

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 11 February 2019

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, 11 February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
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)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

Colin BATTERY	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Katherine Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cindy Galvin (Ian Greenwood attended to represent Heath Hands), Harunur Rashid (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative) and Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap).

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

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2018 were approved as a correct record.

4. **ACTIONS SHEET**

Members noted the various outstanding actions and the update provided thereon.

The Chairman advised that all actions were complete or covered on the agenda. With regards to Action 1 to identify a representative to represent people with a physical disability, the Chairman confirmed that Gary Robjent from Leonard Cheshire Disability had been invited to attend meeting to represent the charity as an observer and an official representative would be appointed to join for the next Committee meeting.

5. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 28 November 2018 were received.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

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

- The Superintendent advised that he was seeking Member's views on 10 topics.

Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028

- Members were advised that the Strategy was approved but the Superintendent welcomed comments regarding the layout and graphic design of the document. It was noted that a printed version would also be made available.
- Members liked the design but felt the size of the print was difficult to read. It was also felt that the colour of the print made the text difficult to read and a darker shade was recommended. However, a Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) suggested that larger text would resolve concerns with the print colour which he regarded as friendly.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) felt that the Heath Vision needed to state that it was developed by the community and not the City Corporation.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) suggested that an extra page demonstrating the connection between the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy and the Corporate Plan would be beneficial. The Superintendent noted that this alignment was reflected in the Summary of the Hampstead Management Strategy 2018-28 diagram, in the section About this Strategy, and on the last page of

the document stating the links. He confirmed that that continued work was happening with the Corporate Strategy Team to link in other documents which would include further development with the Corporate Plan.

Draft Divisional Plan 2019-22

- The Superintendent stated that he had been reporting on the progress of the Divisional Plan throughout its development. He drew Members' attention to the Transition Sheet – Project Record Schedule which tracked the transition of numerous projects to alignment with the four Outcomes.
- It was noted that the date column required a completion date and the final result regarding outcome needed updating.
- The Superintendent asked if Members of the Committee considered that the pipeline projects for coming years were prioritised correctly.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) raised a previous query regarding the amount of work to be done in a short period of time (2019-20) and requested a calendar of when the projects would take place.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) highlighted the shortness of the section for Vision Theme: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming noting that it currently only dealt with accessibility and cafés. He felt that that the Theme should be expanded to include culture, diversity and inclusion and how to encourage wider groups to visit the Heath. The Chairman agreed that this had been discussed but not captured. The Superintendent agreed that this gap would be captured by the measurement framework and an action plan would follow.
- With regards to pipeline projects, it was noted (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) that Finsbury Park was celebrating its 150th year in 2019. The Chairman emphasised the need to look at other similar events.
- In response to a query from a Member (Highgate Society) concerning local schools' representation, the Chairman stated that there was a similar situation with the HWCG but that the QPCG had school representation. It was agreed that schools would be approached again for representation on the Committee.
- A Member (Highgate Society) noted the 2021/22 pipeline project for future ecological surveys regarding the Hampstead Heath Ponds. He stated that a wider range of surveys were needed and requested that the project have a line added to the title to enable the opportunity for other surveys in the future. The Superintendent advised that a commitment

had been made to repeat the surveys undertaken prior to the commencement of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. He noted that routine ecological studies were carried out by the Ecology Team. It was queried whether grants could be sought, e.g. Natural England, to fund other surveys with moths being suggested as a potential area of interest. The Chairman welcomed Members and/or volunteers to lead on such projects.

- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) felt that a series of events should be promoted to raise outreach and emphasise the Heath's role in City culture and history. The Member noted that she had an event idea that she would bring to the next meeting for discussion.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt that there was confusion between the Key Milestones and Outcomes noting that the final results presented in the Milestones should be Outcomes and that the Milestones should explain what is expected and delivered.
- Members agreed that the Milestones needed dates.
- It was noted (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) that there should be more publicity regarding Hampstead Heath going green, e.g. the commitment to green vehicles. The Superintendent agreed that there were opportunities to promote the electric vehicles.
- The Chairman confirmed that the Divisional Plan was a summary document and more detailed Project Plans were in place to support the delivery of the projects.
- In response to a query regarding dog walkers (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee), the Superintendent advised that this was a priority project listed on page 71 of the Divisional Plan. This would be based on the development of a code of conduct that will inform the principles for a new licensing scheme.
- The Director of Open Spaces advised that Local Authorities across London were reviewing dog walking with most agreeing to a four-dog maximum policy and licenses for professional dog walkers.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) highlighted the estates boundary with Kenwood and recommended liaising with the Kenwood House General Manager.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) noted that the Heath was also captured in literature and cinema. The Superintendent confirmed this would be included in the development of the Cultural Strategy.

Annual Work Programme

- The Superintendent introduced the 84 pages that make up the Annual Work Programme for Hampstead Heath.
- Members were encouraged to provide comments via email and the deadline to provide feedback was 25 February 2019.
- A Member felt that clarity was needed between projects and cyclical works and recommended providing map references.
- With regards to the Waste & Recycling Project, a Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) raised concerns regarding the recycling bins/containers being rejected due to contamination and questioned how this could be avoided, especially in the busy summer months. The Superintendent acknowledged the risk of cross contamination and confirmed the importance of the work with Keep Britain Tidy to develop a communication campaign to support the introduction of recycling.
- Members discussed different options including limiting the recycling options and public education. It was generally agreed that longer term public education programme would encourage change over time and evaluation of research and the pilot scheme was supported.
- In response to a Member's query (Heath and Hampstead Society) regarding whether the smaller vehicles being used were electric, Members were advised that options were being considered and the preference would be for electric vehicles. If electric vehicles are not feasible, hybrid will be considered ahead of petrol and diesel. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that from 8 April 2019 the centre of London would become part of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and thus the vehicles used by the Corporation in the City centre would all become environmentally friendly.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) queried how the Heath compared with other Open Spaces regarding waste. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the Square Mile had high waste targets and was focussed on business. He noted that there was still more to do with regards to the public realm and the use of recycling bins and green waste.

Constable's Branch Hill Pond

- The Superintendent advised that he was working in partnership with Redington and Frognal Residents Association who successfully secured funding to the sum of £35k for the restoration of Constable's Branch Hill Pond. The Superintendent agreed to keep Members informed as the project progressed.

- The Chairman highlighted to Members that a local neighbourhood organisation had managed to secure these funds and encouraged local groups to attempt the same for projects they wanted to pursue.
- A Member commented that it was important that this project caused minimal ecological damage to the pond.

Planning

- **Camden Eruv, 2016/1436/P.** The Superintendent advised that planning permission had been granted subject to a S106 agreement.
- **North Westminster Eruv, 2016/2892/P.** The Superintendent advised that planning permission had been granted subject to a S106 agreement.
- **Jack Straws Castle, 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/P.** The Superintendent noted that the London Borough of Camden had yet to determine the case.
- **North Fairground Site, 2017/4346/P.** It was noted that this Public Inquiry would start on 12 February 2019.
- **South Fairground Site.** It was noted that this Public Inquiry would start in April 2019.
- **55 Fitzroy Park, 2018/3672/P.** The Superintendent has submitted comprehensive objections to the Planning application.
- **The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent advised that September 2019 had been set as the construction completion date.
- **Parliament Hill William Ellis School, 2018/1270/P.** The Superintendent advised that the Operation Services Manger represents the City of London Corporation on the local Community Working Group.

Asset Management Plan

- Members were informed that the draft Asset Management Plan (AMP) for Hampstead Heath set out five priorities.
- The Superintendent advised that the first priority regarding the Parliament Hill Triangle was being explored and a feasibility study would be carried out to determine the best use of the facilities. It was noted that there were constraints on the footprints and the height of the building.
- Members were encouraged to provide comments via email and the deadline to provide feedback was 25 February 2019.

- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) stated that there were a number of important projects and was concerned by the lack of mechanism or plan for how decisions were made on prioritising projects. He felt that the Committee should be involved in the prioritisation process. The Superintendent advised that the AMP aims to address this within the five priorities.
- The Director of Open Spaces added that there was currently high pressure on the funding of projects and the City Corporation was reconsidering how projects were prioritised.
- The Chairman stated that Members were always able to raise projects that they felt strongly about. She hoped that when the dates were set, monitoring could then be highlighted in the Divisional Plan.
- A Member (Highgate Society) felt that Priorities 3, 5 and 7 were sub-sets of the same issue.
- Members discussed the limited building options at the Heath due to footfall. The Chairman emphasised the need to reformat facilities for best purpose.
- The Chairman noted that there was a tasteful, wooden education centre at Epping Forest with a small shop which had been funded by Heritage Lottery funding and was a good example for what the Heath were trying to achieve.

Adventure Playground

- The Superintendent noted the concept design at Appendix 5 and hoped works would go out to tender in February 2019. Members were supportive of the concept design.

Cafés

- The Superintendent drew Member's attention to the proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Café Working Group. Members were supportive of the proposed Terms of Reference. A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) noted that in section 2.3 the advisory role should be defined more clearly.

Highgate Men's Bathing Pond Accessibility

- The Superintendent advised Members that the Team were continuing to work on the project to make the facility accessible (Appendix 7). He commented that there had been ongoing difficulties to resolve the water access issues, but a plan was formulating which would include better access and a dog tethering area.

- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) noted that the long history of sport and famous sports personalities at the Men's Pond was not included under the history section.
- With regards to the Objectives section, it was noted that there was no mention regarding access to the facility on physical terms or how it would be managed, e.g. health and safety, Lifeguards.

Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park

- The Superintendent advised that a questionnaire had been designed to consult with current users and visitors of the Golders Hill Park accessible car park to and sought Member's feedback.
- It was felt that the questionnaire was too long and had too many questions which would affect engagement numbers.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) questioned the reasoning behind question 8 asking what the purpose of the visit was and why this information was necessary.

Sports

- The Superintendent advised that a joint request had been received from the Parliament Hill Bowls Club and Hampstead Heath Croquet Club to extend the lease for the Parliament Hill Bowls Lawn for a further ten years and sought Member's view on the proposal.
- A Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) questioned the need for a 10-year lease and asked if there were plans in place to increase the low membership of both clubs. The Superintendent confirmed that this would be taken into consideration. Going forward, the priority would be to monitor participation rather than membership.
- The Chairman queried who would fund the requested new lawn. The Superintendent confirmed that the Clubs would need to apply for capital funding as this would not receive capital investment from the City of London.

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

- The Superintendent updated Members on the proposal that Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras be introduced for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary for the purposes of evidence gathering, safety and reduction of crime.
- Members supported the proposal.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Members provide feedback on the print version of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 (Appendix 1);
- Members provide feedback on the draft Divisional Plan 2019-2022 (Appendix 2);
- Members provide feedback on the draft Annual Work Programme 2019-2020 (Appendix 3);
- Members provide feedback on the plans to restore Constable's Branch Hill Pond (Appendix 4);
- Members provide feedback on the Adventure Playground concept design (Appendix 5);
- Members provide feedback on the proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Cafe Working Group (Appendix 6);
- Members provide feedback on the outline brief for the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond (Appendix 7);
- Members provide feedback on the draft Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Questionnaire (Appendix 8);
- Members provide feedback on the proposal to extend the lease for the Parliament Hill Bowls Lawn for a further ten years;
- Members provide feedback on the to introduce BWV cameras for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.

7. REVIEW EVENTS PROGRAMME 2018 & PROVISIONAL 2019 EVENTS PROGRAMME

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing Members with a review of the 2018 Events Programme and the provisional 2019 Events Programme. The following points were made:

- The Leisure and Events Manager advised Members that 115 high-quality events took place at the Heath in 2018. Highlights included the Night of 10,000m PB's which was a huge joint community event.
- A typo was noted in the proposed 2019 Events Programme and it was confirmed that the Night of 10,000m PB's would take place on Saturday 6 July 2019.
- The Chairman thanked the Team and the volunteers for their hard work on all of the events in 2018.

- The Superintendent advised that a transition was still taking place to embed the Events Policy and that two major/large events (Circus event and London Youth Games) were being considered and would involve email consultation with the HHCC.
- The Chairman advised Members that there were plans for a smaller scale non-public 30th anniversary event and encouraged suggestions from Members.
- A Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) suggested developing a unique 30th anniversary event for 2019 and health and wellbeing was recommended as this was already a big movement at the Heath, e.g. meditation. Members were advised that wellbeing zones were already incorporated into the Give It A Go event and it was suggested that this event could be expanded.
- A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) proposed a rugby old legends event.
- It was noted that the annual London Youth Games was born from the Queen's Silver Jubilee and there might be potential for further support from the City Corporation.
- The Leisure and Events Manager highlighted the importance of clubs when developing partnership and community events.
- In response to a query regarding management of negative feedback on social media, e.g. the circus event or the use of shire horses, the Leisure and Events Manager advised that he had not personally received any negative feedback on the shire horses but confirmed that if the circus was successful in 2019, they had agreed to not use horses.
- A Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) confirmed the Society were also considering marking the anniversary. One suggestion was a regatta with model boats.
- In response to a query, the Superintendent confirmed the Ham & High would be approached to write a special feature on the 30th anniversary.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members note the success of the 2018 Hampstead Heath Events Programme;
- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee provide feedback on the proposed 2019 Events Programme (Appendix 2);

- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their March meeting.

8. **VOLUNTEERING UPDATE**

Members noted a report from Heath Hands regarding providing Members with the volunteering highlights for 2018/19.

- Members were advised that Heath Hands provides over 10,000 hours of volunteering per year managing a wide range of tasks.
- It was noted that the City Corporation and Heath Hands had jointly appointed a new Project Assistant who will support the work of Heath Hands.
- The Corporation has contributed funding to the Community Heath Project.
- A Member (Heath Hands) advised that volunteers provide a huge wealth of knowledge and skills to tap into including historical records and recommended that a public access database be set up for interested wider users.
- The Chairman congratulated Heath Hands on their 20th anniversary and Members echoed the Chairman's thanks to all of the volunteers for their ongoing hard work.
- The Chairman was pleased to note that she saw a number of Heath Hands volunteers at the Volunteers Reception at Guildhall in January. Members felt that this reception should become a legacy event going forward.

RECEIVED.

9. **QUESTIONS**

There was one question:

Dog facilities at the Men's Pond

A member of the public raised a question in advance of the meeting regarding the status of the dog facilities at the Men's Pond and whether it was possible for the dog pound to be moved to be in view of the Lifeguards and the swimming area. If changes to the new layout were not possible, it was queried if the dog ban could be suspended with the public paying a small fee for use of a dog creche.

Members were advised that a small temporary dog tethering area had been constructed whilst the wider Accessibility Project was being developed. The Superintendent confirmed that based on initial drawings, it would be possible to locate a suitable dog tethering area positioned away from the main path, but not in the changing area. The Superintendent reinforced the importance of

Lifeguards not being distracted from their duties, as occurred previously when dogs were brought into the changing compound.

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

The Chairman was pleased that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee Dinner on 6 February 2019 was well attended. The Chairman welcomed ideas from Members on other ways to commemorate the occasion.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 29 April 2019 at 7.00pm was noted.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chairman

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