

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 9 October 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 9 October 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Cindy Galvin (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
Ellen Solomons (Vale of Health Society)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Attending:

Carol Dukes (representing Ray Booth)
John Carrier (Petitioner on Item 7)
Tim Sanders (Petitioner on Item 7)

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	-	Town Clerk's Department
Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	-	Operational Service Manager
Richard Gentry	-	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	-	Conservation and Trees Manager
Yvette Hughes	-	Business Manager
Lucy Gannon	-	Projects and Management Support Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman), Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap), Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society), Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust) and David Walton (Representative of Clubs using the Heath).

Members noted that Carol Dukes was attending in place of Ray Booth.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2017 were approved as a correct record.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES**

The draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 17 July 2017 were received.

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

The minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 11 September 2017 were received.

Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport) noted that the Forum was supportive of proposed sports fees and charges for 2018/19 in general terms, and that the Forum would welcome the adoption of a theme for proposed events in 2018, e.g. 'Women in Sport'.

6. **HEATH HANDS SUMMARY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2017**

Members considered the Heath Hands Summary Report for September 2017 and the following points were made.

- The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath noted that Heath Hands would hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19 October 2017. He added that going forward the City of London Corporation would review its relationship with Heath Hands, under the partnership agreement. Heath Hands was currently in receipt of City Bridge Trust funding to increase community engagement with the Heath, in particular among communities living south of the Heath. The Superintendent closed by noting that Members would receive more information on the work of Heath Hands at their next meeting in January 2018.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent and the following points were made.

Events

- The Superintendent noted the positive coverage of the Heath arising from the BBC Countryfile 'One Man and His Dog'; the successful 16th Annual Conker Championships held on 1 October; and the forthcoming 10,000m event on 19 May 2018.

Shire Horses

- Two petitioners were heard in support of the use of Shire horses on the Heath in the place of motor vehicles. The petitioners noted that Shire horses were an integral part of Richmond Park and had great potential to be part of the Heath as an open space. As well as activities such as moving timber, the horses had been shown to have a positive therapeutic role, through initiatives such as interaction sessions with bullied children.
- Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee) welcomed the idea and suggested that consideration be given to stabling the horses at City Farm.
- Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) welcomed the proposal and noted the heritage aspect of bringing horses back to the Heath – for example, Whitestone Pond was a former horse pond. He noted that the economics of employing the horses on the Heath full time looked to be too expensive but welcomed the idea of more limited working patterns, and the participation of horses in the Heath events programme.
- Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society) suggested that the horses be employed in Highgate Wood.
- Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport) supported the proposal but noted that the heritage aspect was not reflected in his view, in the wider Heath strategies.
- Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood) supported the proposal and noted that she could raise it with her organisation to see if there was any potential for synergies between the Heath and Kenwood. She added that, if the proposal should be pursued, that the horses should be educational and should not become too commercialised in an events sense.
- The Superintendent thanked Members for their views and noted that the proposal would be further reviewed ahead of submission to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for decision. He noted that horses featured at Queen's Wood near Highgate Wood, and on the City of London Corporation's City Commons. He noted that in his view the employment of horses on a contractor style basis looked to be the most sensible option.

Cycling

- The Superintendent noted that he was recalling the Pedestrian and Cycling Working Group to discuss how the surface and drainage along shared routes could be improved in line with the Heath's natural aspect.

Planning

- **The Water House, Millfield Lane, 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent noted that the City had participated in the stakeholder group taking part in the application and that he had registered the need to protect the Veteran and mature trees along Millfield Lane from construction traffic.
- **Peabody Trust Archway Campus and Euston Stations Planning Brief.** The Superintendent noted that submissions had been made in both of these instances noting that the proposals should not conflict with strategic views from the Heath.
- **London Borough of Barnet Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document, Public Consultation.** In response to a question from Richard Sumray (London Council of Recreation and Sport) the Superintendent confirmed that representations on strategic documents such as this sought to identify synergies in delivering excellent public open spaces across a number of sites in a given London Borough.
- **North Fairground Site, Vale of Health 2017/4346/P.** Ellen Solomons (Vale of Health Society) updated Members on the North Fairground site application. She noted a number of applications had been submitted for the site and subsequently rejected. The applicant had now claimed that the historic use of the site gave permission to use the area to site static caravans. The Vale of Health Society had yet to receive any feedback on the matter from the London Borough of Camden. She noted the Society's thanks to the City of London Corporation for its support on the matter.

Trees

- In response to a question from Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) the Conservation and Trees Manager noted that a decision on whether a representation would be made to the Forestry Commission's review of current Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) treatments was a matter for the City's Director of Open Spaces.

Koi Herpesvirus

- The Conservation and Trees Manager noted that the Environment Agency had been notified of an outbreak of the Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) at the Model Boating Pond on 4 September 2017. The virus has a 90% fatality rate and it is likely the source was a net infected at another site which was then used on the Heath. Fishing had been suspended across all ponds, and 37 fish had been lost so far. The last affected fish had been identified on 2 October. A judgement on reopening the ponds to fishing would be made once a two-week clear period had passed.
- In response to questions, the Conservation and Trees Manager noted there had been other outbreaks of KHV in Walthamstow and Epping.

Memorial Bench Project

- In response to a question from John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) the Superintendent replied that a Memorial Bench Policy would be submitted to Members at a future meeting.
- The Projects and Management Support Officer noted that the policy would likely involve memorial benches being installed for a period of ten years, after which the persons who installed the bench would be given the option to renew the bench for a further 10 year cycle. Some of the existing memorial benches on the Heath dated back 40 years and it was proving challenging identifying those sponsors.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

- The Superintendent noted that there would be an award announcement on 12 October 2017 for the British Construction Industry Annual Awards. The Ponds Project has been shortlisted in the Civil Engineering Project of the Year (£10m to £50m) category.

Solar Panels – Lido

- The Superintendent noted that a planning application was being submitted to the London Borough of Camden to install solar panels on the roof of the Lido.

8. FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding Fees and Charges 2018/19 and the following points were made.

- Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club) noted that the City of London Corporation needed to be clear that an increase in charges was being proposed at a time when the shower provision at the Heath Extension changing rooms was unsatisfactory, and the incidence of dog mess on rugby pitches on the increase. The Superintendent acknowledged those two issues and noted that the shower issue was being managed, and that staff would inspect pitches prior to games.
- In response to a comment from Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society) the Superintendent agreed to review whether some flexibility could be applied to the charges for skips.
- In response to a suggestion from Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood) for residents' parking tickets, the Superintendent noted that the proposed charges were in his view commensurate with charges levied for parking elsewhere.
- In response to a question from Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) the Superintendent noted that the Affordable Art Fair was not included in the schedule as the fair was

granted a specific licence. The Superintendent agreed to explore the potential for an event on the Heath similar to the Battersea Park Decorative Arts Fair.

- The Superintendent noted that he was proposing a new block booking charge for the Parliament Hill Athletics Track which is based on the actual operating cost of the facility. The Block Booking Scheme will promote a collaborative approach to shared use by clubs undertaking training and coaching at the facility.

RESOLVED, that

- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at its November 2017 meeting.

9. DEVELOPING A DIVISIONAL PLAN FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD, KEATS HOUSE AND QUEEN'S PARK

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the development of a Divisional Plan for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and Queen's Park and the following points were made.

- Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt that the number of projects scheduled for delivery in 2017/18 was overambitious. He also felt that some of the terminology in the plan needed to be harmonised with terminology in other City documents such as the Corporate Plan. He also felt that issues such as staff training and the Affordable Art Fair could be usefully included.
- Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) agreed that the language could be harmonised with other City documents. He noted that neither the Heath Community Vision nor the Corporate Plan were sufficiently referenced in the Divisional Plan. He also felt that tree health and health and wellbeing should feature in the Plan.
- Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) felt that electric vehicles should be referenced within the Plan.
- Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society) requested that a detailed archaeological survey be included within the Plan, alongside a comprehensive ecological survey of the ponds. He also queried whether there was any potential clash of charitable objectives within the Plan.
- Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport) noted that the Plan should be reviewed in tandem with the Heath's ten year plan and requested that both plans come to a future meeting.

- Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted that some of the projects outlined within the plan had been completed and queried what process there was to include projects during the year.
- In response to comments from Members, the Superintendent agreed to include a status column in future reporting.
- The Projects and Management Support Officer noted that the 10 year plan for the Heath and the Heath Vision would focus on outcomes whereas a 3 year plan was geared towards 'actions' – many of which were already captured in the Heath's Annual Work Programme. It was also noted that due to timeframes for approval of the proposed Heath Vision, the final approval of the Hampstead Heath Management Plan may be later than previously reported.
- Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society) requested that the glossary be updated.
- The Chairman noted that Members were welcome to provide further feedback outside of the meeting up until 16 October 2017.

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10. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting on 29 January 2018 at 7.00pm in the Parliament Hill Conference Room was noted.

The meeting ended at 8.56 pm

Chairman

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