

The hedge to the north of the tennis courts had recently been reduced by one metre by Queen's Park staff. During the autumn/winter of 2015, a contractor would be used to reduce the height of the hedges on the remaining three sides of the tennis courts. Tennis court no. six was currently in a poor condition and therefore out of use. The Lawn Tennis Association would be contacted to discuss future possible funding opportunities to improve court conditions.

The Park Manager had recently met with a representative from the LBB to consider the possibility of installing outdoor gym equipment in Queen's Park, a proposal that would be dependent upon available funding. Consideration was also given to the maintenance and upkeep of this equipment. At its meeting on 18 May 2015 the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee noted the resolution of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee that decisions on equipment funding offers should be made by the respective Management Committee, based on the principle that any offer should be self-funding for the lifetime of the equipment.

Members were not supportive of an outdoor gym but agreed for improved equipment to be added to the Trim Trail. The member representing the LBB agreed to discuss the possible funding opportunities for this with his colleagues at the LBB.

Children's Play Area

New equipment had been installed recently which had been funded in part by a £2,000 donation from a local resident and £3,000 from the LBB. The new equipment would be opening soon.

Operational Management

The Bandstand continued to be used for children's parties, available at a rate of £55 for a two hour period in the morning or afternoon. This charge would be reviewed with a view to increase income generation.

A meeting was scheduled to take place shortly to discuss the 2015/16 Additional Works Programme (AWP) with the City Surveyor's Department. It was hoped that repairs to the paddling pool would be included in this AWP.

Visitors and Community

Queen's Park Day would be taking place on Sunday 13 September 2015. A small fairground that took place over the Whitsun weekend provided some income supporting the Hampstead Education team delivering a learning programme at Queen's Park in August 2015. In response to a Member's

question, the Park Manager advised that Temporary Event Notices were applied for for alcohol to be sold at events such as Queen's Park Day.

RESOLVED – That the Superintendent's update report be noted.

5. **APPLICATION TO OPERATE MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONIES AT THE QUEEN'S PARK BANDSTAND**

The Group considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought Member's views regarding the opportunity to generate future income by permitting the use of the Queen's Park Bandstand for Marriage and Civil Partnership ceremonies, subject to the approval of the LBB.

The Group were widely supportive of the proposals to introduce Marriage and Civil Ceremonies at the Bandstand. Members noted the success since the introduction of ceremonies at the Hill Garden and Pergola at Hampstead Heath. In addition, it was advocated that ceremonies should not be limited to 25 attendees; members suggested that 40-50 guests could be seated within the fenced area surrounding the Bandstand. The Superintendent added that the number of guests would be discussed with couples on a case by case basis. The trial period would also enable staff to gauge an appropriate maximum number of attendees in due course.

In response to members' questions, the Park Manager advised that other activities available in the Park, such as Pitch and Putt and tennis, would continue whilst ceremonies took place and amplified music would not be permitted. In response to a further question from the Chairman, he added that a track-way for disabled guests to access the Bandstand would be installed on the day of each ceremony if necessary.

RESOLVED – That the proposal to apply for a Marriage Licence, subject to the approval of the LBB, to use the Queen's Park Bandstand as a venue for weddings and civil ceremonies, presenting a new opportunity to generate future income, be noted and endorsed by the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group.

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

The Group received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on Tree Safety Management across the North London Open Spaces Division, including Queen's Park.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. **THE STATE OF UK PUBLIC PARKS 2014**

The Group received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the issues relevant to the Division in managing and supporting green spaces across London.

Members were advised that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee were in favour of appointing from amongst those

members of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group who were elected local Ward Councillors as Park Champion(s).

RESOLVED – That Councillor James Denselow (London Borough of Brent) be appointed as the Park Champion for Queen's Park.

8. **QUESTIONS**

Members congratulated all staff for the impressive condition and cleanliness of the Park.

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

The Chairman advised the Group that Paul Stratton (Local Schools Liaison) was no longer a Governor at Malorees School and would therefore be standing down from the Group. Members thanked Paul Stratton for his valued contribution to the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group during his many years as a member.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting, to be held on Wednesday 18 November 2015, be noted.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm

Chairman

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