



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

- Date:** MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2020
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING (ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY)
- Members:** Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Cindy Galvin (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Sharlene McGee (Leonard Cheshire Disability)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Harunur Rashid (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
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)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)
- Enquiries:** Leanne Murphy
leanne.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Accessing the virtual public meeting

Members of the public can observe this virtual public meeting at the below link:

<https://youtu.be/geN8yvJSiHo>

This meeting will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical location following regulations made under Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one municipal year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 6 July 2020.
For Decision
(Pages 1 - 8)
4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**
To receive the draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 9 September 2020.
For Information
(Pages 9 - 18)
5. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**
To receive the draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 30 September 2020.
For Information
(Pages 19 - 24)
6. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**
The Chair of the Committee to be heard.

Members are asked to note Lord Lisvane's Governance Review found [here](#).
For Information
(Pages 25 - 26)
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Discussion
(Pages 27 - 28)
8. **DRAFT HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS AND WETLANDS PLAN**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
For Discussion
(Pages 29 - 84)
9. **2020 SUMMER SWIMMING SEASON**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
For Discussion
(Pages 85 - 120)

10. **REVIEW OF THE 2020 EVENTS PROGRAMME & PROVISIONAL EVENTS
PLANNED FOR THE 2021 PROGRAMME**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Discussion
(Pages 121 - 128)
11. **REVISED TENDER TIMELINE FOR THE PARLIAMENT HILL CAFÉ, GOLDERS
HILL PARK CAFÉ AND PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS LIDO CAFÉ**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.

For Discussion
(Pages 129 - 140)
12. **FIXED PENALTY NOTICES**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.

For Discussion
(Pages 141 - 146)
13. **ADDITIONAL TREE PLANTING - PARLIAMENT HILL AREA OF HAMPSTEAD
HEATH**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Discussion
(Pages 147 - 154)
14. **DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DOG WALKERS AND LICENSING SCHEME
FOR PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath (TO FOLLOW).

For Discussion
15. **VOLUNTEERING UPDATE**
Oral update from Heath Hands.

For Information
(Pages 155 - 156)
16. **HEATH & HAMPSTEAD SOCIETY PROPOSAL REGARDING THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH ACT**
The Heath & Hampstead Society to be heard.

For Information
(Pages 157 - 158)
17. **QUESTIONS**
18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The date of the next meeting is 25 January 2021.

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 6 July 2020

Minutes of the virtual public meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on Monday, 6 July 2020 at 5.30 pm. The meeting can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/ZGJmVJ796x8>.

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
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)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)

Officers:

Colin BATTERY	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Alison Bunn	- Assistant Director Facilities Management, City Surveyors
Kate Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Simon Taylor, John Weston, Harunur Rashid and Sharleen McGee.

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 18 May 2020 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

The Chair noted the request from Members at the last meeting for a legal note on the status of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC). Members were advised that Heath and Hampstead Society sought more time to write directly to the Chair setting out a very specific element of their argument in relation to the role of the HHCC in light of the discussions in Parliament regarding the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018. On receipt of this letter, Officers will engage with the Remembrancer and Director of Open Spaces.

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

The public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 3 June 2020 were received.

5. **CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME BID 2021/22**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor setting out a provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Division in 2021/22 under the umbrella of the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP).

The Chair highlighted that the bid was less than in previous years. Members were advised that City's Cash was approximately £6m per year which was used to maintain corporate properties. Projects were scored and funded based on health and safety priority and securities scores. Members were concerned by the significant drop in funding and the impact this would have on scheduled projects. Members were advised that cyclical projects would be maintained and that 2020 was an exceptional year in terms of high priority projects.

A Member (Friends of Kenwood) enquired how the Fundamental Review and the City's commitment to big projects pre Covid-19 would affect the Open Spaces Department. The Director of Open Spaces explained that a full review of the financial position of all departments was taking place to understand the impact of the pandemic. Estimates were being produced with a plan to report in October together with the findings from the Fundamental Review, i.e. sustainable budgets, income generation, etc, to enable the organisation as a whole to re-examine its priorities. Optimising income streams, producing sustainable streams and completing key projects remained a priority for the Department. It was noted that capital projects were separate and would be looked at separately.

A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) noted that surveys were a concern raised by the HHCC last year and were assured that these would continue. The Member was concerned that there would no longer be enough money to ensure proper surveys continued. The Director informed Members that the Epping Forest & Commons Committee were also concerned

regarding the projects backlog and suggested that a written request come from the Open Spaces Department requesting additional funding to deal with the backlog. This would need to be argued for strongly. A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt that more detailed financial information was required first, then evidence could be gathered to support the case for more funding.

In response to queries regarding Covid-19, Members were informed that the CWP funding had been £12m per year for the last three years. The Chair stated that it was too early to know what the wider impacts of Covid-19 were but there were clear missed event opportunities and income from swimming and sports.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee note the report and provide feedback on the provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Division in 2021/22;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

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

- There has been a huge uptake in tennis, with participation up 196% on average across the facilities. There has been a 254% increase at Queen's Park and 150% at Parliament Hill for the period 16 May – 30 June compared to the same period in 2019.
- The Superintendent updated Members on four planning applications:
 - **Ivy House monopole.** The application has been refused on the basis that the monopole and equipment would, by reason of their size, siting and appearance, appear as prominent and visually obtrusive features within the street scene and reduce the effective width of the pavement and would therefore have significant adverse impact on the character and visual amenities of the surrounding area.
 - **Boncara, 35 Templewood.** A planning representation had been made regarding the basement and its impact on a nearby veteran tree.
 - **Jack Straws Castle.** A planning representation was submitted by the City Corporation regarding the impact of massing, traffic and parking.

- **Lido Temporary Fence.** Members were advised that Camden had requested additional information concerning the City Corporation's application for a temporary fence for three months per year for the Lido.
- The Superintendent commended staff and Managers who had been working double shifts and praised the community groups and volunteers who responded to requests for help with issues such as waste and recycling. The Chair endorsed this and welcomed more recruits via Heath Hands whilst emphasising that participants should use gloves and other protective equipment to ensure their safety.
- The car park spaces set aside for the Royal Free at East Heath have now returned to Heath.
- Public toilets and cafés have now re-opened. Playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment will re-open from mid-July. The Hill Garden and Pergola have also re-opened.
- A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) queried if the City Corporation had any input into the Millfield Lane road restrictions. The Superintendent confirmed the Team had not inputted but the Fitzroy Park Residents Association had liaised with the London Borough of Camden that this be revisited, and Officers were keeping note of developments.
- A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) felt the Merton Lane scheme was in need of amendment and was in fear of injury to the public. Members were advised that a meeting had been scheduled with the London Borough of Camden next week to discuss this further and the Chair had also been in touch with the responsible Camden Councillor. It was noted that the situation was particularly bad at weekends with cyclists, children and pedestrians all forced into a narrow space.

Waste

- The Superintendent acknowledged that during the recent hot spell the bins had been overwhelmed by the amount of litter left by visitors. Onsite bins would be repositioned nearer to entrances/exits to ensure waste was collected as visitors were leaving. It was noted that if the bins were positioned too close to the perimeters then they would attract street waste. It was also noted that visitors did not like touching the bins and the lids were therefore being left open.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) questioned if Option 1, which was trialled at the beginning of lockdown, could work. The Superintendent stated that Option 1 was working well on a local level between March and May and visitors were being

compliant. However, this became challenging from 13 May when visitors vastly increased in numbers. The longer-term strategy is to continue with the ethos of community care for the Heath but a full sign up for Option 1 would require additional research and behavioural changes. Officers continue to work with Keep Britain Tidy to develop this strategy.

- It was noted that other London open spaces only provided dog waste bins to encourage visitors to take their rubbish home and a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) queried if this was a feasible option for the Heath. Officers confirmed that a significantly reduced bin trial would take place during winter which had received local support.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) suggested a flexible approach across the year, e.g. reduce the number of bins in the winter months and increase in the summer when there were significantly more visitors. It was agreed flexibility was needed especially during hot weather.
- In response to concerns expressed regarding nitrous oxide use in the Millfield Lane area, Members were advised that it was not illegal to be in possession but illegal to sell or supply it and Officers and the Constabulary were acting to prevent this behaviour if witnessed.
- The Superintendent agreed to keep Members updated over the summer, noting the need for flexibility during the hot weather peaks. A further iteration of the handling system was expected later in the week with a contractor offering support in the short term.

Cycling

- The Superintendent set out the current position in relation to cycling on the Heath. There are established shared used paths on the Heath and cycle parking is provided at various locations on the periphery of the Heath. This allows visitors to cycle to the Heath before parking their bikes and walking to their final destination. The Town Clerk noted that concerns regarding cycling had been received from a Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) who strongly opposed any increase in the cycle network on the Heath.
- Members discussed the issues caused by cyclists and the potential danger to pedestrians which had been exacerbated by Covid-19. Members were supportive of the current position and suggested a proactive review of cycling which was timely (rather than waiting until 2024) noting the concerns for pedestrian safety, narrow pavements, trees and diversions causing pollution hot spots in the surrounding areas.
- In response to a query regarding the legal position on electric bikes and scooters, Officers confirmed electric bikes were required to keep to the

max 12mph speed limit and electric scooter use was prohibited on paths as per the by-laws. The Government were considering whether they would be legalised on the highway and Open Spaces Officers would follow this carefully.

- There was particular concern raised over the number of cyclists on Sandy Heath and the impact this activity was having on local ecology. Members felt that the Heath Team had done well in trying to control this, but it remained an ongoing issue. Members were not in favour of additional cycle paths or one-way paths as they had wider implications for boundary areas and would be difficult to remove once introduced. Members also noted comments in the last issue of the Ham and High. Officers agreed to liaise with the Heath and Hampstead Society and work locally with the London Borough of Camden to improve cycle safety on the roads surrounding the Heath.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members views on the preferred long-term option for waste and recycling are sought;
- Members give feedback on whether the policy position on Cycling, as outlined in paragraph 26 should be reviewed to reflect the urgency represented by Covid-19 in relation to encouraging communities to commute by walking and cycling.

7. HAMPSTEAD HEATH SWIMMING COVID-19 TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning the Hampstead Heath Swimming Covid-19 temporary arrangements and the following comments were made:

- The Superintendent stated that swimming fell under step 3 of the Government's Covid-19 recovery plan and unfortunately there had been a U-turn in plans to reopen sports facilities. Swim England was pressing ahead with its 'Open Our Pools' campaign in an attempt to force a reversal on the Government's decision and were hopeful for an announcement from the Government this week.
- The industry generally had pushed for more information as they would need time to mobilise and Officers were working in anticipation of reopening by implementing social distancing measures which were being adapted for each facility. Two successful trials were undertaken to test the social distancing measures introduced and the cap on the number of swimmers. Officers awaited further Government guidance before undertaking any more tests. Staff have continued to engage with swimmers who require assistance or have access difficulties.
- It was noted that the season ticket scheme had been suspended and would be reinstated as soon as possible.

- The information office at Parliament Hill was now open for visitors and telephone enquiries for those without internet access.
- The Chair commended staff for the huge amount of work that had been achieved and was disappointed that the date had been moved back by the Government. The Chair noted that she had written to the Secretary of State to express disappointment in the decision. There had been no response yet, but the Chair hopeful other swimming organisations would follow suit. Members noted that despite the pro-active work and preparations, the Government guidance was essential.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) noted that staff would need additional support in dealing with some behaviours, particularly in the early stages, and the Heath must be seen to take enforcement action where necessary as a deterrent.
- The Superintendent endorsed this and confirmed that the booking system had been designed to cover weather fluctuations. Signage would be positioned in respect of pre-booking and press releases would further explain the need to book via the new system.
- It was noted that Lifeguards had been stationed at the swimming facilities since March and additional security guards were patrolling the bathing ponds with dogs at night. This had assisted the Constabulary which had been considerably overstretched and the Superintendent confirmed that enforcement would be used for breaches in by-laws and anti-social behaviour.
- The Chair advised that she had repeatedly made a case for flexing the City Corporation's resources to where they were most needed, i.e. the City was very quiet but there had been considerable demands on its various Open Spaces.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee note the report.

8. **QUESTIONS**

Erosion

A Member (Highgate Society) queried if an increase in erosion had been observed at the Heath akin to erosion at Highgate Woods. The Superintendent confirmed there had been an increase in erosion and compaction on path edges due to visitors socially distancing and works to address the impact, including a full study and plan to rest areas, were covered within the revised Annual Work Programme. The Superintendent confirmed that temporary fencing would be used where necessary to assist with recovery.

Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan be sent to the Town Clerk and Chair for consideration at the next meeting.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

Members were advised that there were significantly less OPM nests this year with 150 identified in the main area of the Heath, and Heath Hands volunteers were thanked for their assistance in surveying nests. An additional 2-3 weeks of surveying would take place before nest removal would commence. Members noted that the presence of a parasitic fly may have kept the numbers down.

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

There was none.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 19 October 2020 was noted.

The meeting ended at 6.56 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
leanne.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 9 September 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at VIRTUAL MEETING (ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY) - <https://youtu.be/4TWJPPzEIXs> on Wednesday, 9 September 2020 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy David Bradshaw
Alderman Prem Goyal
Michael Hudson
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Deputy Edward Lord
Wendy Mead
Ruby Sayed
Deputy John Tomlinson
William Upton QC
Oliver Sells QC (Ex-Officio Member)
John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Councillor Richard Cornelius (London Borough of Barnet)
Councillor Thomas Gardiner (London Borough of Camden)

Officers:

Colin Buttery	-	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Katherine Radusin	-	PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	-	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	-	Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	-	Operational Services Manager, Hampstead Heath
Yvette Hughes	-	Business Manager, Hampstead Heath
Paul Maskell	-	Leisure and Events Manager, Hampstead Heath
Mark Jarvis	-	Head of Finance - Citizen Services, Chamberlains
Gerry Kiefer	-	Department Business Manager, Open Spaces
Martin Falder	-	Project Support Officer, Open Spaces
Kristina Drake	-	Media Team, Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Christopher Small, Adeline Siew Yin Au, Rachel Evans and Graeme Doshi-Smith.

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

There were none.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

Members received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 16 July 2020 appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Order No.29, the Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year. The Town Clerk stated the Members that had expressed an interest and Anne Fairweather, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chair.

The Chair thanked Members for their support and took the opportunity to welcome new Member Deputy Edward Lord to the Committee.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The Town Clerk stated the Members that had expressed an interest and Karina Dostalova, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Deputy Chairman.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES AND GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding appointments to Committees and Groups for 2020/21.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be noted;
- The terms of reference and composition of both the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be approved;
- The Chair and Deputy Chairman to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- John Tomlinson be appointed to the Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and the further two vacancies be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment, but that William Upton QC would be approached to take up one of the vacancies;
- Ruby Sayed be appointed to the Queen's Park Consultative Group, and the further two vacancies be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment;
- John Tomlinson be appointed to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee with the Chair to also attend in an ex officio capacity;
- Wendy Mead be appointed to observe meetings of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee with the Chair to also attend in an ex officio capacity.

7. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2020 were approved as a correct record.

8. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) meeting held on 6 July 2020 were received.

The Chair highlighted concerns from HHCC Members regarding the reduction of the Cyclical Work Programme (CWP) funds which were shared with the City Surveyor. A wider review of the CWP across all Open Spaces was taking place and an update would come to the next meeting.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent providing an update on matters concerning Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. The following points were made:

- The Superintendent acknowledged the challenges, particularly during July and the August heatwave. Thanks was given to all staff and Heath Hands volunteers for their great work and support.

Waste and recycling

- Staff have begun to reduce the number of bins across sites, but recycling will remain at all facilities.
- The Chair highlighted the significant challenge and resource implications dealing with rubbish and waste continued to present. Whilst Members were glad people visited the sites, it was felt that visitors should take their rubbish with them.
- Members voiced support for Option 4 and recommended that this approach be reviewed annually.
- A Member stated that other Open Spaces were experiencing the same issues and queried whether a City-wide communications campaign could be instigated to encourage and put responsibility on individuals to take away their own rubbish.
- The Chairman of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee advised that rubbish was the primary concern discussed over the last three months during meetings and stated that the City Corporation simply could not continue as it was as the costs, resources and time of staff were not sustainable. He agreed that there needed to be a complete change of culture and this would only happen through significant

education and a complete stop in litter collection services. Support across all Open Spaces was requested.

- The Chair added that the Committee and Officers wanted to spend the budget on facilities and the wider Heath, not clearing rubbish.
- Members agreed only wider City communications and a programme in collaboration with all Open Spaces Committees and partners, plus the relevant Local Authorities, would bring about the cultural need required.
- The Director of Open Spaces agreed there had been some success with pan-London messaging and that Officers continued to work in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy on how to change behaviours.
- A Member highlighted the significance of social media messaging to reach younger audiences.

Cycling

- The Superintendent advised that Officers had a helpful meeting with the London Borough of Camden to discuss the current position in relation to the cycling to and on the Heath as well as the wider local cycle network.
- The main change to the current position was: *k) The City Corporation committed to undertaking a review of the cycling provision within the mid-term review of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic this work will commence ahead of the mid-term review, which will take place in 2024. This process will start sooner than anticipated in the autumn.*
- Continued improvements have been made to pathways and signage making it clearer which paths are designed as shared use.
- A Member commended the City's efforts to discuss better cycling provision with Camden. He hoped this might lead to provision of a safe cycling network around the periphery of the Heath, so that there would be no need for the Heath paths to be used for cyclists to commute to work.
- In response to a query concerning electric scooters, Officers confirmed that these had become an increased issue for Staff and the Constabulary as they were more readily available and affordable. However, it was noted there had been no accidents to date. It was confirmed that it was against the byelaws to ride motorised vehicles across the Heath. The Superintendent added that cyclists using paths not designated as shared use was a bigger issue.

Cafés

- The proposed timeline previously reported for retendering the leases for the Parliament Hill café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido café was delayed by Covid-19. The new proposal was to extend the leases for 12 months to 12 January 2022.
- Members were advised that the current tenant of the Golders Hill Park café had terminated his lease. The tenant, recognising the City Corporation's difficulty to retender currently and in allegiance to his loyal customers, offered to delay terminating the lease until November 2021. The alternative was to find a temporary tenant and set up a tenancy at will whilst retendering took place.
- A Member observed that there were currently three park cafés in Barnet that were struggling to let and felt that it was best to keep someone in post if possible. It was agreed it made sense to continue with the current tenant whilst the tender was carried out.
- It was recommended that Officers proceed with tendering the leases for the Queen's Park café and the Highgate Wood café as soon as possible which were also delayed due to Covid-19. Both were cafés were currently operating under tenancy at will.

Establish a temporary Working Group

- Officers sought approval to establish a small temporary Working Group to progress Forest School Licenses and Fitness Training Licenses.
- The Chair highlighted the significant growth in outdoor fitness training and sport and the opportunity for the City Corporation to tap into this trend for income generation.

Lido Wall

- Members were advised that the boundary wall was regularly breached during summer 2019 and one of the outcomes of the Swimming Review was to install a temporary fence with Officers re-evaluating the height and structure to prevent this risk in future.
- A planning application had been prepared but Officers recommended that it be amended to only seek approval for the additional lighting. Members were supportive of this approach.

Planning

- The Superintendent informed Members that a planning consultant had been appointed.
- A Member noted that violence and Anti-Social Behaviour had been reported across a number of Open Spaces and enquired if this had been

an issue for Staff. Members were informed that there had been some incidents, predominantly large gatherings of young people, but the new Government Guidance limiting gatherings to six people would provide clarity to and assist Staff and the Constabulary. The Superintendent highlighted the critical relationship with the Metropolitan Police who had continued to provide enforcement support.

- In response to a query concerning Zippos Circus, Officers confirmed that the upcoming event was able to proceed as the company had rigorous Risk Assessments to enforce social distancing in place.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members agree the proposed long-term option for waste and recycling as set out in para 10;
- Members agree the policy position on Cycling, as outlined in paragraph 14;
- Members agree the Superintendent's proposal to extend the leases for the Parliament Hill Fields café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido café for 12 months to 12 January 2022 as set out in paragraph 24;
- Members agree the Superintendent's proposal to proceed with tendering the leases for the Queen's Park and Highgate Wood cafés as set out in paragraph 25;
- Members agree the Superintendent's proposal to proceed with tendering the lease for the Golders Hill Park café as set out in paragraph 30;
- Members agree the Superintendent's proposal to establish a small temporary Working Group to progress Forest School Licenses and Fitness Training Licenses, as outlined in paragraphs 56 & 57;
- Members agree the proposed option (option 1) for the Lido Wall, as outlined in paragraph 74.

10. HAMPSTEAD HEATH SWIMMING COVID-19 TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS - WINTER SWIMMING SEASON

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out the COVID-19 temporary Winter Swimming Season arrangements, updating on the actions taken to implement the outcomes of the Swimming Review 2020 plus an update on the 2020 summer swimming season. The following comments were made:

- The Chair stated that reopening the three swimming ponds and Lido in line with Government Guidance had been incredibly challenging.

- The Chair apologised for the late additional documents but felt that it was important for Members to appreciate the large amount of correspondence received from swimmers. A document summarising feedback and representations from members of the public regarding issues relating to swimming charging, data privacy, concessions and the Support Scheme was circulated along with initial feedback from a Hampstead Heath swimming online survey. The Chair confirmed that the results to the review of the summer swimming season, including costs and revenue, would follow at the next meeting to provide a full picture. A full end of year swim review would also take place and be reported back to the Committee.
- The Superintendent advised that Officers were preparing for the winter season starting 21 September which would include the parallel introduction of season tickets and contactless payment at each facility. Cash would also continue to be accepted and the swimming telephone line would remain available to assist swimmers. It was noted that Lifeguards would remain at the Mixed Pond until late October.
- The Superintendent highlighted commentary concerning the Support Scheme and the package on concessions available at the swimming facilities. The scheme offering free swimming for under 16's and over 60s between 7.00 - 9.30am had been very successful at the Lido and Officers were keen to introduce this offer at the Ponds. It was noted that the timings did not align with the current Transport for London free travel time for freedom card holders.
- With regards to comments concerning prescribed swimming for health, the City Corporation has aligned with relevant groups, partnerships and Local Authorities.
- The Superintendent noted an existing City Corporation scheme offering time credits for volunteering and would be expanded to cover season tickets.
- The Chair advised that bids concerning swimming made through the CWP had been delayed but hoped they would be successful.
- An Equity Test of Relevance was carried out and aligned with the Option 3 decision made by this Committee during the Swim Review, on 11 March 2020.
- Season tickets were frozen during the summer season and would be extended for the period of lockdown and re-introduced for the winter season.
- The Chair highlighted that unlike other swimming venues, the City Corporation had not put their prices up despite the significant loss of income due to the pandemic.

- A Member, whilst supportive of the new swim charges for the safety and future sustainability of the facilities, highlighted the importance of diversity. The Member was concerned by the lack of BAME communities use of the facilities, as reflected in the survey stats and question how this could be improved.
- Members were advised that the City Corporation had reached out to a number of groups including migrant youth groups which had some success. It was agreed more needed to be done to engage with wider groups and communities.
- Members agreed that accessibility and affordability for all was key and recommended that the support scheme continue to be reviewed. The Superintendent advised that concessions were currently being reviewed across all City Corporation Open Spaces. The fees and charges would also be reviewed as part of the annual review.
- A Member was concerned that the Support Scheme did not go far enough to help those on a lower income and should include all individuals on benefits including, Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The Chair stated that it was difficult to help everyone as benefits were based on means testing but the scheme aimed to assist these groups.
- Members felt there was a clear position for a campaign to attract more diverse visitors. It was agreed that cost was not the only issue and some groups may not know these facilities were available.
- A Member suggested approaching City Bridge Trust for possible funding for engagement with wider groups and communities.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members agree the Support Scheme arrangements as outlined in paragraphs 30-40;
- Members agree for the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, to have delegated authority to agree changes to the Winter Season Proposals in response to further Government Guidance.

11. HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK RISK MANAGEMENT

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces providing an update on the management of risks undertaken by the Open Spaces Department and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Division.

Members were advised that risks were reviewed regularly by the Department's Senior Leadership Team as part of the ongoing management of the operations of the Department and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's

Park Management Team. There were currently seven risks were reported amber.

RESOLVED – That Members note and approve the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Risk Register (Appendix 2).

12. FINANCE UPDATE

Members received a verbal finance update from the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces.

The Chair, as expressed previously, was keen for the Committee to explore revenue raising opportunities. Since the last meeting, an Open Spaces mid-year review had progressed with a report going to the upcoming Resource Allocations Sub Committee meeting. As the report was not ready for this meeting and the Committee’s November meeting would be too late for their input before a final decision was made, the Chair considered an extra meeting looking at re-budgeting proposals and impacts to be necessary.

The Director of Open Spaces advised that monitoring of the in-year financial position was happening across all Open Spaces. Some steps had already taken place to overcome the significant loss of income in the first quarter and the Team continued to improve income generation and find efficiencies.

The Superintendent stated that the Heath’s outline figures for the current year were forecast at £6m with income estimated at £4.6m and an overspend of £126k. Significant costs were incurred dealing with rubbish and recycling, external security at the Bathing Ponds and implementing Covid-secure facilities including additional signage. The cancelling and postponement of events was also a significant income loss.

The expenditure at Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park was estimated at £1m with an income of £152k leaving a small overspend but it was hoped this would balance by year end. It was noted that the licences for Forest Schools at Highgate Wood had not yet resumed.

13. OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2019/20 - YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT

Members received a report of the Director of Open Spaces providing Members with a review of the Open Spaces Department’s delivery of its 2019/20 Business Plan.

RECEIVED.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

16. **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 of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.
17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2020 were approved as a correct record subject to one typo.
18. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was one item.

The meeting ended at 6.02 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
leanne.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk



Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum

Zoom, 30 September 2020, 5.30pm

Attending

Richard Sumray (Chair)	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Anne Fairweather	AF	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Karina Dostalova	KD	Deputy Chairman, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Debbie Bush	DB	Community Sport and Physical Activity Manager, Camden
John Carrier	JC	
Eleanor Kennedy	EK	Parliament Hill Lido
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Winter Swimming Club/ Heath & Hampstead Society
Sandy Nairne	SN	
Ella Mitchell	EM	Hampstead Rugby Football Club
Simon Taylor	ST	Hampstead Rugby Football Club
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Hampstead Heath Tennis Coach
Robert Gibbs	RGi	Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society
Joseph Lowe	JL	Highgate Harriers
Natasha Cendrowicz	NC	Highgate Harriers
Richard Presley	RP	Highgate Harriers

Officers

Bob Warnock	BW	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, COLC
Declan Gallagher	DG	Operational Services Manager, COLC
Paul Maskell	PM	Leisure and Events Manager, COLC
Richard Gentry	RG	Constabulary & Queen's Park Manager, COLC
Richard O'Mahony	ROM	Parliament Hill Keeper Team Leader, COLC
Kate Radusin(notes)	KR	PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, COLC

Also attending

Anandi Shah	AS	Parkrun
Adam Lennox	AL	Parkrun
Nigel Robinson	NR	Pro-Active Camden

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Richard Caylor, Phil Cordingley and David Walton.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting (21 July 2020) and Matters Arising	
	Minutes agreed with 1 addition to the AOB wording. It was noted that JC needed to leave the meeting at 6.15pm, and MH at 6.20pm.	
3.	Swimming	
	BW provided an update on the Bathing Ponds and a sewage surge which had occurred at the Ladies' Bathing Pond, resulting in closure between 17-26 September. Ladies' only swimming was provided at the Mixed Bathing Pond (4.30-6.30pm) and Lido (1.30-4.30pm) during the closure period. The Bathing Ponds and Lido are all currently operating under the Winter Season arrangements. Capped free flow is managed by the Stewards. Payment can be made by contactless or	

<p>cash. A report on Swimming is being prepared for the October HHCCC meeting, and the results of the swimming survey will be attached.</p> <p>RS questioned if Lido income was down. BW confirmed this was the case. Bathing Pond income is up (as enforced payment is now in place) however the Lido income is down due to the restrictions on numbers of swimmers. We would usually have several very busy days which would help with income generation.</p> <p>PM many swimmers had been in favour of the online booking process, and the difference at the facilities compared to previous years. The closure of the Ladies' Bathing Pond put pressure on the Mixed Bathing Pond last week, however staff have managed. Water testing is currently being undertaken on a daily basis. The manhole where the surcharge took place was not known to Thames Water. Staff are checking this area as part of their daily routine. BW the waster testing results are available on the website.</p> <p>JC was concerned that not all users would have access to make a booking or payment online and did not what this to be prohibitive to access. BW confirmed that phone booking had been available during the summer months to help swimmers book into a swim session. Additionally, the season tickets can be purchased by filling out a paper application form at the Bathing Ponds or Lido, and cash payments for Season Tickets are also being accepted. Staff are continuing to support swimmers to ensure the facilities are inclusive.</p> <p>RS suggested that in due course it would be helpful to discuss how technology was being and could be used across the Heath to see the direction of travel. AF stated that the summer and winter season swimming arrangements got many people swimming again, in what has been a difficult time, which is testament to the staff. Not all Lidos have been able to open following the lockdown. She said she had recently swum at the Ladies' Bathing Pond, the Social Distancing measures in place were working well and there was a pleasant atmosphere. If the applied charges had not been introduced by the Heath's Management Committee ahead of the lockdown then, due to the Government enforced closures, there would be a very difficult situation with money.</p> <p>RGi raised the issue of unauthorised swimming at the Model Boating Pond, which was impacting on angling. RS noted that the issue was touched on it the draft Ponds and Wetlands Plan. BW confirmed that the Heath Team were responding, as it was a safety risk. In previous summers there have been swimmers climbing over the walls of the Lido, which hadn't happened this year. Instead, we are seeing people attempting to swim in the Model Boating Pond. Security guards are patrolling the Bathing Ponds after hours to discourage unauthorised swimming and stop damage being caused to the facilities. RGI queried if swimmers had been fined? RG confirmed that the Constabulary and Staff were seeking to educate the swimmers they spoke with around the dangers of unauthorised swimming. The Heath Team are under a huge amount of pressure.</p> <p>RS a balance needs to be maintained between educating and enforcement.</p>	
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	<p>RB since online booking for tennis courts has been introduced, the Staff at Parliament Hill have been very helpful in taking cash payments and assisting people with making bookings.</p> <p>NC the swimming online system tickets booked up very quickly. There was no way to cancel tickets.</p> <p>BW adjustments were made to the online booking system which allowed cancelations and refunds, and this point was touched on in the survey. The demand for tickets was very high.</p> <p>RS noted that the Staff had done well in very difficult times and gave his thanks. We will need to see what lessons there have been, that can be incorporated into operations next year.</p>	
4.	Angling	
	<p>BW a draft of the Ponds and Wetlands Strategy has been circulated. Swimming and Angling are referenced in the recommendations.</p> <p>(NR left the meeting)</p> <p>MH (speaking on behalf of the H&HS), the Society is presently opposed to any increase in angling on the Heath principally for the reason that the anglers have not demonstrated, as a body, that they are able to control and reduce the damage to birdlife. The following information is based on reports from our subcommittee members this summer. Mostly on Hampstead No 2 Pond, but also on the Highgate Ponds, our volunteers have rescued at least 21 pigeons with line trapped around their feet.</p> <p>Although there are very few swans on the Heath nevertheless the summer has seen the following incidents - and this is not an exhaustive list. On 21 June a cygnet was rescued with feet entangled in a fishing line. On 5 July on Hampstead No 1 Pond a cygnet was found with a hook in its neck and feet tangled in line. On 18 July on Hampstead No 2 Pond a cygnet was rescued with its feet tangled in line. On 24 July the male swan on Hampstead No 1 Pond was rescued with a hook in its neck and its feet tangled in line. Angling is taking place on the south bank of the Men's Pond. Swimming there earlier this week I saw an angler deliberately throwing his line repeatedly over the buoy line (which is meant to demark the limit of angling) into the bathing area where I was swimming, in fact quite close to me.</p> <p>RG we are aware of some of some incidents where swans have been caught with hooks and line A £5 fee has been introduced for Angling permits. The online system used enables us to send information updates to the Anglers, we could message with information about being more responsible. We believe it is only a small minority of Anglers.</p> <p>RGi 300 Anglers have signed up for a permit, who also have EA licences to fish. Poachers (unauthorised Anglers) are using lures. On the Heath Anglers are supposed to use barbless hooks. If the Anglers are all condemned, they will go elsewhere. HAHAS proposals are to reduce the closed season to allow school tuition between April and July (currently this isn't possible due to the closed season, which ends on 16 June). Ealing start their angling season at Easter, and Poaching is most common during the closed season. (Second Proposal) Float fishing can cast out to only 5-10m with a visible float, whilst the limit line is 35-45m away. The North Bank is the best location for float fishing casting off and has good access for disabled Anglers.</p> <p>(MH & JC left the meeting)</p>	

	<p>RS thought it would be helpful for reps from the HAHAS and H&HS to discuss the proposals in further detail. In relation to the propositions, keeping dogs and angling separated, and limiting dogs' access should be supported. Float fishing at the Men's Pond would help the issues there. In relation to the closed season, he thought we should tread carefully and look at for educational purposes as a starting point to see how it goes and then reassess.</p> <p>ST if you extend the season, if there were more legal Anglers, this might drive down the number of irresponsible Anglers.</p> <p>RS noted there were some implications for nesting birds set out within the Plan.</p> <p>RGi the Vale of Health Pond was fishable 20 years ago but is now rewilded and overgrown and lost for fishing.</p> <p>BW the discussions have been helpful. In section 77 of the Plan the closed season is discussed, and recommendations are set out to address the swimming issues, especially in summer. We will welcome further comments from the HHCC.</p> <p>RGi responsible Anglers are the eyes and ears of the Heath.</p>	
5.	Sports Update	
	<p>RS opportunity for Club Reps to give an update on how the summer has gone.</p> <p>BW the Track Forum is tomorrow. We need to ensure we maintain a Covid secure facility.</p> <p>JL (Athletics)the Highgate Harriers were happy with the current arrangements and access at the Track for training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. It would be good if other Clubs could be added into the agreement.</p> <p>SN (Croquet) there have been really positive discussions with staff in relation to the Risk Assessments. The pavilion is still out of use, but the club has been able to get in a lot of play and it has gone as well as it could have. The Parliament Hill Green is looking good. The Club has lost some members to shielding, but some new members have joined. The Club has a feature in the upcoming edition of the Ham & High.</p> <p>ST (Rugby)the Heath Team had assisted in the Club using the Heath Extension for the juniors. The Club are currently training outside the Athletics Track. The Club would like to return to training at the Track. There have been some injuries due to ruts in the ground. There are currently 200 juniors, split into 2 sessions.</p> <p>EM (Rugby)the Extension was great to use in the summer, but now looking at lighting, and options to move back to training at the Track. The Club appreciate the help and support. RFU Guidance is still at 'Stage D' which is still restricting. League games are not likely before January 2021.</p> <p>RB Tennis is going very well. There has been a lot of new and returning players and some courses have run. Moving the start time to 7.30am has helped. Thanks to PM and RG.</p> <p>RS common theme that comes through is support from the Heath Staff and a lot of demand to get involved. How can we capture the demand in the coming months? How can we encourage BAME communities and stimulate activity on the Heath?</p> <p>DG It has been a challenge for Staff to maintain the cricket squares and green. We need a compromise with the Rigby Club and all the Clubs at the Track for access. The area where the Club is currently training is heavy clay and had cracks due to the dry summer.</p> <p>DB congratulations to everyone who has worked through the RA process. A Camden Active newsletter will be circulated to the Forum by KR. If you would like to sign up for get in touch for support.</p> <p>RS raised the issue of cycling.</p>	

	<p>BW there are practical issues, cyclists straying off the designated paths, particularly Sandy heath. Staff have been patrolling and additional signage has been installed. Signage makes it clearer which paths can be used and which cannot. There has been lots of compaction and parallel paths from Heath users trying to Social Distance from each other.</p> <p>AF we are on the same page as Camden, improving the route around the Heath and places to store bikes. The Lido path was discussed. Camden are looking to improve Savernake Bridge. A joint approach is key.</p>	
6.	Events	
	<p>PM only 2 events have taken place since lockdown. GIAG and Race for life have been cancelled. The London Youth Games upcoming in November but +may not go ahead. The English National Cross Country is due to take place in March 2021. The start and finish lines and spectators are difficult for the event organisers to manage with Social Distancing. The events may take place inside without spectators. We are looking at how we can manage the Lifebuoys Christmas Day swim at the Men's Bathing Pond.</p>	
7.	Parkrun	
	<p>PM currently suspended, but we are still in discussions with the Race Directors. An October return is being looked at. Interaction with runners and other Heath users is a concern.</p> <p>AS confirmed that plans for an October restart had been halted due to the rise in Covid cases, and the lack of time to get landowner consents. There is no current restart date. Discussions with PM will continue.</p> <p>BW thanks to Parkrun for volunteering and litter picking during lockdown.</p> <p>AF also gave thanks to Parkrun. The number of runners involved makes it hard to restart under the circumstances.</p>	PM
8.	Pro-Active Camden Update	
	<p>RS Camden and the Heath could be better coordinated. There are lots of ways which would coordinate and develop initiatives to support Health and Wellbeing. DB outlined the work undertake by PAC before and since lockdown, in relation to the 'young people action plan'.</p> <p>RS suggested that a memorandum of understanding could be developed.</p> <p>RGi EA rod licence sales have increased by 200,000 since lockdown. With 400,000 holders in London.</p> <p>RS suggested that Camden and the Heath put together a join Strategic paper for discussion at the next meeting.</p>	BW
9.	AOB	
	<p>DG between 5-9 October resurfacing works will be undertaken on the main path from Highgate Road to Savernake Road. Alternative access routes to the Track will be in place.</p>	
10.	Upcoming Meeting Dates	
	2021 meeting dates to be circulated by KR for consideration.	KR

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Note on the relationship between the Hampstead Heath Management Committee and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Under article 5 of the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989 (“the Order”) the functions that were exercisable by the Greater London Council prior to 1 April 1986 in respect of, or in connection with, the Heath lands shall be exercisable by the Common Council of the City of London (“the City”).

Under article 8 of the Order the City shall appoint a committee to be known as the Hampstead Heath Management Committee (“the Management Committee”) for the purposes of giving advice on, and implementing, the City’s policies and programmes of work in relation to the Heath lands; and in fulfilling those purposes, the Management Committee shall have regard to any representations made to it by the Consultative Committee appointed in accordance with article 9.

Under article 9 of the Order the City shall appoint a committee to be known as the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (“the Consultative Committee”) for the purposes of making representations to the Management Committee about any matter which, in the opinion of the Consultative Committee, affects or is likely to affect the Heath lands.

The Consultative Committee therefore exists for the purposes of making submissions to the Management Committee. The Consultative Committee does have the final say on whether a matter affects or is likely to affect the Heath lands, in terms of its ability to make representations, and the Management Committee must give due consideration to any comments received from the Consultative Committee on those matters.

The legal requirements for a proper consultation exercise are known as the Sedley requirements. These state that consultation must take place when proposals are still at a formative stage, and capable of change. Sufficient reasons for the proposals must be given to allow intelligent consideration and response. Adequate time must also be given for a response. Finally, the product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising the proposals.

However, the final determination of any item of business rests with the Management Committee, which is the decision-making body. I made the point at a recent meeting that if the Management Committee was “duty bound” to follow the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, as had been asserted, then there would be no need for the Management Committee to exist at all.

General public law principles would also prevent the Management Committee from fettering its discretion by adopting a policy that it would always follow the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, irrespective of its own assessment, or from exercising its powers under the real or imagined direction or dictation of another body, unless legislation gives such powers to that body.

Edward Wood

Chief Solicitor

Public and Corporate Law

Comptroller and City Solicitor’s Department

4 June 2020

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 19102020
Subject: Superintendents Update	Public
Report of: Open Spaces Department	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since July 2020. Members are asked to provide their views and feedback.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback.

Main Report

Coronavirus Emergency Response and Issues

1. The Superintendent continues to monitor the Government Guidance and is working with Staff and Stakeholders to respond to changing guidance. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

Constabulary

2. The Constabulary Manager will provide a update at the meeting.

Licencing

Forest Schools

3. Applications for short term licences to operate Forest Schools on the Heath have been received. The Superintendent and Conservation and Trees Manager is reviewing the applications and short-term licences will be issued. In the meantime the Superintendent will form a small working group to progress the development of the licencing arrangements in the longer-term.

Ecology and Conservation Annual Work Programme October 2020

4. The following monitoring activities have taken place:
 - Reptile and dragonfly monitoring by volunteers has continued.

- Detailed analysis of the Heath wide breeding bird survey begun in partnership with the Heath and Hampstead Society is being undertaken with selected territorial maps produced.
5. The following works have been undertaken as part of the Annual Work Programme:
- Grassland management has been undertaken in August and September with most of the planned cutting completed.
 - Targeted desilting of the Sandy Heath ponds has been undertaken to maintain these ponds as important amphibian spawning sites.

Contractors & Maintenance

6. At Parliament Hill, the main path which runs from the Highgate Road to the Hive is being re-laid. The works will take place between 5-9 October 2020.

Planning

7. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:
- The Water House
 - The Garden House
 - Jack Straws Castle
 - Telecoms Mast (outside Ivy House)

Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park

8. The Golders Hill Park Manger will provide an update at the meeting. Unfortunately, the tender process which took place during summer 2020 was impacted by Covid-19 and therefore the tender will be re-run.

Finance

9. The Superintendent will provide a verbal update on the in-year position budget position and the draft budget for 2021/22.

Appendices

- None

Bob Warnock

Superintendent, Open Spaces Department.

T: 020 7332 3322

E: bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 19/10/2020
Subject: Draft Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Plan	Public
Report of: Open Spaces Department	For Discussion
Report author: Jonathan Meares, Conservation and Trees Manager	

Summary

This report provides an update on the Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Plan. A previous report was submitted in April 2018 providing a draft outline of the proposed approach to preparing this document. Since then the draft strategy has been renamed the Ponds and Wetlands Plan. The Superintendent now seeks wider discussion and engagement with Members on the draft Ponds and Wetland Plan. A final version will then be prepared to be considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Members views are sought in relation to the approach, content and recommendations covered in the draft Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetland Plan (appendix 1).

Main Report

Scope of the Ponds and Wetlands Plan

1. The draft Ponds and Wetlands Plan focuses on the ecological and nature conservation management of the principle ponds on both Highgate and Hampstead chains and in addition the smaller ponds on the Heath Extension and at Golder's Hill Park. The Plan includes fishing, swimming and dog exercise as central recreational activities which impact on the biodiversity value of all the ponds under consideration. The Plan makes a series of recommendations for future management. It is not the purpose of this Plan to consider the wider implications of these activities; these will be addressed by other management documents.

The Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 -2028.

2. The draft Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Plan aligns with the Heath Vision and the Strategic Outcomes of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028, particularly Outcome A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, and Outcome B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors.

3. Outcome A's three priorities focus on habitat conservation and enhancement, heritage and landscape character, and maintaining a balance between nature conservation and heritage value and visitor activities. These are all critical components of the Ponds and Wetlands Plan.

Building on the success of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

4. A important component of the Ponds and Wetlands Plan is to continue to build on the ecological and habitat improvements incorporated into the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. These works will enhance the biodiversity of the ponds and their marginal habitats but also have critical co benefits in terms of climate change resilience and flood management.

Key components of the Ponds and Wetlands Plan

5. The report reviews the bathymetric survey that was carried out by the City Surveyors Department in 2020 and evaluates the results. Although, there are some useful findings there are some significant anomalies with the results showing much higher silt volumes than expected and these results will need to be discussed with the company who undertook the survey. Desilting is perhaps the biggest issue going forward with the long term management of the ponds.
6. The draft Ponds and Wetlands Plan reviews the condition of individual ponds and associated issues with management, with specific focus on the larger water bodies and the ponds that received less interventions during the Ponds Project.
7. Recreational activities such as swimming, fishing and dog exercise are included in the the report in terms of their impacts on the ecological and biodiversity value of the ponds, including water quality.
8. The final part of the Plan provides a number of recommendations, both general and also pond specific. Some of these recommendation provide innovative possible solutions to the long term challenge of desilting but also with ecological and biodiversity enhancements.

Strategic Implications

9. Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: Outcome A's three priority objectives focus on habitat conservation and enhancement, heritage and landscape character, and maintaining a balance between nature conservation and heritage value and visitor activities. B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.
10. The Policy also meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2018-19 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives

11. This Policy contributes towards the achievement of the two aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).

Financial Implications

12. The most significant issue is the financing of any future desilting works relating to maintaining open water and flood alleviation measures.

Conclusion

13. The ponds and wetlands on Hampstead Heath provide a core component to the Heath's overall ecological value in terms of habitat diversity, and consequently species diversity. The ponds are dynamic landscape features which require management in order to be conserved into the future. Their role also in buffering the impact of climate change add to the importance of their long term conservation.
14. Following Members feedback a final version of the Ponds and Wetlands Plan will be prepared for consideration by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Draft Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Plan

Jonathan Meares

Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager, Open Spaces Department

T: 0207 332 3322

E: jonathan.meares@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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(Draft) HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS AND WETLANDS PLAN

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1. Why a plan?

1. The ponds on Hampstead Heath have diverse histories, usage and differing water quality. They are an integral part of the historic landscape, and provide great conservation and biodiversity value, as well as a recreational resource for Heath users. Longer term the ponds themselves require planned periodic management interventions, such as desilting, for them to continue as open water bodies. This work has been carried out periodically on the three bathing ponds, and some of the smaller water bodies to maintain them as open water. The continued desilting of the larger ponds will be increasingly challenging to fund and there is a requirement to explore alternative options to desilting operations.
2. Alongside the management of silt accumulation there are other planned conservation and habitat management operations to maintain the ponds themselves and their immediate environs. These are encapsulated in the Annual Work Programme (AWP) and Compartment Management Plans (CMP). However, a critical part of this work is ecological monitoring.
3. Three of the ponds are classified as large raised reservoirs under current legislation, in the form of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As such there are compliance duties that require attention including biannual inspections, the recording of detailed information about the reservoir such as water levels and depth, volume, dam crest height, and details of leakages and repairs as well as monitoring of the dam structures and flood alleviation measures.
4. The management of water quality for aquatic fauna, and recreational use is a major component of this Plan. A balance needs to be struck between the recreational usage of the ponds and the nature conservation value of the waterbody, ensuring the ponds remain an enduring feature for both public enjoyment and biodiversity.

1.1 Plan outcomes

5. The new Pond and Wetlands Plan aligns with the Heath Vision and the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 – 2028 strategic outcomes.
 - Conservation of the principal ponds and wetlands as landscape features for the next 20 years.
 - Increased biodiversity value on all the principal ponds and wetland habitats.
 - A sustainable and affordable long-term plan for managing silt build up in all ponds.
 - Resolution of existing conflicts between biodiversity and recreational aspects of the ponds and wetlands habitats on Hampstead Heath.

1.2 Plan scope

6. This plan aims to highlight some of the issues involved in managing the Heath ponds with a focus towards the biodiversity considerations. The ponds are also an important recreational resource and a balance between the sometimes-competing aspects is sought.
 - This plan does not go into detail regarding the health and safety aspects of the ponds which are covered in a separate Water Safety Policy and associated operating procedures.

- The plan also doesn't discuss the bathing ponds in detail, as this has been addressed in the Swimming Review dated March 2020.
7. Whilst recommendations have been made, further analysis and research is required to make detailed decisions on aspects such as sediment management.

2. Introduction to ponds on Hampstead Heath

8. Hampstead Heath contains over 40 distinct waterbodies (Appendix 2) ranging in size from small ephemeral pools to large reservoirs. All the waterbodies are believed to have been created artificially either through deliberate actions or as a result of previous activities, such as sand digging on the Sandy Heath. In terms of size they can be broadly allocated to 3 different categories (large, medium and small). They can be further categorised by their current usage which includes conservation, amenity, formal and educational. All the waterbodies also have some degree of wildlife value, which will be a major consideration in this plan. In addition, the English Heritage managed Kenwood Estate has 2 large lakes and some ephemeral pools, including a sphagnum rich pool area. These ponds are directly connected to Highgate chain of ponds through a stream, so need to be considered in any future strategy.

2.1 Larger reservoir category ponds

9. Thirteen larger ponds including 3 large raised reservoirs, can be found across Hampstead Heath, the majority of which were created by the damming of tributary streams between the late seventeenth century (Hampstead Water Company was established in 1692) and early nineteenth century. There are the Highgate Valley ponds, formed along one tributary branch of the River Fleet, including two at the top of this chain on English Heritage land at Kenwood – Wood Pond and Concert (or Thousand Pound) Pond.
- Stock Pond
 - Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
 - Bird Sanctuary Pond
 - Model Boating Pond
 - Highgate Men's Bathing Pond
 - Highgate No1 Pond
10. To the west are the Hampstead Valley ponds, formed along another tributary branch of the River Fleet. Starting at the top of the chain, these are:
- Vale of Health Pond
 - Viaduct Pond
 - Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond
 - Hampstead No2 Pond
 - Hampstead No1 Pond
11. Over on West Heath and Golders Hill Park is another chain of ponds, formed along a tributary of the river Brent. These are:

- Leg of Mutton Pond
- Swan Pond

12. The larger ponds will form the focus of the Ponds and Wetlands Plan, largely due to the diversity of usage as well as the more extensive management requirements involved.

2.2 Medium non reservoir category

13. This includes the more formal ponds such as Whitestone pond and the Lily pond in Golders Hill Park but also the larger of wildlife ponds across the Heath Extension and Sandy Heath. These ponds to some extent have similar management issues as the larger ones including desilting issues but will generally have less amenity use.

2.3 Smaller ponds

14. The third category of ponds are a scattering of ponds which are too small to have been allocated any formal or recreational use and include several which have been created in recent years specifically for wildlife value including the Tumulus and Cohens fields ponds. Educational ponds also come into this category such those in the Old Orchard Garden and Secret Garden.

15. The main concern with these ponds is that as they are small, they could succeed in doing what all ponds are trying to do, that is, turn into land, in a relatively short time. Some of these ponds are ephemeral in nature but can often have a greater wildlife value than the larger lakes. As such maintenance of and opportunities to increase the number of these smaller waterbodies is desirable.

3. Pond management issues

3.1 Eutrophication

16. Most of the Heath's larger waterbodies are classed as eutrophic (nutrient enriched) or hyper-eutrophic (hyper nutrient enriched). That is, they all have a great deal of nutrients in the water column and sediments which can aid plant/algae growth. These nutrients are from a variety of natural (leaf litter, plant recycling, bird faeces, spring inflows and meteorological etc.) as well as human sources (including fishing bait, dog faeces, drain inflows from the Heath and neighbouring properties, pollution from sewers, fertilisers from garden run-off and bread associated with bird feeding). This is not a new phenomenon and records show the ponds have been nutrient enriched for at least this century and likely for large parts of their history. The nutrients will remain in the pond and are only likely to increase as time goes by unless reductions in inputs are achieved or removal is undertaken as nutrients stored in the sediments can persist for decades. Plants and algae are very good at taking up these nutrients and growing extremely rapidly, particularly when conditions are conducive such as warm weather, little disturbance and good water clarity. These conditions can change from year to year and can result in large differences in algae or plant growth. Some ponds can appear visually to be relatively unchanged but can have greatly differing water chemistry, oxygen levels and indeed algal growth from one year to the next.

17. Some of the symptoms of the elevated nutrient levels can include:

- Fish deaths through a reduction in oxygen levels. This can occur particularly after the rapid dying off of algal blooms or plants.
- Invasive vegetation growth, such as duckweed 'carpets' or other invasive plant growth including New Zealand water fern and crassula growth. These can block out light and cause oxygen crashes and the death of other pond vegetation.
- Water quality issues on bathing ponds such as algal blooms some of which may be Blue-green algal blooms.
- Visually 'unattractive' proliferations of blanketweed.

18. A 2006 hydrology consultancy report indicated that dog faeces may be a major contributing factor to nutrient enrichment with up to 95% of phosphorous loading from this source.

3.2 Sediment levels

19. All the ponds on Hampstead Heath would eventually revert to land if no intervention was to take place, although the timescale of this vastly varies between ponds. This would of course not only impact the ponds ecology, but it's uses as an amenity resource. Different ponds may require interventions at shorter time intervals than others. Sediment is also a sink/store for nutrients which has been briefly discussed above.

20. Sediment removal is not necessarily an ecological issue/decision and amenity and visual appearance may be more of a priority. For instance, it may be ecologically beneficial to allow a pond or water body to silt up in order to increase the extent of reedbed for example.

3.3 How much is too much sediment?

21. This is not a simple question to answer as each water body functions differently, has a different profile and usage.

- It may be possible to define too much sediment as when it interferes with its amenity use or is becoming detrimental to the pond's ecology? However, without knowledge of current siltation rates or even current pond profiles this decision is limited to a visual or subjective appraisal and future planning and budgeting becomes difficult.
- Desilting can of course improve water quality but is largely done to prevent a pond converting to dry land. Desilting for ecological reasons requires a good deal of analysis and monitoring/testing to see whether changes are taking place. Desilting can itself be detrimental to pond ecology and often the pond can greatly change in character afterwards. Thus, unless desilting for amenity reasons then it may be best to do on ponds that have very little ecological value or have lost that value.
- How far can a pond be allowed to silt up before action is taken? Whilst a pond may have a huge quantity of silt it may still be deep enough to swim in for example. However, large volumes may be unmanageable to remove in terms

- of cost, time taken or available drying space if allowed to reach a certain level.
- In order to be able to decide which ponds require sediment removal further baseline Bathymetric surveys are required.

3.4 Bathymetric analysis 2019

22. Bathymetric analysis has recently been completed on the Heath pond chains. The aim of this was to determine current depth levels as well as an indication of the sediment volumes established within the pond. It should be noted that the sediment volumes can only be used as a rough estimate, and they are based on bathymetric analysis undertaken as part of the Ponds Project. This will aid long-term planning and allow for more informed decisions. A PhD student is currently undertaking research work on Highgate No.1 pond which may give an idea of the sedimentation rates and thus give an idea of the rate of succession.
23. Table 1 (page 8) gives a summary of the sediment levels in the larger ponds and an estimated cost if all the sediment was to be removed. It is not usually possible to remove all the sediment from within a water body unless the pond is drained, and the sediment levels can only be considered as a rough guide as can the costs. Draining ponds, whilst allowing for a greater volume of sediment to be removed, will have a major temporary impact on the aquatic life using the ponds. Fish would need to be relocated and the lack of water can be detrimental to the aquatic invertebrates' present.
24. Drainage of the Hampstead Heath ponds was the method employed throughout the 20th Century and the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond was the last pond to be completed by this method in 1992. Whilst the aquatic ecology is shown to recover quickly, the ponds are also not available for amenity use during and for some time after works. The Highgate Men's Bathing Pond was closed for at least 6 months with part of this time allowing for the pond to refill. Recent desilting works as part of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project and more recently have employed either suction dredging or larger digging equipment floated on pontoons. Whilst reducing the time taken for the works, these methods are not usually able to remove the same quantities of sediment and underwater obstructions can further reduce the effectiveness of such methods. The future methods for each pond will thus depend on many factors and are likely to be pond specific.
25. The rows highlighted yellow are subject to review and are awaiting an update with regards to the volumes removed as part of the Ponds Project.
26. It is proposed to desilt the Swan, Lily and Water Garden ponds in the winter of 2020/21. Whilst resources are allocated annually for desilting works, the estimated costs above indicate that if full desilting is required on the larger ponds then a capital bid would be required to carry out the works.
27. Figure 1 (page 9) shows an example of the maps produced in the recent surveys. As well as giving an idea of depth profiles for pond management they also give updated profiles for health and safety aspects of each site.
28. Figure 1 also gives an indication of the natural succession of the ponds to drier land. The original mapped outline of the pond is shown in light blue and the

current depth profiles in the shaded colours. Although, the depth equipment used was limited to a depth of approximately 15cm and some of the areas were inaccessible, the map above shows much of the eastern side of the pond is no longer water. A large part of this eastern edge is now a mixture of dry and wet reedbed providing important habitat on the pond.

Pond name	Silt Volume (m³)	Estimated total removal costs (£)	Date last desilted
Swan	700	103,385	1988
Leg of Mutton	391	57,700	Unknown
Lily	93	13,735	1988
Seven Sisters	Unknown	N/A	2010 (Selected ponds)
Whitestone	Unknown	N/A	Landscaped 2010
Vale of Health	5,951	878,885	Unknown
Viaduct	2,769	408,948	July-Aug 2016
Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond	1,550	228,876	Mar-Apr 2018
Hampstead No.2	11,172	1,650,036	Unknown
Hampstead No.1	13,072	1,930,567	Unknown
Stock	2,909	429,566	Nov-15
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	1,103	162,841	Feb-16
Bird Sanctuary	4,081	602,698	1988 (western arm only)
Model Boating	14,451	2,134,276	2015
Highgate Men's Bathing Pond	430	63,517	Dec-15
Highgate No.1	11,920	1,760,534	Unknown
Water Garden	180	26,585	Unknown
Extension No.7	Unknown	N/A	Unknown
Sandy Heath Main	Unknown	N/A	Unknown

Table 1: Estimated sediment volumes and removal costs

29. The bathymetric data can now in part be used to assess how best to manage the sediment levels and the scale of any interventions covered below, Further bathymetric analysis has been identified from this report in order to update the figures for the hard-bed level which form the basis of the sediment estimates.

3.5 Climate change

30. The City of London is scheduled to adopt a new Climate Action Strategy in October this year. The Strategy aim is to reach Net 0 by 2040 and there will be a range of measures implemented to achieve this including increasing carbon sequestration and storage across the Open Spaces alongside biodiversity enhancement and resilience measures.

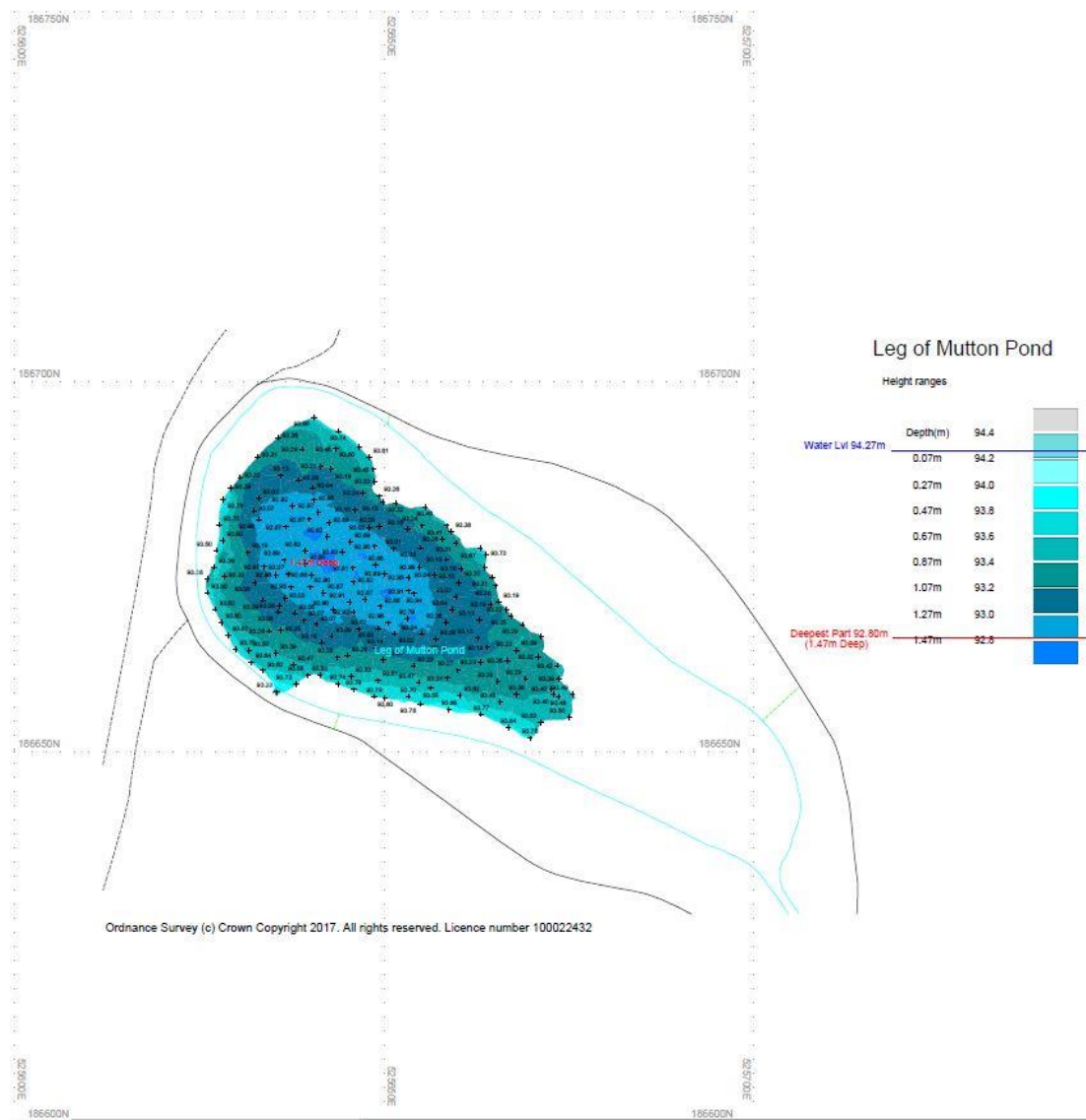


Figure 1: Leg of Mutton depth measurements 2019

31. With potentially warmer waters there may be a possible increase in non-native species and their ability to survive and breed. Carp for instance require a relatively warm temperature to successfully breed in and this occurs only locally in the UK. It is likely that the success of breeding can only increase, possibly having an impact of other fish species and pond ecology. Warmer waters can also decrease oxygen levels as warm waters can hold less oxygen.
32. Increasingly hot summers with associated increase in surface water temperatures and oxygen level impact and potential fish death. Increased risk of sudden heavy convention storm events in summer months and following high nutrient loading also causing collapse of oxygen levels.
33. Climate Change is already having a significant impact on summer temperatures and increased frequency of storms. With this will come increased risk of surface flooding and impact on community downstream.

34. However, there are also opportunities to mitigate climate change impacts and increase resilience through a variety of interventions and considered management. Increasing bankside vegetation including reedbed areas will improve sediment trapping and strengthen pond banks. Additional marginal and aquatic vegetation will also increase carbon capture and storage alongside increasing potential refuges for wildlife.
35. In addition, Open Spaces will be working with other City of London Departments on seeking funding for resilience measures specifically around Climate Change related flood defense but combining this with biodiversity net gain and ecological benefits.

3.6 Other water quality issues

36. The issues set out below are just some of the management considerations which can affect the water quality on a pond. Each pond often has unique issues which need to be considered but these give some idea of the complexities involved.
- Anglers bait, night fishing activity when toilets are closed.
 - Bread etc. fed to ducks
 - Runoff or discharge from private gardens which abut onto the edge of some ponds, e.g. tap water is high in phosphorus so even a hosepipe or sprinkler left running could raise nutrient levels in the pond, not to mention fertiliser use.
 - Properties adjacent to the Heath or within the water catchment area can have an impact on water quality through a redirection or blocking of water flow. Basement drainage pumps or changes to guttering can have at least a localised impact.
 - Thames Water requirement to regularly inspect and maintain sewers across the Heath to prevent blockages and subsequent contamination.
 - Decomposing leaves from surrounding trees.
 - Droppings from geese and other water birds.
 - Disturbance of pond mud and re-release of nutrients locked in the sediment, e.g. by dogs, human swimmers, fish, terrapins, crayfish, low oxygen levels at pond bed.
 - Positive effects of ponds being spring fed. Some springs thought to be present rising from the bed of ponds such as the Vale and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond.
 - Negative effects of the large catchment area of the ponds bringing in particles such as dog mess and possible pollutants from external to the Heath.
 - Non-native species such as crayfish causing damage to dam faces, alongside ecological damage and nuisance to anglers.

4. Sediment management options and holistic approach

37. One of the limiting factors involved in sediment management is the likely cost involved which may be prohibitive on certain ponds. This is alongside the disruption to Heath users and logistics involved with the movement and access for heavy machinery.

38. Ideally ponds sediment management should be considered alongside other pond enhancements or improvements which may be more cost effective as well as enhancing the ponds aesthetically and ecologically. This may include the following practices, some of which have already been successfully carried out.

- Fish translocation or indeed removal (Biomanipulation) which may be desirable particularly on non-angling ponds. This has already been undertaken at the Swan pond which is a non-angling pond but had large numbers of carp which were believed to be having a detrimental effect on water quality as well as causing welfare issues for the fish themselves. A permit is likely required for even temporary storage of fish if ponds are being drained.
- The creation of planting shelves or even islands which will reduce removal costs and provide refuges for birds and well as improving pond ecology. An example of which occurred on the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond with the creation of new wetland plant beds. Large islands could be created in deeper section of the pond which could accommodate large quantities of silt. These would however require a more extensive engineered option than simple posts and barrier and may also be a one-off opportunity as this will decrease the size of the pond area. However, this methodology could become a sustainable future activity for pond desilting. On the next desilting cycle, the dry/drier land could be removed and refilled with sediment. This should be a much easier and cost-effective method than removal wet silt from site.
- The permanent reduction in pond area through use of sediment to create land. Whilst reducing the pond area, this could assist with climate strategies with the increase of area for carbon storage.
- The re-use of sediment or spread of sediment on areas close to the pond. This method was used in 1998 at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond when sediment was spread across South Meadow and more recently at the Extension ponds. This requires careful consideration to ensure that existing flora and fauna is not harmed and can lead to a change in vegetation to the donor site. The re-use of sediment normally requires licensing and testing of the sediment for any harmful chemicals.
- Allowing succession or even the speed up of succession through movement of sediment to different areas of the pond. This may be beneficial for example in the Bird Sanctuary where sedimentation is likely to increase the area of reedbed. The Stock pond in the future could become a swamp.
- It is likely that a good deal of sediment volume may come from leaf litter. A reduction in tree cover or even leaf collection or barriers may be considered.
- A reduction in sediment reaching the pond through an increase in silt traps and continued diversion of runoff. Repair of eroded edges would also reduce loading.
- The use of Siltex or products which may assist in breaking down sediments may be considered as options where costs are prohibitive or disruption too great.

39. The options available will be dependent on the current and future use of the pond whether that be primarily for amenity, ecological or a combination of uses. A reduction of pond size or extensive creation of new planting areas would not be possible or desired on the three bathing ponds.

5. Pond uses and values

40. An important factor in any Ponds plan is the current and future use of the pond in terms of human recreational activities and wildlife use as well as a purely visual amenity. Outlined below are some of the main current pond uses and management issues.

5.1 Pond wildlife value

41. Hampstead Heath ponds as well as being great recreational resources and attractive landscape features also have considerable wildlife value.

5.1.1 Ponds Project surveys

42. Numerous surveys have been undertaken on the Heaths ponds in the last 20 years involving specialist contractors, volunteers and Hampstead Heath staff and it is not possible to go into detail of them all here. However, as part of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project detailed surveys were carried out on the plant and invertebrate communities in 2013 as well as a water quality assessment of the ponds in 2014.
43. The ponds were monitored and records analysed using national pond guidelines to determine their conservation status. All the ponds showed some degree of organic pollution.
44. The majority of the ponds in the Highgate chain were found to have invertebrate communities of moderate conservation value when using the Community Conservation Index, although Highgate No.1 was considered to have fairly high conservation value. The majority of the Hampstead ponds also had invertebrate communities of moderate conservation value, although the Viaduct pond was recorded as being of high conservation value for the species found.
45. Whilst the ponds overall were not assessed as being national priority ponds, they support a variety of species, some of them nationally notable and certainly provide an important habitat for plants and animals alike. This survey provides a baseline to assess future pond improvements as well as improvements made as part of the Pond Project.

5.1.2 Dragonfly surveys

46. The number of species of dragonfly and damselfly recorded on Hampstead Heath in the last 5 years has reached 19 including a species new to the Heath recorded for the first time in 2018 which is now widespread. The Willow Emerald damselfly was first recorded by volunteer wildlife monitors who have been carrying out yearly monitoring for the last 3 years. Dragonflies spend much of their lifecycle in the Heaths ponds and 16 of these species are thought to be Heath breeding species.

5.1.3 Amphibian surveys

47. Amphibians have been recorded on the Hampstead Heath in most years since

2007 as well as many records from previous years. The ponds are thought to provide breeding areas for well over 1,000 adult frogs and toads as well as smooth newt in most of the ponds. A high proportion of the amphibian records are from the smaller Heath ponds, although larger ponds such as the Bird Sanctuary, Highgate No.1 and Mixed pond also provide important spawning habitats. Amphibians are very much associated with aquatic vegetation and are not usually found breeding in poorly vegetated ponds. Surveys of the Heath's population of Grass snakes are also undertaken yearly, and they are very much associated with the aquatic habitats, being primarily amphibian feeders.

5.1.4 Bird Surveys

48. For over 20 years the wetland birds have been monitored by a volunteer using national survey methodology on a monthly basis. 25 bird species are regularly recorded using the Heath ponds, some of which breed here but just as importantly others use the ponds to overwinter and feed.
49. On Hampstead Heath the ponds which have the more unusual or 'human shy' species of bird prefer ponds that have limited access to the banks (Highgate No.1 + Hampstead No.1). Species such as wigeon, shoveler and gadwall are only normally found on ponds which are large enough or where they can be far enough away from humans and dogs. Kingfishers are regular breeding birds on the Bird Sanctuary pond but have been observed attempting to nest at the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond also. As a Schedule 1 species in the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) disturbance of this bird at its nest site would be against the law and this would need to be considered with any plan or change in pond use.

5.1.5 Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4)

50. Several the UK's leading bird conservation organisations worked together to review the status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The bird species that breed or overwinter were assessed against a set of criteria and placed on either the Green, Amber or Red list – according to an increasing level of conservation concern.
51. Birds using the Heath ponds regularly in either the amber or red category are Herring gull, Mute swan, Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveler, Common gull, Common tern and Kingfisher. Other birds such as Pochard, Wigeon and Teal can also frequent the ponds, sometimes in reasonable numbers. Whilst the populations found on the Heath are not nationally important, in local and regional terms these species should be encouraged wherever possible.

5.2 Swimming and bathing pond issues

5.2.1 Statutory requirements

52. There are three ponds on the Heath where swimming is permitted and these are monitored by the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA (Government Department of the Environment, Fisheries & Rural Affairs) for compliance with the European Bathing Water Directive. These are the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond in the Highgate Valley and the Mixed Bathing

Pond in the Hampstead Valley. The Directive sets microbiological and other standards which bathing waters must consistently meet if they are to keep their designation as official bathing waters. There is unfortunately several days delay from the collection of water samples to the results being received and thus the risk of swimming taking place in potentially polluted waters. This is however the national bathing water testing procedure and thus difficult to influence or remedy.

5.2.2 Water quality

53. The three bathing ponds are a popular and much-valued amenity on the Heath, indeed in London as a whole. As any instances of poor water quality in these three ponds presents an immediate health risk to swimmers, making improvements to water quality at these ponds is a very high priority.

5.2.3 Oxygen levels management

54. Aeration equipment is in place on all the bathing ponds but is not currently functioning at the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond due to power supply issues. A Capital Project is being developed following the March 2020 Swimming Review to address a series of safety, access, security issues across the three bathing ponds and the Parliament Hill Fields Lido. The Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond also has mobile splash units in place for ice prevention and to reduce algal problems.

5.2.4 Catchment areas

55. The Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond as well as receiving water from the upstream Stock pond, is also connected to a wider water catchment area through a streamline leading and running outside of City of London Corporation managed land. This catchment stream passes through private land as well as a community allotment and so has the potential to adversely affect water quality at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. Work has already been carried out as part of the Ponds Project to create pools upstream of the pond to act as a filter and sediment traps have previously been created at locations along the streamline.

5.2.5 Blue-green Algae

56. The Highgate Men's Bathing Pond has traditionally suffered from Blue-green (BG) algal blooms and scums which occurred yearly for many weeks of the year for the last 20 years or so. In 2018 and 2019 there has been a noticeable reduction of BG blooms with very few recorded in these years. It is believed that this may be as a result of sediment removal as part of the Ponds Project. The pond is currently used for both angling and swimming which may be considered a health and safety issue for the bathers.

5.2.6 Pollution issues

57. It is believed that the use of sun creams and oils may be having an impact on the water quality at the bathing ponds with the creation of a surface layer during the busy summer period which can impact oxygen levels through a reduction in diffusion. Bacteria may also be increased in the bathing waters during busy periods simply through 'bather shedding'.

5.2.7 Compliance issues

58. Swimming in non-designated bathing waters is also a major health and safety concern throughout the year but especially during very warm weather or a hot spring day when the pond temperature is much lower than the external temperature. With Climate Change related weather trends moving towards more frequent heat wave events there is an increasing demand on swimming facilities at Hampstead Heath. The summers of 2018 and 2019 saw unprecedented levels of visitors with a single purpose of swimming, and often swimming in non-lifeguarded non designated ponds in large numbers. This presents a major challenge to the Management team and the Lifeguards.

5.2.8 Water Safety

59. In the last 7 years Hampstead Heath has seen three separate drowning incidents, leading to tragic loss of life and impact on the associated families. A full review of the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities was completed in March 2020, taking account of the Health and Safety advice received following a fatality at the Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds in June 2019. The Health and Safety Executive confirmed that there were no material breaches of Health and Safety legislation, and provided advice in relation to Lifeguard breaks and alertness, maximum bather loading, minimum Lifeguards numbers and Lifeguard training. The Swimming Review sets out the improvements required to address the Health and Safety issues, visitor access, rapidly increasing demand and presents options to secure the long-term financial sustainability of the Bathing Ponds.

5.3 Angling provision and issues

5.3.1 Introduction

60. Five of the Heath ponds are currently designated as angling ponds. These are Vale of Health, Viaduct and Hampstead No2 in the Hampstead Valley, and the Model Boating Pond and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond in the Highgate Valley. Other ponds have been used for angling in the past such as recently the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond and the Leg of Mutton. Angling is also currently suspended on the north bank of the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond following an incident where a swimmer became entangled with a fishing hook that had become snared on the swimming line.

5.3.2 Fish surveys and stocks

61. The following is a brief summary of fish surveys undertaken on Hampstead Heath and is not the intention to cover the various surveys in detail as this would be a report in itself.

62. Fish surveys have been carried out every 10 years or so with the most recent surveys being in 2013. Previous 1992, 1995 and 2002 surveys by CB fisheries and a 2002 survey by the Environmental Advice Centre (EAC) indicate varying fish stocks with fluctuations in numbers and species composition changes from survey to survey. The 2002 surveys generally indicated that fish stock and recruitment of fish was low (some errors in the calculations are however

apparent), although the 1992 surveys found large fish stocks and some recommendations were made for the removal of some species such as bream.

63. Fish stocking has not officially been undertaken since the late 1990's when CB fisheries were employed to undertake surveys. Stocking of carp, both common and crucian, as well as rudd, bream, perch and tench have been undertaken during this time as well as the cropping (removal) of bream and pike. It is of some concern that species introduced into a number of the ponds in the mid 1990's were not subsequently recorded in the 2002 surveys. Whilst survey error could contribute to this as well as predation from cormorants and pike, any future introductions need careful consideration to ensure the wellbeing of introduced fish as well as stocks already residing in the ponds. It is considered that natural recruitment is the best way to ensure that the species present are those that are best suited to survive and breed in an individual pond, although stocking is not ruled out. Any future stocking should give full consideration of fish welfare and a need identified.
64. Introductions of fish stocks should be based on having accurate stock figures which from experience and previous surveys are difficult to gauge.

5.3.3 Fish survey accuracy

65. Whilst fish surveys can give a good indication of fish stock levels there are practical difficulties in obtaining accurate data. Underwater obstructions, deep water, aquatic plant growth, large pond sizes and differences in fish behaviors such as those species frequenting deeper waters can lead to survey discrepancies depending on the methods used. Methods typically used are netting (seine and fyke) as well as electrofishing. Some direct observation is also possible but can only give a guesstimate of the fish size or weight. Therefore, comparisons between years can sometimes be difficult to analyse.
66. Examples of these possible discrepancies which may not be from genuine stock changes include a comparison of the 2002 CB fisheries survey and the most recent 2013 surveys. Only 7 fish in total were recorded in the 2002 survey despite the introduction of several hundred Kg of fish some 10 years previously. Over 900 fish were recorded in the 2013 survey although the majority of these were of one species (perch). No carp were recorded in the 2013 survey despite them being regularly caught and observed in the pond.
67. The most recent 2013 survey recorded over 1500 fish from 4 species of fish in the Boating pond with the majority of these being Rudd and Perch. As part of the Ponds Project in 2015 a section of the Boating pond was drained and fish rescued and transferred back into the non-drained side of the pond. 7 species of fish were moved including the previously unrecorded species of carp (both ghost and mirror), tench, pike and eel as well as several hundred unidentified fish fry. Over 200 gudgeon were rescued from this small section of pond whilst less than 20 were recorded from the 2013 survey.
68. The anglers themselves alongside information from Heath staff are often excellent sources of information on the species present in the ponds and methods to formally record catches where possible would be welcome.

5.3.4 Fishing permits and angling association

69. Angling on Hampstead Heath is by permit only for which a small administration fee is charged. The anglers should also be in possession of an Environment Agency rod license. Over 300 permits have been issued in the 2020 season.
70. The Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society (HAHAS) has recently been formed to represent the views of Heath anglers and help protect angling on the Heath for the future. Discussions are ongoing between the Society and Heath management to promote good angling conduct, seek to improve the angling resource for its members and foster a good relationship with the City Corporation and other Heath users ensuring that angling continues to be a much loved recreational activity on Hampstead Heath.

5.3.5 Interaction between anglers and other users

71. There can be a conflict between anglers and other pond users with disturbance of fishing equipment by dogs and shared usage of much of the bank edges used by anglers.
72. A variety of fish species are also present in non-angling ponds and it is believed there is some movement of fish by the anglers themselves (pers com), although this would be against the law.

5.3.6 Petition on changing Fishing Closed season

73. The recently developed Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society (HHAS) are requesting a change to the current closed season which runs mid-March to mid-June to opening a month earlier in May. This should be considered with respect of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 and the relevant outcomes and priorities. The most relevant priorities being:
- Priority 1: A mosaic of natural habitats is maintained and flourishes.
 - Priority 3: A balance is maintained between visitor activities and the conservation of natural, built and heritage values.
 - Priority 4: Improved physical health, mental health and emotional well-being. This includes the goal to increase outdoor participation.
 - Priority 5: Increasing social inclusion. Individuals or groups that may not normally participate in angling may be encouraged to participate.
74. The Environment Agency maintains a close season for coarse fishing on rivers, streams and important nature conservation sites where angling is not permitted between the 15th March and 15th June. Local Authorities and land managers can still maintain close seasons on lakes as required.
75. Close season is now a contentious issue amongst anglers and other groups, and many lakes, reservoirs and closed waterbodies don't now operate one. It was set up to protect fish stocks when fish were largely killed after being caught.
76. Reducing the closed season has the potential to assist with the Management

Strategy priorities 4 and 5 but may conflict with priorities 1 and 3.

77. Some of the issues involved are covered below.

- Angling provision has recently been reduced with the Mixed pond now a non-angling pond. Angling from the north bank of the Men's pond is also currently suspended. The number of possible fishing points around the Model Boating pond has also been reduced with new emergent planting and the closure of the 'Island'.
- March to June was, and to some extent is, the main fish spawning season but this varies with species and location and is changing with warming conditions. Thus, it allows fish a period of where they can go about their business without disturbance. The Heath's close season thus still allows for this and gives a period of recovery. Carp in the Heath ponds show signs of a lot of wear and tear due to relatively low stocks and quite an old and frequently caught population.
- The close season allows for bird to nest without disturbance. Perhaps, more importantly this period also allows for the cleaning up of snags and old fishing tackle from ponds which can often entangle birds at this crucial period of their lives.
- The close season coincides with the main spawning period for amphibians and some trampling of vegetation does occur through angling activities as well as through general use and dog-swimming. Year-round angling may reduce this vegetation and affect spawning success both indirectly and directly through physical disturbance.
- Anglers can provide an early warning for environmental issues such as fish health or change in pond condition. However, regular monitoring is also undertaken by Heath staff and members of public are also very vigilant in raising concerns.
- Shortening the close season has the potential to increase participation in angling across the Heaths angling ponds. Although this does not mean that participation will increase and instead just bringing forward the initial rush to fish. However, this also may have the positive benefit of spreading the impact of angling over a longer period. How new participants will be encouraged by this longer open season is unclear.
- Logically, increasing the fishing season can have no positive ecological outcome and at best result in minimal environmental impact. Disturbance of fish will increase and potentially impact on survival rates. As mentioned above the Heath ponds are currently not stocked and rely on natural succession for the species that are best suited to survive and breed in an individual pond. That said some illegal stocking does occur. Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) has occurred in recent years and any increase in fishing can only increase the likelihood of this occurring.
- The likelihood of more discarded fishing tackle, snagged lines and possible harm to wildlife can only increase with an extended fishing season.
- Whilst a large part of bird breeding does occur prior to May, many birds will attempt a second brood and young vulnerable birds will be very active on the ponds at this time.
- Any increase in angling will increase the administration required in checking permits and enforcing bylaws.
- Increase in conflict between user groups (anglers, dog walkers and swimmers).

- Many users and visitors have strong opinions about angling and its potential harm to the fish themselves and other wildlife.

5.3.7. Options to consider

78. The options to consider are:

- A. Remove closed season.
- B. Reduce or alter closed season.
- C. Keep the closed season.
- D. Reduction in close season for one pond only, e.g. Model Boating pond. This earlier opening could allow for fishing lessons only, encouraging young participants or those currently not frequent anglers thus assisting with priorities 4 and 5. As a supervised or targeted event there would be a likely reduction in some of possible environmental issues.
- E. Float only angling or short line fishing which restrict the casting distance on the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond north bank.
- F. Encouraging anglers to belong to the society so that a wider group can be engaged with. This could be done automatically as part of the application for a fishing permit.

79. Section 8.4 and 8.5 below makes a series of recommendations in relation to angling on the Heath.

5.4 Dog swimming

5.4.1 Introduction

80. Dog swimming is a popular and increasing activity on Hampstead Heath and occurs wherever there is easy access to the ponds. There are many studies on the health benefits of dog ownership and the City Corporation welcomes responsible dog owners and their pets onto Hampstead Heath. A recent code of conduct has been developed for professional dog walkers and it is envisaged that this will provide guidance to dog walkers and owners in general. There are only a few current restricted areas on Hampstead Heath where dogs are not allowed (Children's play areas, Hill Garden & Pergola) and one area where dogs should be on leads (Golders Hill Park). Other than these areas dogs are only limited in their access by vegetation or fencing.

5.4.2 Dog swimming provision

81. Two floating limit lines on Highgate No.1 and one on the Vale of Health have been created to attempt to limit the extent that dogs can swim out. These were created over 10 years ago to reduce the possible conflict between dogs and wildfowl.

5.4.3 Dogs and waterfowl conflicts

82. There are yearly incidents involving dogs on ponds disturbing waterfowl, damaging nests and occasionally killing wildfowl. Recent incidences include in 2019 a cygnet killed by a dog on Hampstead No.1 pond and a nest at the Viaduct pond being destroyed by a dog swimming across to it. In February 2020 an

Egyptian goose chick was killed by an off-lead dog and another one chased off to be killed by a crow. This occurred in Golder's Hill Park an area that requires dog to be on a lead. In July 2020 a female swan was attacked and injured on Highgate No.1 pond by a dog as well as a number of near misses.

83. It should be noted that the majority of dog owners are very responsible and keep their dogs under proper control but due to the number of dogs present on site even the few that are not can cause serious issues.

5.4.4. Dogs, water quality and marginal erosion

84. Published literature also suggests that dogs can discourage nesting birds, increase turbidity and even possibly introduce chemicals from flea and parasite treatments which can be harmful to invertebrates. This increase in turbidity can easily be seen on aerial photographs (Figure 2) or visually when a dog or person enters the water. This can cause reduced light penetrating for plant growth and the increase sediment disturbance can release more nutrients into a water body. A good deal of erosion occurs in and around ponds directly attributable to dog activity. Entry points at Hampstead No.2 are heavily eroded as a result of the continued action of dog coming and going into the water. Open access points at the Model Boating pond had to be reconstructed due to erosion caused by dogs and an experiment to open the fencing around the Model Boating pond resulted in damage to emergent plants (Figure 3).



Figure 2: Highgate No.1 main dog swim May 2018- cloudy water to SE and smaller dog swim area to NW

85. Figure 3 (page 21) shows the effect of dog swimming on pond turbidity, although in certain circumstances this could be beneficial with the creation of open water. The image shows the lack of filamentous algae growth in the dog swim area and disturbance can reduce the extent of other 'non-desirable' plant growth such as extensive duckweed cover.



Figure 3: Boating pond plant damage and Hampstead No.2 dog erosion.

86. A balance should be achieved between accessibility to a water body and protecting its nature conservation value. A byelaw currently exists which can prohibit dogs from entering the water when a notice is in place.

5.5 Other pond uses

87. Other pond uses:

- The ponds are enjoyed visually as a landscape feature.
- The study or observing of wildlife.
- Model Boating. Although not a widespread activity, this is still undertaken on occasion at the Model Boating pond.
- The current activities undertaken on Heath ponds are not exhaustive and there are many other activities which can take place on waterbodies. Any future proposals for the use of the ponds will be considered in line with the current management strategy.

6. Solutions and management options to be reviewed to assist with water quality and improve biodiversity.

6.1 Short term options

88. The short term options to consider are:

- Aeration systems have been installed on most of the larger waterbodies. Oxygen levels are monitored weekly during the summer season, when levels can be at their lowest. This allows for a modicum of control over oxygen levels and prevention of fish deaths. The aerators can also help increase oxygen levels at the lake-bed which can prevent nutrients from being released. They can also help with the dispersal of algal blooms and prevent ice formation in swimming ponds. These systems however require regular checks and maintenance as well consideration of the utility costs.
- Encourage bathers to shower before entry into the water.
- Removal of duckweed and other invasive aquatics by using oil booms. The booms have also been used to partly partition dog swimming areas.
- Portable splash units are available to aerate ponds in an emergency.
- Barley straw has been placed into the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond to

- reduce algal blooms through the natural decomposition of the straw.
- Limit dog access to areas on selected ponds used for dog swimming. Establish dog free ponds which are primarily for wildlife or even as angling only. This option is in line with suggestions made by members of the Heath and Hampstead Society, Heath Sub Committee.
- Designate certain areas as dog swimming zones by use of signage and floating barriers. The designated sites should be upgraded to reduce compaction and erosion at entry points.

6.2 Longer term solutions/management options

89. Options:

- Removal or relocation of pond sediment. A number of possible strategies have been considered in section? 'Sediment management options and holistic approach' and require more detailed planning and consultation.
- Further aquatic planting.
- Reduction of nutrient loads entering the ponds. Reduce the quantity of dog faeces entering the ponds through engagement/action encouraging collection.
- Engagement with the Planning Authorities and Heath neighbours to assist with reducing input into ponds.
- Reduction/further education on bird-feeding nutrient inputs as well as the behavioral changes this can induce in wildfowl.
- Fish biomanipulation, reducing the impact of bottom feeding fish, as well as juvenile fish which can impact on zooplankton levels (zooplankton are very good controllers of algae).
- Slowing down the speed of water entering the ponds. As well as reducing flood risk this may also help reduce the amount of suspended solids and dissolved nutrients entering a pond. This may be achieved through:
 - Construction of high infiltration path surfaces on the higher parts of the Heath. Many paths and up to a 10m strip on either side are very compacted and currently serve as high speed conduits of rain straight into streams and ponds.
 - Creation of "woody debris jams" in the upper tributaries of the stream system. These would act as little dam-like structures in the stream. They would not completely block the watercourse, merely slow down the flow of water such that it doesn't arrive all at once at the ponds, presenting a flood risk. They would also act as a silt trap. Some suspended solids would settle out and be trapped behind the woody debris jam.
 - Buffer planting of vegetation around areas where heavily used paths cross streams. These are currently a pinpoint source of pollution as they often are so denuded, compacted and eroded that in times of rain, much nutrient-enriched rainwater enters the streams in these places.
 - Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) - Swales and buffer strips of longer grass on valley sides and pond edges.

7. Management options and issues for individual ponds

90. Each pond on Hampstead Heath is unique in its aspect, usage and nature conservation value and so a one size fit's all approach will not be possible. A

combination of the options suggested above will be required to achieve the desired outcomes.

91. Below are issues and options relating to specific ponds, some of the information used on sediment levels relate to older 2002/2004 reports although some management of these ponds has since taken place.

7.1 Hampstead No.1

92. Hampstead No.1 Pond:

- The pond was found to have a maximum water depth of 3.5 metres. Significant accumulations of silt were found to be present within the pond mainly present in the central area with depths of up to 2.5 metres recorded. The silt visually appeared to contain a high proportion of organic matter content. The long-term management strategy should be to dredge this material from the pond. However, currently there is still sufficient retained water depth for the pond to retain its function as a landscaping feature within the pond. No Siltex (sediment reduction additive) is advised as this would raise hardness and encourage filamentous algae.
- Filamentous algae blooms occur in this pond
- Hampstead No.1 is still considered to be of good ecological value with large amounts of aquatic plants.
- Due to the size of the pond it should be possible to create further emergent planting areas or even islands.
- A pair of swans have been nesting on the pond for many years and there is often conflict between dogs and wildfowl. This pond could be considered as a dog free pond and further enhanced for biodiversity.
- A large part of the pond perimeter adjoins private housing and consideration must be given to this with regards to any ecological enhancements.

7.2 Hampstead No.2

93. Hampstead No. 2 Pond:

- There are significant volumes of sediment accumulated on the bed of Hampstead No.2 Pond with a large 40m by 70m accumulation of over 1m depth of sediment. There is still sufficient retained water depth for the pond to function as a recreational fishery, but these accumulations of silt are impacting upon water quality conditions.
- Hampstead No.2 although having good ecological value is subject to fluctuating conditions with algal blooms (including BG) and duckweed cover and should be considered in the shorter term for sediment management.
- There is potentially a good deal of scope to incorporate large amount of sediment into planting bays or even islands. This, however, should not be allowed to interfere with the ability of anglers to use the pond.
- Dogs enter this pond from several locations and one entry point is heavily eroded. This entry point could be reduced in size through planting or landscaping and a floating boom erected to reduce the dog swimming area. Other entry points could be restricted and could be designated as angling only.
- In the short term a trial of Phoslock could be undertaken which reduces nutrient levels in the pond.

- Extending the peninsular to disguise the outfall on the northern dam.

7.3 Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond

94. Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond:

- The pond was desilted in 2016 and then again in 2018 to cover an area that was missed. The Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond has a maximum depth of 2.9m.
- A proportion of sediment was reused in 2018 to create new planting bays and there is limited scope to increase these without reducing the swimming area of the pond.
- This pond should not need desilting for the foreseeable future.
- Some work is required to reduce the access points for swimmers entering from non-designated areas which can be achieved through vegetation management.
- The chestnut paling fence has been identified in the Cyclical Work Programme for replacement.
- The Capital Project for the Bathing Ponds and Lido has identified a range of works at the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond including a review of the buildings and facilities layouts.

7.4 Viaduct

95. Viaduct Pond:

- This pond was desilted in 2016 and has since seen the regrowth of extensive lily beds which had previously been lost. There is no current requirement to desilt this pond, although as the pond is shallow and well vegetated it will have a shorter turnaround time than the larger water bodies. The pond has a maximum depth of 1.8m.
- Dogs enter this pond from across the southern bank and cause some localized erosion as well as occasionally swimming to areas not normally accessible. This pond is also used for angling and there can be conflict between the 2 activities.
- This is a popular pond for dog swimming but there may be a possibility of restricting access to a smaller area to the SE which can be improved for entry. Consideration should also be given into making the pond a dog free pond due to the conservation value of its invertebrate population.
- Ecological enhancements have recently taken place on the pond and due to its size larger scale planting schemes may not be possible.
- Public access is currently restricted on this pond as it forms part of a larger 'Middle Bird Sanctuary'.

7.5 Vale

96. Vale Pond

- The Vale of Health Pond has accumulated significant deposits of silt. The deepest silt depths are present at the northern end of the pond where in places there is greater than 3m of accumulated sediment which accounts for more than half the depth of the lake. The current maximum depth is thought to be 3.3m. There is still sufficient water depth for Vale of Health Pond to

function as a recreational coarse fishery. However, the silts are likely to be impacting on water quality conditions and thereby the potential performance of the fishery. Dredging of the pond should be one of the key long-term management objectives for this waterbody.

- This pond has regular filamentous algae blooms caused by the high nutrient levels as well as good quantities of other aquatic vegetation.
- Due to the tree lined banks and private bank ownership there is limited scope to reuse sediment on this pond unless a larger scale central island could be created.
- Dogs access this pond largely from the SW corner near the spillway. The spillway vegetation becomes heavily eroded and requires regular replacement. A floating boom designates the area, and this could become the sole access point for dogs on the pond. This would allow anglers to fish freely from the main swims around the pond.

7.6 Highgate No.1

97. Highgate No. 1 Pond:

- Highgate No.1 Pond is relatively shallow with the majority of the pond area being less than 2m in depth and the deepest point 2.2m. It appears that the original maximum water depth of the pond was in the region of 3 - 4m but this has been reduced by siltation.
- This pond does require desilting, but the pond retains good ecological value with large amounts of aquatic and emergent vegetation as well as receiving some more irregular wildfowl such as wigeon, gadwall and pochard. Reed warblers also nest here.
- There is scope on this pond to create more planting beds using sediment. Although natural succession is occurring, this process could be speeded up with the redistribution of sediment.
- Many of the overwintering wildfowl on this pond only occur here due to the size of the pond and the distance they are away from the public and dogs. The northern bank of this pond adjoins private land and so is relatively undisturbed and the eastern bank is currently not accessible to the public.
- This pond has two main dog swimming areas. One to the SE and the other centrally to the south. However, dogs do enter from other areas and it is suggested that dog access is restricted to the two main areas.
- This is one of the most popular ponds for dog swimming and as such it is hoped that this can continue. However, as this pond currently has a breeding swan pair and the swans on this pond have been injured by dogs, dog access to this pond should be kept under review.
- As a pond with good ecological value it is recommended that public disturbance on this pond is kept to a minimum.

7.7 Highgate Men's Bathing Pond

98. Highgate Men's Bathing Pond:

- The Highgate Men's Bathing Pond appears to contain no measurable depth of accumulated silt except for the areas around the northern inflows. This result accords with the dredging of the lake that was undertaken in the early 1990's and again in 2015. The accumulation of silt deposits on this pond appears to be low. This pond has a maximum depth of 5.2m.

- The Highgate Men's Bathing Pond being the deepest is likely to have a large capacity to retain sediment and if siltation rates are low then may only removal at long intervals.
- This is an angling pond although angling is currently restricted to the south bank due to health and safety reasons. The angling society are requesting access to this bank for the use of float only fishing which would reduce the risk considerably.

7.8 Model Boating

99. The Model Boating Pond:

- The Model Boating pond was redesigned in 2015 as part of the Ponds Project and was partially desilted to the southern side. Large accumulations of silt were discovered in the southern section of this pond and removed to the borrow pits on the Tumulus field. The pond has a current maximum depth of 3.7m.
- The northern section of the pond is still believed to have large accumulations of silt but still a great deal of available water depth for angling and Boating. Large parts of the pond have already had improvements to the emergent vegetation. There may be scope to increase the width of these areas in the future or even the creation of a larger island area.
- There is still considered to be sufficient water depth for the pond to serve as a fisheries and Boating lake.
- The Boating pond 'island' has been designated as a sanctuary with no public access. A pair of swans was looking like using the 'island' as a nest site this year but an injury to male meant they had to be taken to the Swan sanctuary. A snipe (bird) was flushed from the new planting area on the 'island' in March 2020 showing the value keeping this area as a place for wildlife.
- Dogs enter this pond from many of the open areas and have caused some erosion to the banksides as well as damage to emergent plants. Dogs also have been regularly observed swimming out to the island which will reduce its wildlife value.
- The angling society have requested a change to the close season across the Heath ponds which has been discussed above. There is a possibility that this pond could be used as a trial for a reduction in the closed season by holding lessons for younger children or others wishing to try fishing for the first time.
- Unauthorised swimming regularly occurs on this pond. As an angling pond and from previous desilting works, this pond is known to contain many underwater hazards.
- Possible solutions to this include the additions of planting shelves along the east bank, improving the swimming swims here and re-routing the path to accommodate both pedestrians and anglers. This could reduce the unauthorized swimming, improve biodiversity and improve the area for angling. However as Model Boating does occur on this pond, any enhancements would take into consideration access for model boating, angling and the visual aspect of any planting.

7.9 Bird Sanctuary

100. Bird Sanctuary Pond:

- The Bird Sanctuary pond is relatively shallow in depth with most water depths

less than 2m deep. This results from the significant accumulations of silt that are present. Max silt depth 1.7m. The pond has a maximum depth of 2.2m.

- The pond is completely enclosed in fencing and as such is one of the best ecological areas on the Heath, although this also encompasses the land areas. Kingfishers and reed warblers regularly nest here as well as being a feeding area for wintering birds such as water rail and species such as siskin feeding from the bankside trees.
- The Bird Sanctuary is still believed to have good ecological value and thus have a longer-term sediment management need.
- The western arm was desilted in 1988 but is gradually reverting to reed swamp again. An increase in the reedbed areas through sedimentation is in the short-term desirable.

101. Several new ponds and scrapes were created as part of the Ponds Project, with an expansion of reedbed area and a new wetland channel.

7.10 Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond

102. Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond:

- The Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond was desilted in 2015 but due to lowered water levels the edges and northern section were not touched. The northern section is heavily silted still. The pond has a maximum depth of 3.75m.
- There is very limited scope to reuse sediment on this pond although as the northern section is still heavily sedimented then this could become an expanded area of reedbed in the future.
- Although the west bank was traditionally an open landscape there is currently ongoing privacy concerns along this edge. Tree management may be required to allow for enough light for understorey planting to provide screening.
- Capital Project to re-fence around the rear gate.
- Leak on the dam isn't completely fixed.

7.11 Stock

103. Stock Pond:

- The Stock pond although dredged in 2015 still has a perimeter containing deep sediment and indeed parts of the eastern bank have reverted to land.
- A reedbed planted in 2004 has expanded a little and it is suggested this pond could be allowed to silt up further and managed as a wildlife pond.

7.12 Leg of Mutton

104. Leg of Mutton Pond:

- The Leg of Mutton pond has a maximum depth of 1.6m and large parts of the pond have reverted to dry and wet reed bed to the east. The rest of the pond appears to have low deposits of sediment which is consistent with most of the deposits occurring on the eastern inflow edge of the pond. The pond is generally shallow in depth and the depths of sediment are not excessive in the remaining pond area. Although they visually appear to have a high organic matter content that may affect the overlying water quality.
- The expanding reedbed area to the east is currently increasing the ecological value of the pond although the pond is now greatly reduced in size.

- It should be possible to carry out desilting works on this pond without a capital bid assuming the existing dry land areas are not reinstated as pond.
- The Leg of Mutton does not currently have any public access.

7.13 Water Garden

105. Water Garden:

- Within the main body of the pond silt depths averaged around 50cms in depth and accounted for half the available depth of the pond. The silts are significant in relation to the remaining water depth within the pond and are likely to exert a major effect upon water quality. It is recommended that dredging of the pond is undertaken.
- This pond currently has lower ecological value although a population of Crucian carp exists in the pond which are of some national conservation concern.
- This pond is planned to be desilted in 2020.

7.14 Swan

106. Swan Pond:

- Significant depths of silt have accumulated in Swan Pond. At their deepest, sediments are 80cm in depth and account for half of the available pond depth. At the inflow in the east of the pond, depths are shallower, and accumulation of sediment has resulted in the infill of this end of the pond.
- The sediments visually appeared to have a high organic matter with partly degraded leaf litter. The reductions in water depth and accumulations of organic silt, cause lower oxygen levels to develop throughout the water column that can cause distress to the existing fish populations. Emergency aeration equipment was deployed yearly on this pond to prevent the deaths of the large fish population.
- Due to the prevalent water quality conditions and the poor conditions for fish health over 100 ghost carp were removed in 2018. These were the only fish species present in the pond and the pond had very low ecological value. The clarity of the pond has since improved greatly, and spawning frogs and toads were seen for the first time in many years.

107. There is the potential to create a large extent of emergent vegetation around this pond using the existing sediment and reducing the removal costs. Whilst this would reduce the size of the pond, this would also greatly enhance the pond both visually and ecologically. This pond is planned to be desilted in 2020 and it is hoped that biodiversity enhancements can be achieved through this project.

7.15 Extension Ponds

108. The Heath Extension Ponds:

- The majority of the Extension ponds are relatively small and sediment management may be undertaken locally. However, the bottom pond in the chain is larger and wider and management may be more difficult here as it is believed to have large quantities of silt.
- The higher pond had an oil leak some 10-15 years ago and may not be suitable for land fill or local deposition.

7.16 Sandy Heath

109. Sandy Heath Ponds:

- Most of the ponds here can be managed locally by the Conservation Team but this may not be possible on the larger Sandy Heath pond which has large accumulations of sediment and is reducing in size through succession. It may be possible for local deposition of sediments removed and should be possible through the cyclical budget.

8. Recommendations

110. The following is a series of recommendations based on the issues discussed above. Many are general recommendations which are already carried out as part of the Heath's Annual Work Programme (AWP), Compartment Management Plans (CMP) or the City Surveyors Department Cyclical Work Programme (CWP). Other recommendations are made regarding the recreational usage of the ponds in terms of angling and dog access as well as further research required to advise on sediment management and an initial priority for desilting.

111. A section covering each individual pond includes some pond specific detail, suggestions and selected maps to visualise some of the recommendations proposed. It should be stressed that the planting bays shown in the maps are examples to show the potential for sediment re-use as opposed to detailed plans.

8.1 General Recommendations

112. The table below sets out general recommendations.

General Recommendations		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.1.1	Continue to make smaller wildlife ponds where practical and appropriate. The City Corporation are currently working in partnership with the Reddington and Frognal Residents Association (RedFrog) on the reinstatement of an historic pond known as 'Constables' pond.	AWP
8.1.2	Continue to link and engage with any national and local wildlife strategies that will assist with biodiversity. The City Corporation is currently engaging with Camden Council to assist with the development of a new biodiversity plan for the Borough.	AWP
8.1.3	Continue to engage with the Highgate Men's Pond Association to collaborate on initiatives which may improve or assist with recording biodiversity. Engage with the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond and Kenwood Ladies' Pond Associations for similar collaboration.	AWP
8.1.4	Continue to submit representations on planning applications which may affect Hampstead Heath and it's	AWP

	hydrology.	
8.1.5	Continue to engage with Thames Water to ensure sewers across the Heath are routinely inspected and regularly maintained.	AWP
8.1.6	Continue to engage with local resident groups and individuals to ensure external water inputs are not detrimental to the ponds ecology or water quality.	AWP
8.1.7	Seek opportunities to increase the extent of emergent and aquatic planting where this will be ecologically beneficial.	AWP
8.1.8	Partner with English Heritage and the Heath and Hampstead Society to assist and advise on biodiversity improvements to the Kenwood ponds. An initial meeting is scheduled for the Autumn 2020.	AWP
8.1.9	Current weekly monitoring of oxygen levels should continue throughout the summer season (May-August) or where this is not possible the aeration systems employed.	AWP
8.1.10	Daily checks of the pond outflows and safety systems.	AWP
8.1.11	Monitor crayfish populations and seek advice on removal methodology	AWP
8.1.12	Regular monitoring of algal blooms and advisory signs placed if the Blue-green algae blooms appear.	AWP
8.1.13	Continued ecological monitoring of wetland birds, amphibians and dragonflies.	AWP
8.1.14	A repeat of the 2013 Pond Project survey for water quality and aquatic invertebrates. This will assess any improvements or otherwise that have taken place since the Ponds Project. A suggested date of 2023 would allow for a 10-year review. A capital cost would be associated with this monitoring and the full suite of surveys undertaken in 2013 would not be required.	AWP
8.1.15	Some of the pond banks are under private ownership and it is recommended that future collaboration is sought for mutually beneficial pond enhancement schemes such as emergent planting.	AWP
8.1.16	Continued signage and advice regarding bird feeding activities, encouraging feeding of wildfowl pellets rather than bread.	AWP
8.1.17	Encourage bathers to shower before entering ponds through engagement and signage to reduce external inputs.	AWP
8.1.18	Welcome proposals for other uses of the Heath ponds which would align with the current Management Strategy.	AWP

8.2 Dog Access to the Ponds

113. The table below sets out the recommendations in relation to dog access to the Ponds.

Dog Access to the Ponds - Recommendations		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.2.1	<p>It is recommended that dog access is refined at each pond and restricted to designated swimming/access areas. Access areas will be defined by floating buoys and dogs only allowed to enter at these points. Signs or simple plaques will be required to define these locations on site.</p> <p>Having clearly defined areas will hopefully reduce conflicts over competing uses and give clarification of use.</p> <p>Suggested dog swim areas are in the accompanying maps on individual ponds.</p>	AWP
8.2.2	It is recommended that Hampstead No.1 becomes a dog free pond and wildlife is prioritised.	AWP
8.2.3	Dog access areas will be improved through landscaping, reducing erosion and compaction in and around access points.	AWP

8.3 Bathymetric data and sediment removal

114. The table below sets out the recommendations for bathymetric data and sediment removal.

Bathymetric data and sediment removal - Recommendations		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.3.1	Further bathymetric analysis is required on selected ponds to confirm the hard bed level of the ponds to confirm the silt volumes. A company has been approached to undertake these works.	CWP
8.3.2	Although detailed plans for silt removal are not yet included in this current plan, views on the sediment management options covered above are welcomed. These include the re-use of sediment on-site to create larger emergent planting areas or even islands or allowing natural succession on certain ponds to increase areas of reedbed. An example of the re-use of sediment is indicated in the accompanying maps for Hampstead No.1 and Highgate No.1.	CWP
8.3.3	Methods which would reduce sediment entering the ponds will be continued including the creation of sediment traps and log weirs upstream of ponds.	AWP

8.3.4	The Golders Hill Park chain of ponds are schedule to be desilted in the winter of 2020/2021. As suggested further consultation and research is required to finalise desilting plans on the major ponds, however an initial priority order is given in 2 table below.	CWP/Capital bid
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Pond name	Desilting order	Notes
Swan	1	Scheduled for winter 2020/2021.
Water Garden	1	Scheduled for winter 2020/2021.
Lily	1	Scheduled for winter 2020/2021.
Sandy Heath main	2	Shallow pond. Could be done on current cyclical desilting budget.
Extension No.7	3	Shallow pond. Could be done on current cyclical desilting budget.
Hampstead No.2	4	Capital bid.
Model Boating	5	Capital bid.
Bird Sanctuary	6	Capital bid.
Highgate No.1	7	Capital bid.
Hampstead No.1	8	Capital bid.
Vale of Health	9	Capital bid.
Leg of Mutton	10	Might be possible to do on current cyclical desilting budget.
Viaduct	11	Might be possible to do on current cyclical desilting budget.
Stock	12	Might be possible to do on current cyclical desilting budget.
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	13	Might be possible to do on current cyclical desilting budget.
Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond	14	Might be possible to do on current cyclical desilting budget.
Highgate Men's Bathing Pond	15	Capital bid.

Table 2: Approximate priority desilting order

115. It should be noted that this will may not be a cyclical order due to the size of the pond and thus the speed at which it infills.

8.4 Angling – Closed season

116. The table below sets out the recommendations for the Angling closed season.

Angling – Closed season		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.4.1	This proposal is outlined above (section 5.3.6) and has been considered in line with priorities in the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028.	AWP

	It is recommended that the current closed season remains in place to assist with priorities 1 and 3 of the Management Strategy.	
8.4.2	However further proposals and discussions will be welcomed with the HAHAS in order to facilitate angling for school or other groups in the form of lessons which may assist with priorities 4 and 5 of the Management Strategy. This could be considered inside the current closed season if this could encourage new participants. As a supervised and targeted event on a selected pond this may reduce some of the environmental issues concerned.	CMP

8.5 Angling Provision Recommendations

117. The table below sets out the recommendations for the Angling provision.

Angling Provision Recommendations		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.5.1	Continue to liaise with the HAHAS to promote good angling conduct and seek to improve the resource allocated towards anglers.	AWP
8.5.2	Encourage compliance with local angling regulations and night fishing is allowed by permit only.	AWP
8.5.3	It is recommended that float only angling is allowed on the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond north bank which should reduce the risks associated with a conflict of use, and that this is restricted to teaching sessions organised by the HAHAS and controlled via an annual license.	AWP
8.5.4	Consideration should be given to float only angling on the south bank also during the summer bathing season June-September when the bathing limit line is nearer the bank. The distance between the limit line on the north and south banks are similar in places and casting over or onto the line would be an obvious hazard for bathers.	AWP
8.5.5	Fish stocks surveys will be continued on a 10-yearly basis. However, it is recommended that on selected angling ponds a secondary survey is undertaken in the same year to assess the initial survey accuracy.	
8.5.6	It is recommended that discussions are undertaken with the HAHAS to encourage the recording of catches which will assist with building a better picture of fish stocks in the pond.	AWP
8.5.7	Fish stocking should only be undertaken with advice from a fisheries management expert and a need identified. Natural succession and breeding are the preferred methods for ensuring that the fish present are the ones best able to cope with the prevalent conditions in a pond.	

	The welfare of any introduced fish as well as the welfare of other wildlife in the water body would be the primary concern.	
8.5.8	It is recommended that funding achieved through the Hampstead Heath permit system should be used directly for angling improvements across Hampstead Heath. This may be in the form of improving fish swims or creation of fish refuges in the ponds to help with any natural predation occurring.	AWP
8.5.9	Encourage Heath permit holders to become members of the HAHAS so that a wider group can be engaged with.	AWP
8.5.10	The creation of fishing pegs specifically for angling. Dog access would not be permitted at these points and where shared usage exists; paths would be rerouted to allow sufficient space for angling. An example of this is at the Model Boating pond where angling improvements should be considered with the addition of an extra angling point, redirection or widening of the paths at these points and the addition of extra planting provision. An example of this provision is shown in the following section Model Boating pond (Appendix 1)	AWP
8.5.11	Continue to improve the opportunities for disabled people to fish on the Hampstead Heath Ponds through access and fishing swim improvements.	AWP

8.6 Management options and issues for individual ponds

118. The options for each pond are set out below.

8.7 Hampstead No. 1 Pond

119. The table below sets out recommendations for the Hampstead No.1 Pond.

Hampstead No 1 Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.7.1	It is recommended that this pond becomes a dog free pond and further enhanced for biodiversity.	AWP
8.7.2	The creation of further emergent planting areas or islands should be investigated inline with further investigation into the re-use of sediment. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	CWP
8.7.3	Liaise with private landowners adjoining the pond to seek collaboration for any future biodiversity enhancement schemes.	AWP

8.8 Hampstead No. 2 Pond

120. The table below sets out recommendations for the Hampstead No.2 Pond.

Hampstead No 2		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.8.1	It is recommended that dog access on this pond is refined and restricted to a single designated swimming area to the north-west.	AWP
8.8.2	Investigate the potential for the re-use of sediment to create planting bays or islands. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	CWP
8.8.3	It is recommended that the main dog swim area to the North-west is enhanced and the entry point landscaped to reduce the erosion in the area.	AWP
8.8.4	Investigate the feasibility of extending the planting area around the outfall to disguise this area further.	AWP
8.8.5	Investigate the feasibility of the use of Phoslock on this pond to reduce the nutrient levels and therefore the reduction of Blue-green and filamentous algae blooms and other aquatic plants such as duckweed.	AWP

8.9 Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond

121. The table below sets out recommendations for the Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond.

Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.9.1	Continue with the Capital Project for the bathing ponds and Lido to review the existing buildings and facilities as well as make access improvements	CWP
8.9.2	To make vegetation enhancements around the pond to reduce access for swimmers entering from non-designated areas of the pond.	AWP
8.9.3	Investigate the potential for the re-use of sediment to create planting bays or islands. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	CWP

8.10 Viaduct Pond

122. The table below sets out recommendations for the Viaduct Pond.

Viaduct Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.10.1	It is recommended that dog access on this pond is refined and restricted to a single designated swimming area to the south-east. Access at this point should be improved to reduce the erosion occurring in this area. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	AWP
8.10.2	Consideration should also be given into making the pond a dog free pond due to the conservation value of its invertebrate population	AWP
8.10.3	Continue to make biodiversity enhancements to the area surrounding the pond and maintain limited access to this area as part of a larger 'Middle Bird Sanctuary'	AWP

8.11 Vale of Health Pond

123. The table below sets out recommendations for the Vale of Health Pond.

Vale of Health Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.11.1	It is recommended that dog access on this pond is refined and restricted to the single designated swimming area to the south-east. Access at this point should be improved to reduce the erosion occurring in this area. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	AWP
8.11.2	Continue to liaise with private landowners and residents' groups adjoining the pond.	AWP
8.11.3	Review the potential for an additional fishing swim to the east of the pond.	AWP

8.12 Highgate No 1 Pond

124. The table below sets out recommendations for Highgate No.1 Pond.

Highgate No 1 Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.12.1	It is recommended that dog access on this pond is refined and restricted to the two main designated swimming area to the south-east and south. Access at these points should be improved to reduce the erosion occurring in this area.	AWP
8.12.2	Investigate the potential for the re-use of sediment to create planting bays or islands. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	CWP
8.12.3	Continue to review dog access to this pond as despite being one of the most popular ponds for dog swimming the pond currently has a breeding swan pair and the swans on this pond have previously been injured by dogs.	AWP
8.12.4	It is recommended that public disturbance on this pond be kept to a minimum with many of the overwintering wildfowl on this pond only occurring here due to the size of the pond and the distance they are away from the public and dogs. This can be achieved through vegetation management and keeping the current restricted access to the eastern dam face of the pond.	AWP
8.12.5	Continue to liaise with private landowners and residents' groups adjoining the pond in respect of any mutually beneficial biodiversity enhancements that could be made.	AWP

8.13 Highgate Men's Bathing Pond

125. The table below sets out recommendations for Highgate Men's Bathing Pond.

Highgate Men's Bathing Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.13.1	See recommendations 5.3 and 5.4 above for float only angling at the pond.	AWP
8.13.2	Continue with the Capital Project for the bathing ponds and Lido to review the existing buildings and facilities as well as make access improvements	CWP

8.14 Model Boating Pond

126. The table below sets out recommendations for

Model Boating Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.14.1	It is recommended to maintain the Boating pond 'island' as a sanctuary with no public access	AWP
8.14.2	It is recommended that dog access on this pond is refined and restricted to a single designated swimming area to the north-west. Access at this point should be improved to reduce the erosion occurring in this area. An example map is shown in Appendix 1	AWP
8.14.3	To investigate the feasibility of the addition of planting shelves along the east bank, improving the fishing swims here and re-routing the path to accommodate both pedestrians and anglers. This could reduce the unauthorised swimming, improve biodiversity and improve the area for angling. Taking into account access for model boating, angling and the visual aspect of any planting.	AWP

8.15 Bird Sanctuary

127. The table below sets out recommendations for

Bird Sanctuary		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.15.1	It is recommended that this pond remains as a sanctuary area and remain one of the best ecological areas on the Heath, although this also encompasses the land areas.	CMP
8.15.2	The creation of pools and scrapes to the east and west should continue. These will act as a sediment trap and filter bed for the pond itself.	CMP
8.15.3	In the short term the further sedimentation and increase in reedbed areas to the west will be encouraged.	CMP

8.16 Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond

128. The table below sets out recommendations for the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond.

Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.16.1	Continue to work with the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association and lifeguards to address privacy issues along the western bank.	AWP
8.16.2	Continue with the Capital Project for the bathing ponds and Lido to review the existing buildings and facilities as well as make access improvements.	CWP
8.16.3	The creation of pools, scrapes and weirs to the north of the pond as well as along the incoming streamline should continue. These will act as a sediment trap and filter bed for the pond itself.	

8.17 Stock Pond

129. The table below sets out recommendations for Stock Pond.

Stock Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.17.1	To allow the reedbed to the north to expand further and manage the pond as a wildlife pond.	AWP

8.18 Leg of Mutton Pond

130. The table below sets out recommendations for Leg of Mutton Pond.

Leg of Mutton Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.18.1	To allow the expansion of the reedbed area to the east to further increase the ecological value of the pond.	AWP
8.18.2	It is recommended that the pond maintains its restricted public access	AWP

8.19 Water Garden

131. The table below sets out recommendations for the Water Garden Pond.

Water Garden		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.19.1	It is recommended that this pond is desilted as scheduled in 2020/21	CWP
8.19.2	The population of Crucian carp present in the pond should be monitored and protected. Funding streams should be investigated which could provide opportunities for biodiversity improvements to the pond and its fish.	AWP

8.20 Swan

132. The table below sets out recommendations for the Swan Pond.

Swan Pond		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.20.1	It is recommended that this pond is desilted as scheduled in 2020/21	CWP
8.20.2	It has been recommended that biodiversity enhancements in the form of emergent wetland vegetation be incorporated into the proposed desilting scheme.	CWP

8.21 Heath Extension Ponds

133. The table below sets out recommendations for the Heath Extension Ponds.

Heath Extension Ponds		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.21.1	It is recommended that the lower of the pond chain (Extension No.7) is a priority for desilting for the next cyclical desilting budget.	CWP

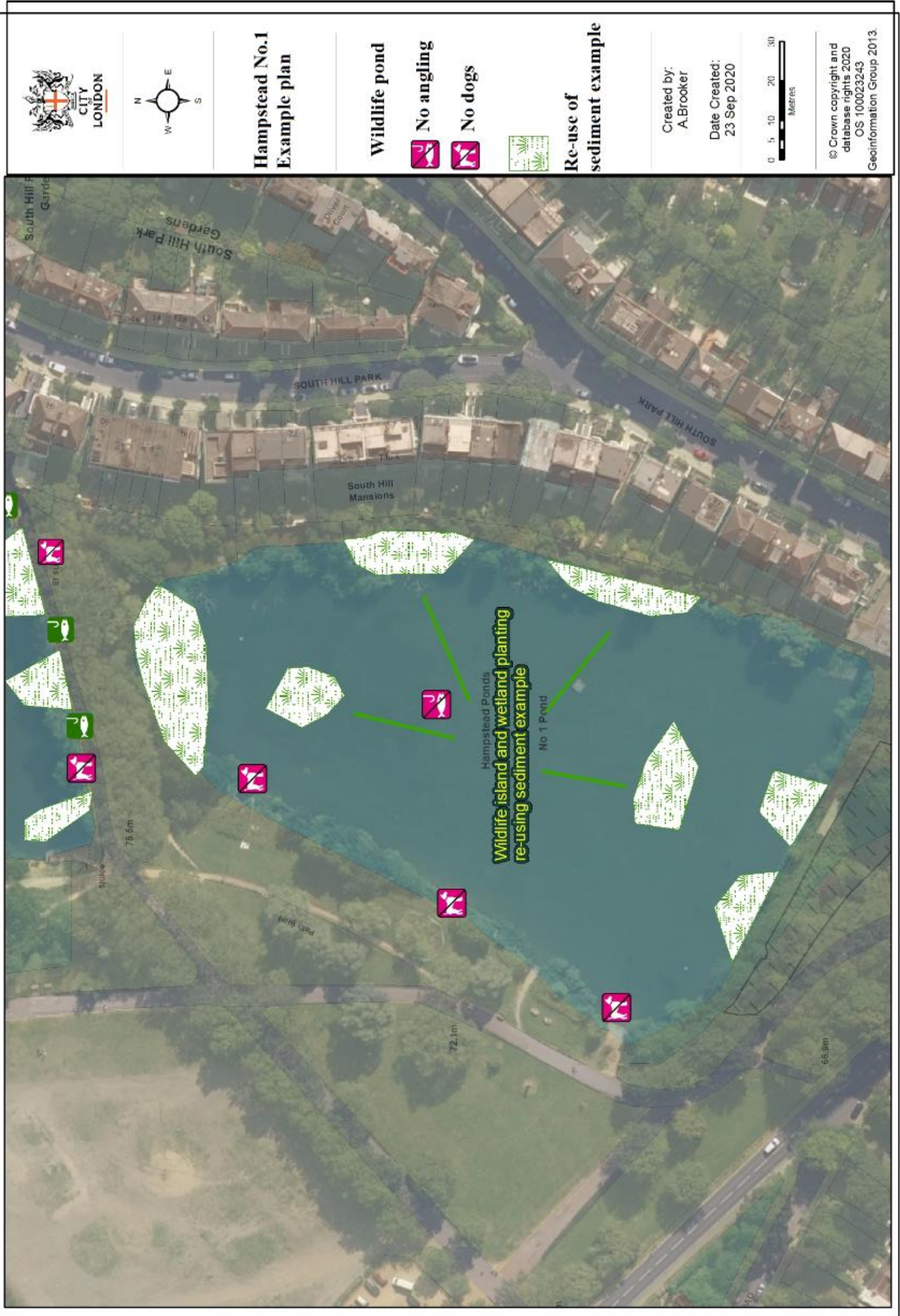
8.22 Sandy Heath

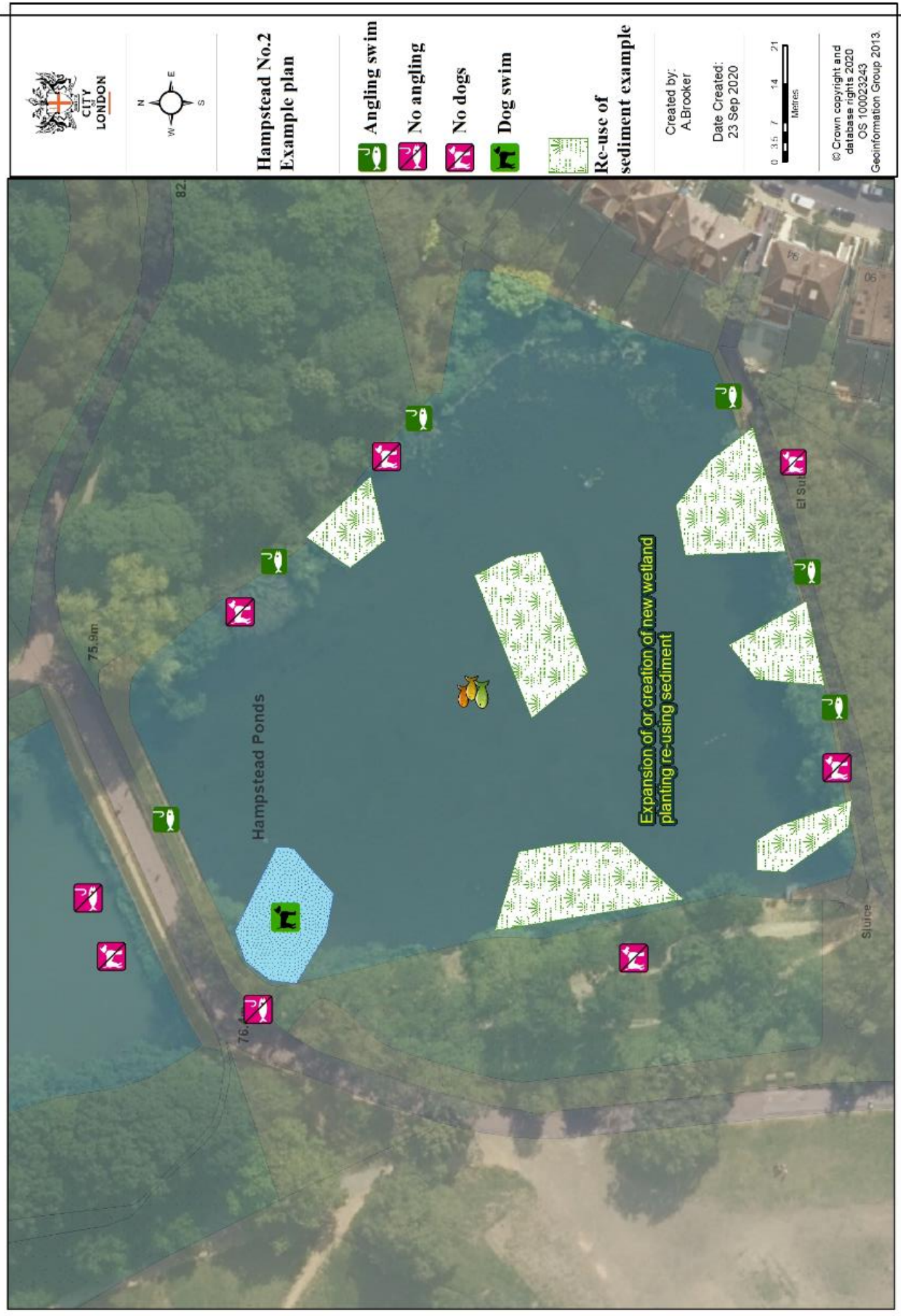
134. The table below sets out recommendations for Sandy Heath Ponds.

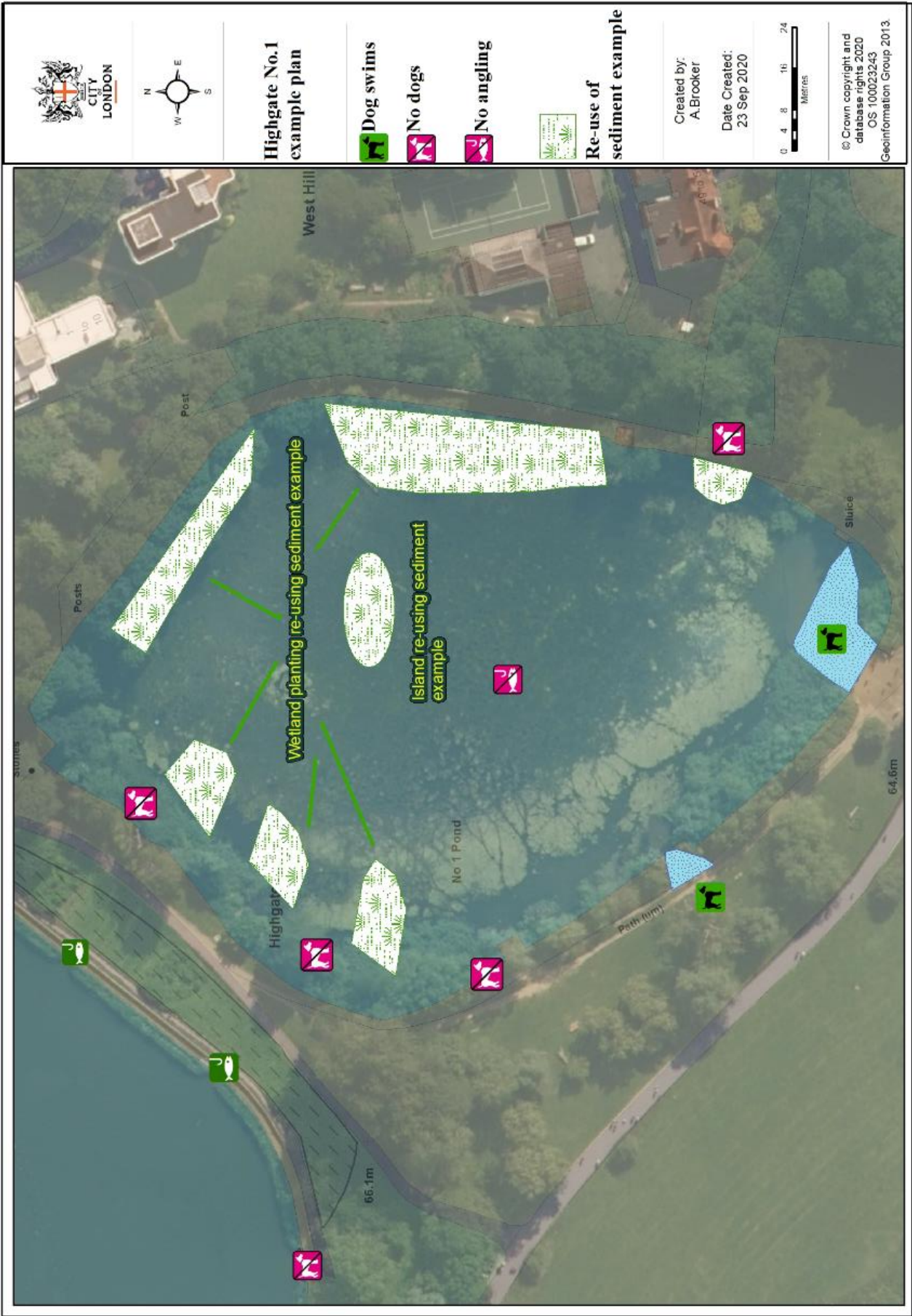
Sandy Heath		
No	Recommendation	Link to the Management Framework
8.22.1	It is recommended that a reduction in silt and selected vegetation is made in order to keep the ponds as ecological ponds with good conservation value, particularly in terms of their amphibian populations. The ponds have for the last 2 years begun to dry out completely during the summer period.	AWP

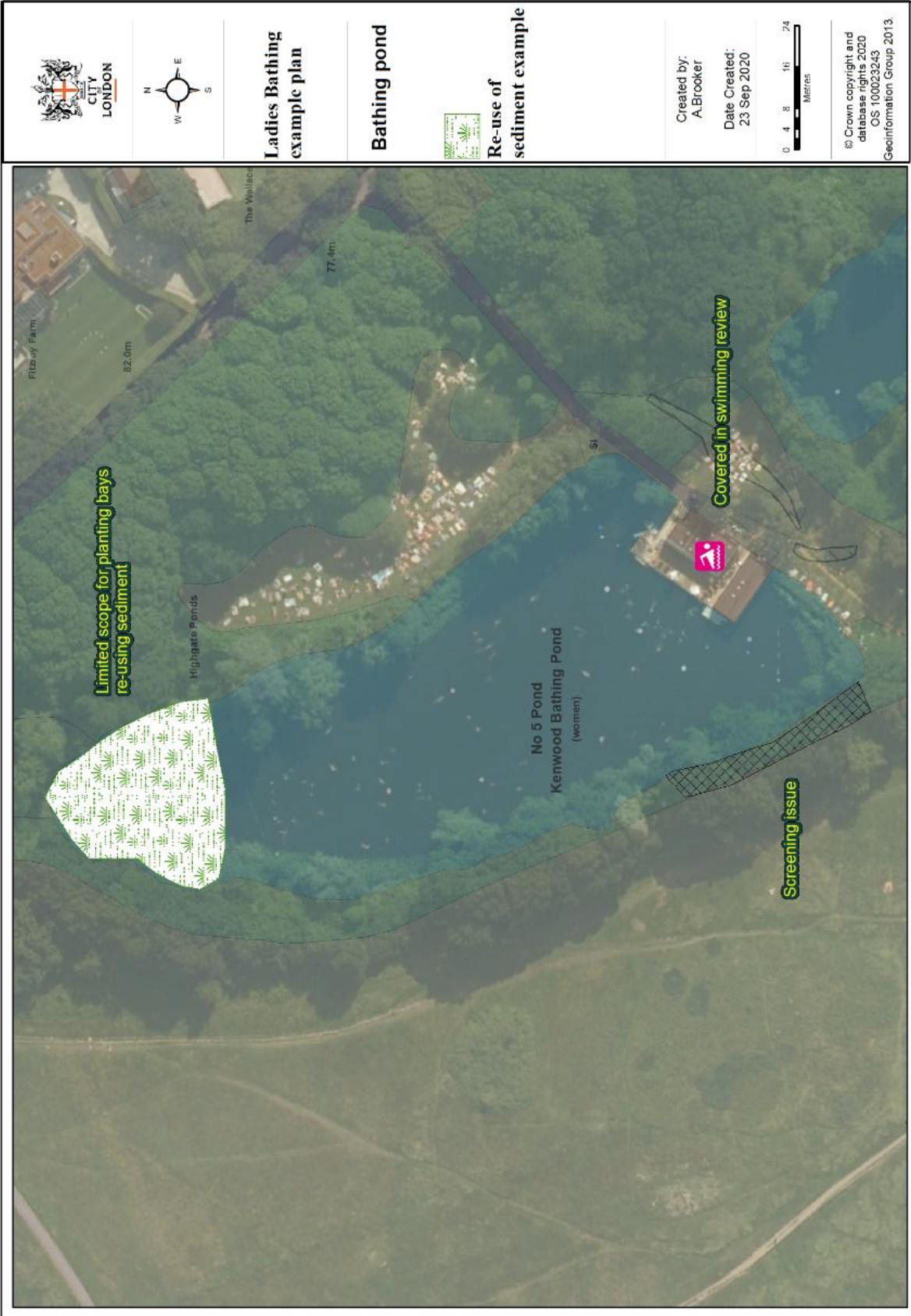
9. Appendices

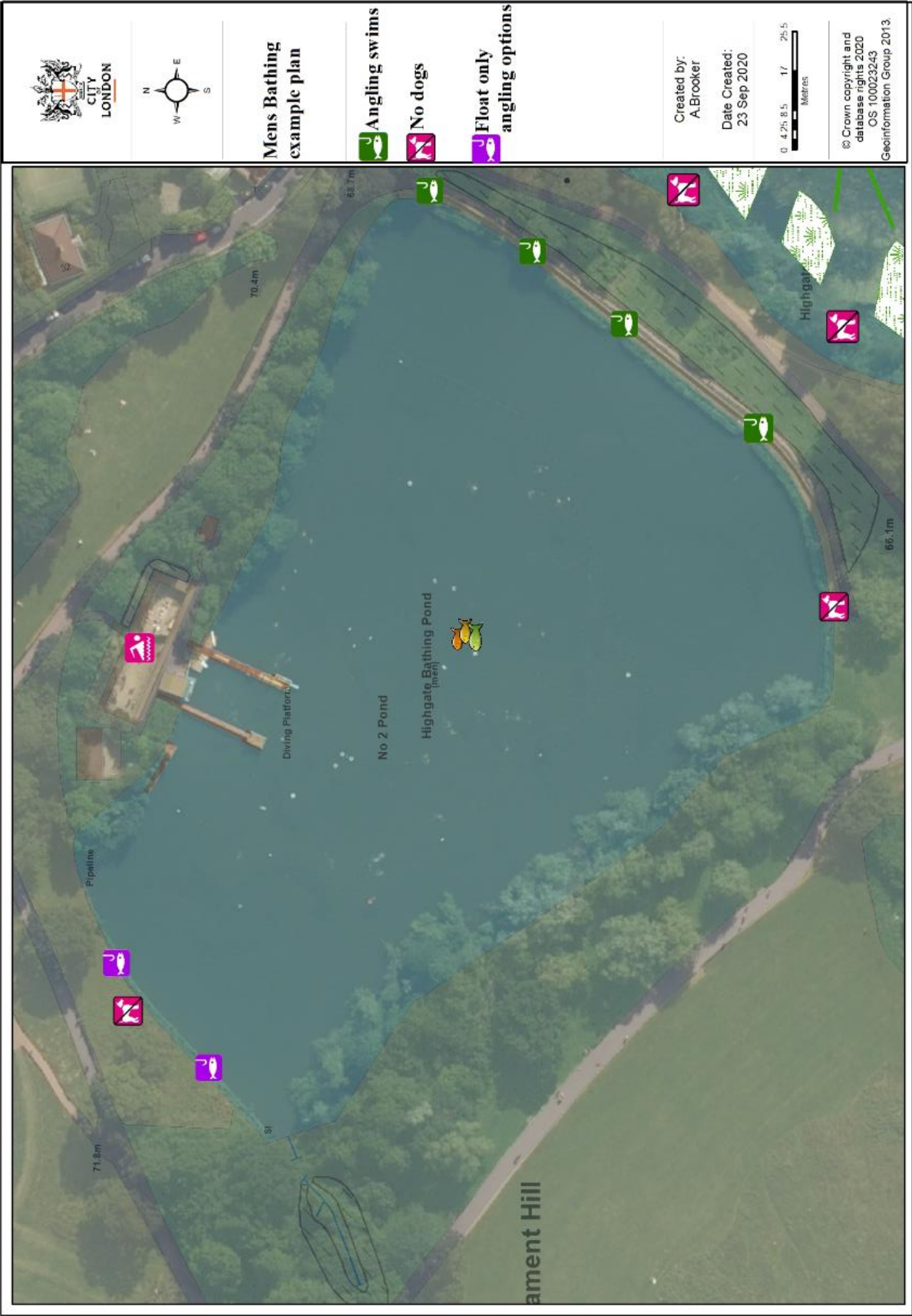
Appendix 1: Individual ponds example plans (please see overleaf).

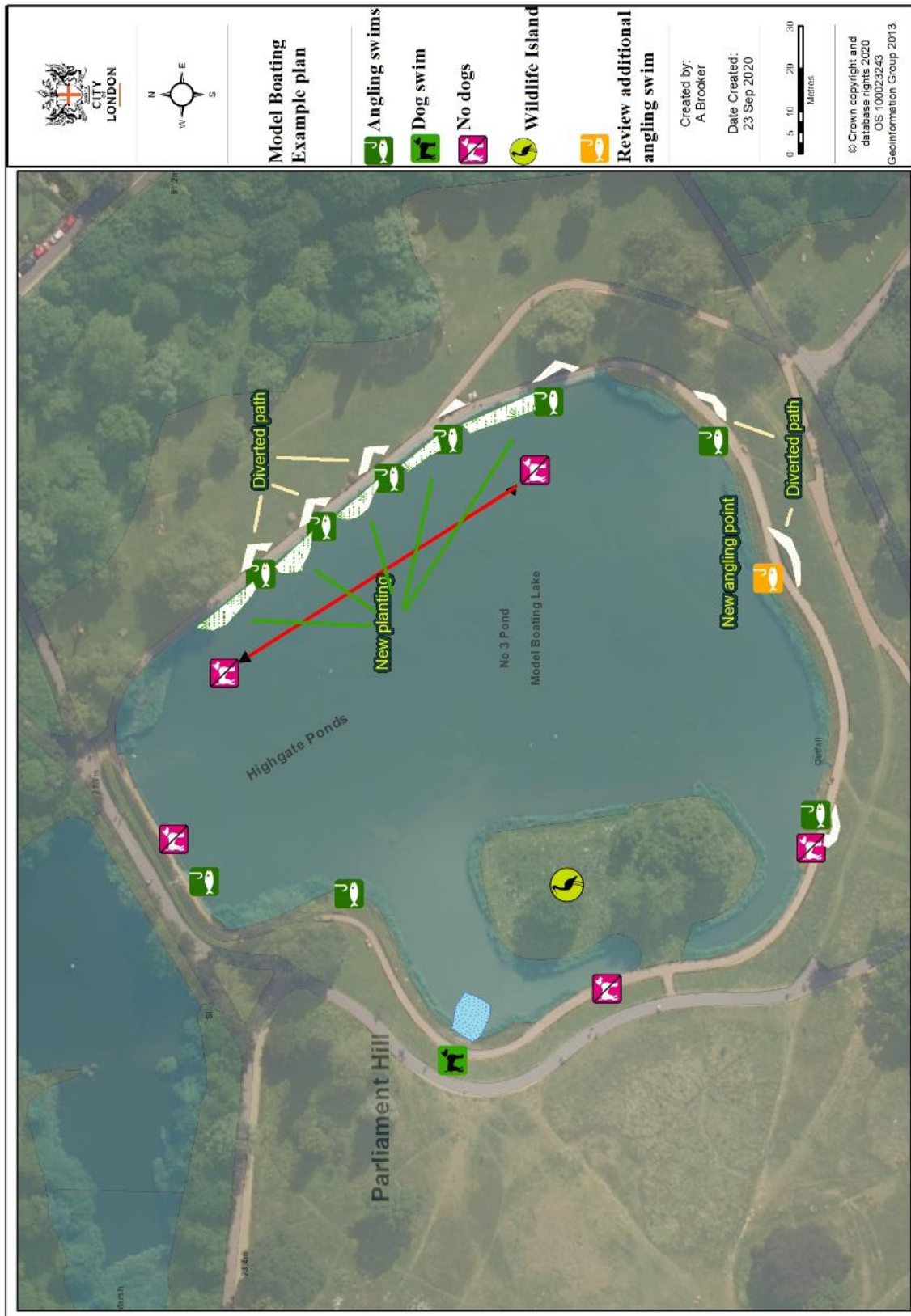


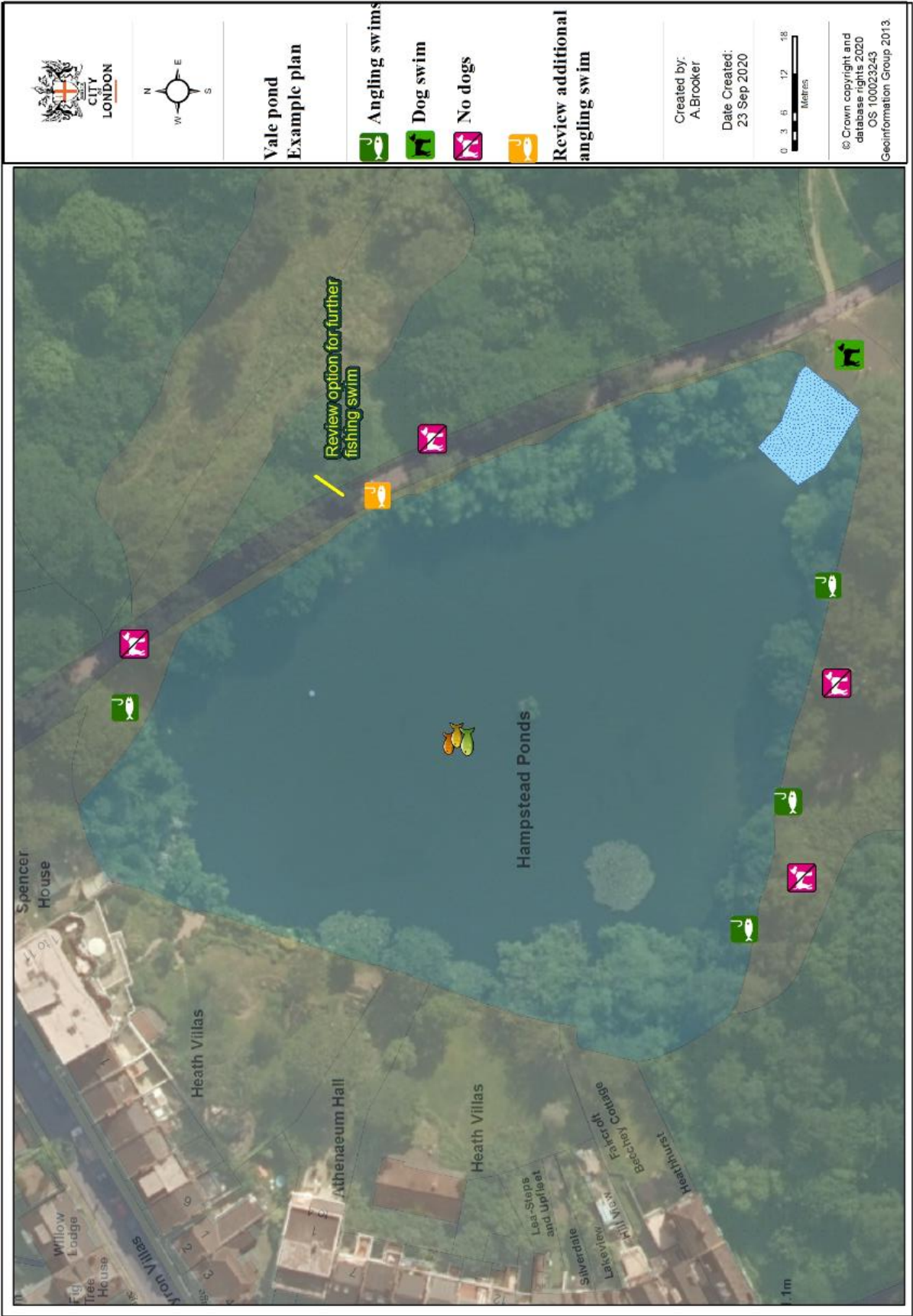


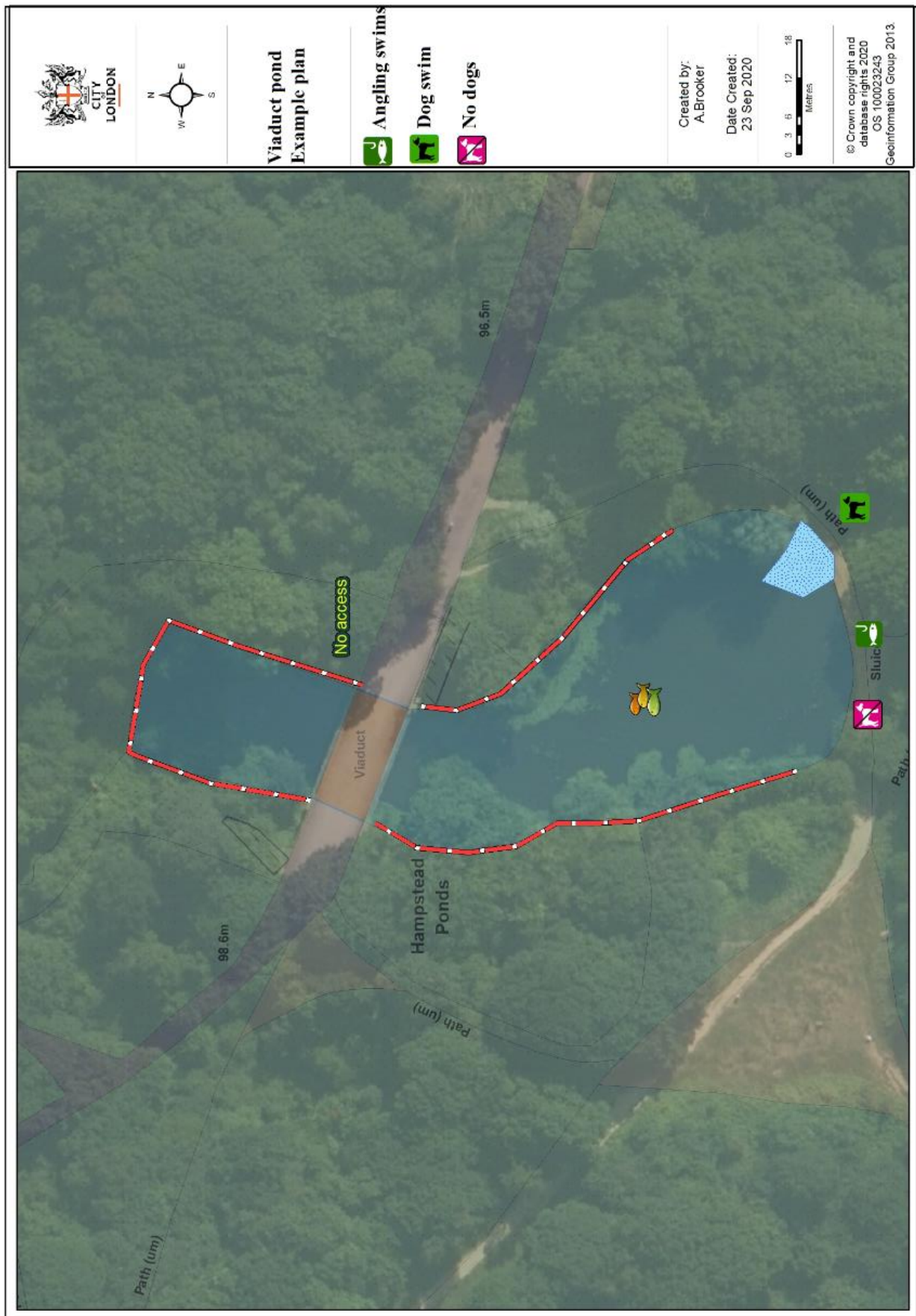












Appendix 2: Hampstead Heath ponds, pools and scrapes

The below table shows the breadth of ponds to be found on Hampstead Heath, the sizes of which are largely subjective and the type not exhaustive of other uses.

Pond	Size	Type
Hampstead No.1	Large	Wildlife
Hampstead No.2	Large	Wildlife/Angling
Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond	Large	Wildlife/Bathing
Catchpit	Small	Wildlife/functional
Viaduct	Large	Wildlife/Angling
Vale	Large	Wildlife/Angling
Highgate No.1	Large	Wildlife
Highgate Men's Bathing Pond	Large	Wildlife/Angling/Bathing
Boating	Large	Wildlife/Angling/Model boats
Bird Sanctuary	Large	Wildlife
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	Large	Wildlife/Bathing
Stock	Large	Wildlife
Extension 1	Medium	Wildlife
Extension 2	Medium	Wildlife
Extension 3	Small	Wildlife
Extension 4	Medium	Wildlife
Extension 5	Small	Wildlife
Extension 6	Medium	Wildlife
Extension 7	Medium	Wildlife
Small Extension	Small	Wildlife
Sandy Heath No.1	Small	Wildlife
Sandy Heath No.2	Medium	Wildlife
Sandy Heath No.3	Small	Wildlife
Sandy Heath No.4	Medium	Wildlife
Cohens Field No.1	Small	Wildlife
Cohens Field No.2	Small	Wildlife
Athlone Gardens	Small	Wildlife/Ornamental
Tumulus Field	Small	Wildlife
Orchard pond	Small	Wildlife
Old Orchard Garden	Small	Wildlife + Education
Secret Garden	Small	Wildlife + Education
Education Centre	Small	Wildlife + Education
West Heath bog	Small	Wildlife
Swan Pond	Large	Wildlife
Lily	Medium	Wildlife/Landscape

Water Garden	Medium	Wildlife/Landscape
Leg of Mutton	Large	Wildlife
Hill Garden	Small	Wildlife/Landscape
Whitestone Pond	Medium	Wildlife/Landscape
English Heritage		
Concert	Large	Wildlife/Landscape
Thousand Pound	Large	Wildlife/Landscape
Other pools/emphemeral ponds		
Bog pools	Small	Wildlife
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond North Marsh pools x 2-3	Small	Wildlife
Upper Bird Sanctuary	Small	Wildlife

Table 3: Hampstead Heath ponds, pools and scrapes

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 19/10/2020
Subject: 2020 Summer Swimming Season	Public
Report of: Open Spaces Department	For Discussion
Report author: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	

Summary

This report provides an update on the 2020 summer swimming season at Hampstead Heath which was impacted by COVID-19. A full review of the 2020 Summer Swimming Season will be presented to Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee in November 2020.

An update on the commencement of the Winter Swimming Season is also include within the report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the Summer Swimming Season.

Main Report

Background

1. Following Government Guidance, online booking and timed swimming sessions at the Bathing Ponds and Lido were introduced on a temporary basis for the 2020 Summer Swimming Season. Parallel phone booking arrangements were also in place. The Summer Swimming Season ended on 20 September 2020. Thousands of swimmers were able to visit the Bathing Ponds and Lido from 18 July until the end of the season on 20 September.

Current Position

2. The Winter Swimming Season commenced on 21 September 2020. The operational arrangements for the Winter Swimming Season are outlined in appendix 1.

2020 Summer Swimming Season Review

Participation

3. The table below sets out the level of participation between 18 July 2020 and the 20 September 2020.

Location	Tickets Sold*	Adults	Concession	Children	Carer**
KLBP	29,452	19,774	9,537	-	141
HMBP	27,209	17,954	9,238	-	17
HMP	20,000	13,975	6,021	-	4
Lido –Lane Swimming	31,735	23,402	8,314	-	19
Lido – Family	16,380	7,002	1,509	7,821	48
TOTAL	124,776***	82,107	34,619	7,821	229

* not including any tickets eventually refunded/cancelled.

**Carers have free access.

*** in 2018/19 it is estimated that there were over 655,000 swims at the Bathing Ponds.

4. Across all the sessions the average no show rate was 21.7%. These are defined as being tickets which swimmers neither cancelled nor used.
5. A number of swimmers chose to book their session by using the telephone booking line. The number of session tickets booked for each facility is shown in the table below.

Location	Number of session tickets booked via the telephone service
KLBP	604
HMBP	139
HMP	87
Lido – Lane Swimming	89
Lido – Family	275
TOTAL	1,194

Income and Expenditure

6. The table below sets out the income and expenditure at the Bathing Ponds and Lido for the period of April - August 2020.

Bathing Ponds and Lido	
Employee Costs	£452,000
Operational Expenditure	£108,000
Total Expenditure	£560,000
Income*	£162,000
Subsidy from the Heath Local Risk Budget	£398,000

*Income is for the period 18 July to 31 August 2020. Online booking fees and VAT have been deducted

Survey Results

7. An online summer swimming survey was released on 1 September to seek swimmers' feedback on their experiences over the summer, taking account of the adaptations that were necessary to comply with Government Guidance and to maintain social distancing. The survey was publicised in an e-newsletter and sent to nearly 11,000 people who had used the Eventbrite booking system, and using the Heath's social media feeds – Twitter and Facebook. The survey closed on Friday 11 September and received 1,108 responses.
8. The natural surroundings of the Bathing Ponds (79%), the benefits to physical health (84%) and the benefits to mental health (93%) as a result of swimming outdoors all came through as common reasons people swim at Hampstead Heath. There were a mixture of feelings about the COVID-19 secure measures, including the advance booking system. Over 80 per cent of survey respondents gave the COVID-19 safety measures a score of between seven and 10, with 10 ranked as 'excellent', while almost 60 per cent rated the online booking system between seven and 10. Some Swimmers commented that the measures were too restrictive and removed the spontaneity of being able to swim without an advance plan. Many responders commented that online booking resulted in a calmer atmosphere, in comparison to a busy summers day at the Bathing Ponds and Lido and felt it was a safe environment to swim in during the pandemic.
9. The results of the Survey are attached at appendix 2.

Operational Issues

10. No issues arose from queue management, or swimmers not complying with Social Distancing measures. The capacities at the Bathing Ponds were increased gradually as the Lifeguards and Stewards gained more experience with the operational arrangements.
11. In order to prevent unauthorised access and damage at the Bathing Ponds in the evenings, contract Security Guards undertook overnight patrols.
12. Additional signage and patrols were implemented to provide advice to people swimming in the other Heath Ponds.
13. A small number of swimming sessions were affected by extreme weather.
14. On Thursday 17 September 2020 a surcharge of the Thames Water Sewer required the immediate closure of the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. Daily water quality testing was implemented, and the results are published on the City of London Corporation website.

2020/21 Winter Swimming Season

15. The Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond reopened for the Winter Season on Saturday 26 September.
16. Water quality testing at the Bathing Ponds is undertaken by the Environment Agency, and this usually consists of weekly tests between May and September. Due to COVID-19 the Environment Agency have moved to monthly testing for Inland Bathing Waters with Good/Excellent water quality results.
17. The City of London Corporation has undertaken independent water quality testing in February, before the Bathing Ponds closed. The City Corporation also undertook independent testing ahead of re-opening the Bathing Ponds, with tests being undertaken on 24 June, 1 July and 16 July. Since the sewerage surcharge at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond daily water quality testing has taken place. The results are published on the City of London website. This will revert to weekly testing in due course.
18. A further closure of the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond was necessary on Sunday 6 October 2020 owing to a deterioration in water quality. This is most likely linked to torrential rain since the 2 October. At the time of publishing, the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond remained closed.
19. In line with the outcomes from the Swimming Review the season tickets have now be reactivated and are being issued to all season ticket holders in the form of a plastic wristband. Each wristband has a unique number encoded into it, and this number is linked to an individual's account. The wristband will only track the date and time at which it is tapped against the device at the entrances to the Bathing Ponds and Parliament Hill Fields Lido.
20. The City Corporation is working with LoyLap as a Service Partner to manage the Wristband Season Ticket Holder accounts. LoyLap do not share personal or contact information with 3rd parties and expressly do not use personal information for marketing purposes.
21. Season ticket holders receive an email from LoyLap inviting them to create an account and set a password. This is optional and if swimmers choose not to set up their account, they will still be able to use their wristband Season Ticket to swim. If a swimmer chooses to set up an account, they will soon be able to:
 - Manage, link and remove a wristband season ticket through the Heath App (available on iOS and Android devices).
 - Renew season tickets.
 - Get weather warnings and announcements for the Bathing Ponds and Lido.

22. In addition to the wristband season tickets day tickets can now be purchased at the Bathing Ponds and the Lido using contactless devices and cash payment options have been maintained.
23. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting on the progress being made to implement the outcomes of the 2020 Swimming Review.

Next Steps

24. Officers will prepare draft arrangements for the 2021 Summer Swimming Season which will be discussed in Spring 2021.
25. Undertake a full review of the 2020/21 Swimming Season.

Conclusion

26. It was a difficult start to the 2020 Summer Season, with uncertainty around being able to open and welcome swimmers. However, the Team were delighted that once Government Guidance was received, they were able to quickly put in place COVID Secure arrangements which allowed the Bathing Ponds and Lido to reopen. There has been a huge demand for swimming, and through the session arrangements we have facilitated thousands of swimmers to access the Bathing Ponds and Lido in a safe, enjoyable way. Staff worked incredibly hard to ensure the Bathing Ponds and Lido were enjoyed during this challenging period.
27. A review of the 2020 Summer Swimming Season will be presented to Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee in November 2020. A full review of the 2020/21 Swimming Season will be undertaken during summer 2021.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Winter Swimming Season arrangements
- Appendix 2 – Survey results

Bob Warnock

Superintendent, Hampstead Heath.

T: 020 7332 3322

E: bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Appendix 1 - Winter Swimming 2020-2021 arrangements

Following discussion with the Swimming Associations on 25 August 2020, the following arrangements are being progressed for the winter swimming season on Hampstead Heath.

The Hampstead Heath winter swimming season will commence on Monday 21 September 2021 and end on 30 April 2021.

HAMPSTEAD MIXED POND

The Mixed Pond will close following the last swimming session on Sunday 25 October 2020. This follows a request from the Winter Swimming Club to delay the commencement of their License. This date and the arrangements will be kept under review.

Subject to agreeing terms with the Winter Swimming Club a license will be issued to commence on 28 October 2020 until 27 April 2021. The License will require updating to ensure Government Guidance in relation to COVID-19 is incorporated.

Managing Facility Loading (prior to agreeing a License with the Winter Swimming Club)

The Mixed Bathing Pond will continue to operate with a facility loading of 40 swimmers. The Stewards will allow access for the first 40 swimmers and then allow access on a one out one in basis. These arrangements will be kept under review.

Season Tickets

Season tickets will be reissued ahead of the Winter Season and the period of time the tickets have been frozen will be added to each ticket. Swimmers will be able to use their Season Tickets from Monday 21 September 2020 and will be required to tap in upon entry at the facilities to record their attendance to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Payment

Swimmers without a season ticket will be required to make a contactless payment upon entering the facility and may be accompanied by a Carer. To comply with NHS Test and Trace requirements the name and contact number of Swimmers will be collected by the Steward. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Cash payments for day tickets will be accepted and should be deposited in the collection posts provided. No change will be provided. The Stewards will continue to greet swimmers on arrival at the Mixed Bathing Pond to maintain the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements.

Opening hours

Period from	open	vacate water	vacate facility
Monday 21 September 2020	07.00	16.30	16.45

With prior notice, this facility will be closed to facilitate staff training, facility maintenance and additional cleaning.

Free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's

The free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's between 07.00-09.30 will be introduced at the Mixed Bathing Pond. Swimmers eligible for a free morning swim will need to register for a complementary Morning Swim Season Ticket and tap in on entry to the facility to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements.

Age restrictions

Children aged 8 and above, who are competent swimmers, will be permitted to swim when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Changing Compounds

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the changing facilities at the Mixed Bathing Pond.

Showers

One cold shower will be available outside the changing compounds.

Toilets

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the toilets. Cleaning will be undertaken throughout the day.

KENWOOD LADIES' BATHING POND

Managing Facility Loading

The Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond will continue to operate with a facility loading of 60 swimmers. The Stewards will allow access for the first 60 swimmers and then allow access on a one out one in basis. These arrangements will be kept under review.

Swimmers and non-swimmers will also be able to use the meadow but the facility carrying capacity of 60 will be maintained. The Stewards will assist Ladies' requiring access to the meadow.

Season Tickets

Season tickets will be reissued ahead of the Winter Season and the period of time the tickets have been frozen will be added to each ticket. Swimmers will be able to use their Season Tickets from Monday 21

September 2020 and will be required to tap in upon entry at the facilities to record their attendance to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Payment

Swimmers without a season ticket will be required to make a contactless payment upon entering the facility and may be accompanied by a Carer. To comply with NHS Test and Trace requirements the name and contact number of Swimmers will be collected by the Steward. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Cash payments for day tickets will be accepted and should be deposited in the collection posts provided. No change will be provided. The Stewards will continue to greet swimmers on arrival at the Ladies' Bathing Pond to maintain the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements.

Opening hours

Period from	open	vacate water	vacate facility
Monday 21 September 2020	07.00	16.30	16.45
Sunday 25 October 2020	07.00	14.15	14.30
Sunday 29 November 2020	07.30	14.45	15.00
Sunday 24 January 2021	07.00	14.15	14.30
Sunday 21 March 2021	07.00	16.30	16.45
Sunday 11 April 2021	07.00	18.30	18.45

With prior notice, this facility will be closed to facilitate staff training, facility maintenance and additional cleaning.

Free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's

The free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's between 07.00-09.30 will be introduced at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. Swimmers eligible for a free morning swim will need to register for a complementary Morning Swim Season Ticket and tap in on entry to the facility to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements.

Age restrictions

Once the water temperature reaches 12 degrees and the swimming area is reduced, children aged 8 and above, who are competent swimmers, will be permitted to swim when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Changing Compounds

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the changing facilities at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond.

Showers

One hot shower will be accessible in the changing room, and one cold shower will be available outside the changing area. Priority will be given towards swimmers requiring access to the accessible shower facility.

Toilets

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the toilets. Cleaning will be undertaken throughout the day.

Back Gate

The back gate will remain closed and swimmers will be asked to enter via the main entrance.

HIGHGATE MEN'S BATHING POND

Managing Facility Loading

The Bathing Pond will continue to operate with a facility loading of 60 swimmers. The Stewards will allow access for the first 60 swimmers and then allow access on a one out one in basis.

Season Tickets

Season tickets will be reissued ahead of the Winter Season and the period of time the tickets have been frozen will be added to each ticket. Swimmers will be able to use their Season Tickets from Monday 21 September 2020 and will be required to tap in upon entry at the facilities to record their attendance to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Payment

Swimmers without a season ticket will be required to make a contactless payment upon entering the facility and may be accompanied by a Carer. To comply with NHS Test and Trace requirements the name and contact number of Swimmers will be collected by the Steward. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Cash payments for day tickets will be accepted and should be deposited in the collection posts provided. No change will be provided. The Stewards will continue to greet swimmers on arrival at the Men's Bathing Pond to maintain the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements.

Opening hours

Period from	open	vacate water	vacate facility
Monday 21 September 2020	07.00	16.30	16.45
Sunday 25 October 2020	07.00	14.15	14.30
Sunday 29 November 2020	07.30	14.45	15.00
Sunday 24 January 2021	07.00	14.15	14.30
Sunday 21 March 2021	07.00	16.30	16.45
Sunday 11 April 2021	07.00	18.30	18.45

With prior notice, this facility will be closed to facilitate staff training, facility maintenance and additional cleaning.

Free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's

The free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's between 07.00-09.30 will be introduced at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond. Swimmers eligible for a free morning swim will need to register for a complementary Morning Swim Season Ticket and tap in on entry to the facility to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements.

Age restrictions

Once the water temperature reaches 12 degrees and the swimming area is reduced, children aged 8 and above, who are competent swimmers, will be permitted to swim when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Changing Compounds

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the changing facilities at the Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds.

Showers

One cold shower will be available.

Toilets

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the toilets. Cleaning will be undertaken throughout the day.

Diving Board

A trial will be conducted to re-install the diving board during the Winter Season. However, if this proves disruptive to the clockwise swimming arrangements the diving board will be taken out of action.

Lifebuoys Hut

Staff will not require use of the building during the Winter Season. Whilst the established one-way system is still required, access for the Lifebuoys to the hut will not be possible. Further discussions with the Lifebuoys will be undertaken to discuss access arrangements once the Government's Guidance changes.

Lifebuoys Christmas Day Swim

The Leisure and Events Manager will commence discussions with the Lifebuoys regarding the Christmas Day swim.

PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS LIDO

Managing Facility Loading

The Lido will continue to operate with a facility loading of 90 swimmers. The Stewards will allow access for the first 90 swimmers and then allow access on a one out one in basis.

Season Tickets

Season tickets will be reissued ahead of the Winter Season and the period of time the tickets have been frozen will be added to each ticket. Swimmers will be able to use their Season Tickets from Monday 21 September 2020 and will be required to tap in upon entry at the facilities to record their attendance to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Payment

Swimmers without a season ticket will be required to make a contactless payment upon entering the facility and may be accompanied by a Carer. To comply with NHS Test and Trace requirements the name and contact number of Swimmers will be collected by the Steward. Signage will be in place at the facility to inform Swimmers that this information is being collected.

Cash payments for day tickets will be accepted at the Lido ticket office. The Stewards will continue to greet swimmers on arrival at the Lido to maintain the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements.

Opening hours

Period from	open	vacate water	vacate facility
Monday 21 September 2020	07.00	13.00	13.30

Free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's

The free morning swim for under 16's and over 60's between 07.00-09.30 will be reinstated at the Lido. Swimmers eligible for a free morning swim will need to register for a complementary Morning Swim Season Ticket and tap in on entry to the facility to comply with the NHS Test and Trace requirements.

Age restrictions

Children aged 8 and above, who are competent swimmers, will be permitted to swim when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Changing Facilities

Retain the current summer season arrangements for access to the changing facilities.

Showers

Two hot water showers will be made available in both the Men's and Ladies' changing area. Alternate showers will be taken out of use to enable social distancing.

Basket Room

The basket room will not be available.

Sauna

The Sauna will remain closed and Sauna Season Ticket sales will be suspended until such time that re-opening the facility is possible with further Government Guidance.

Lido Café

The Lido café will be providing a takeaway service, but no inside seating will be available.

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Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

Hampstead Heath Swimming Questionnaire Results



The summer swimming survey was released on 1 September to seek swimmers' feedback on their experiences over the summer, taking account of the adaptations that were necessary to comply with Government Guidance and to maintain social distancing. The survey closed on Friday 11 September and this report summarises all 1108 responses.

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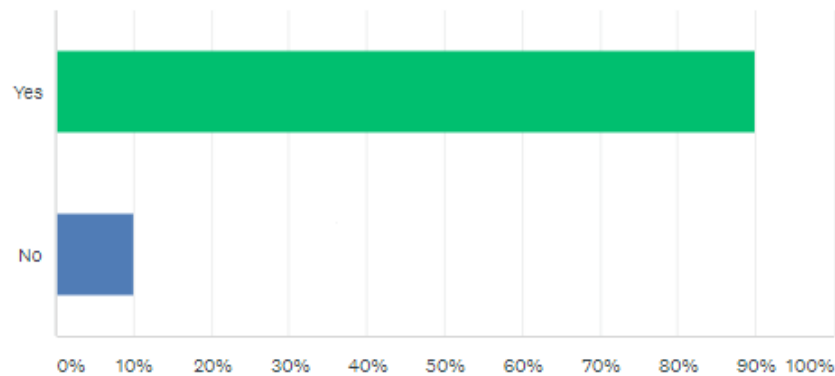
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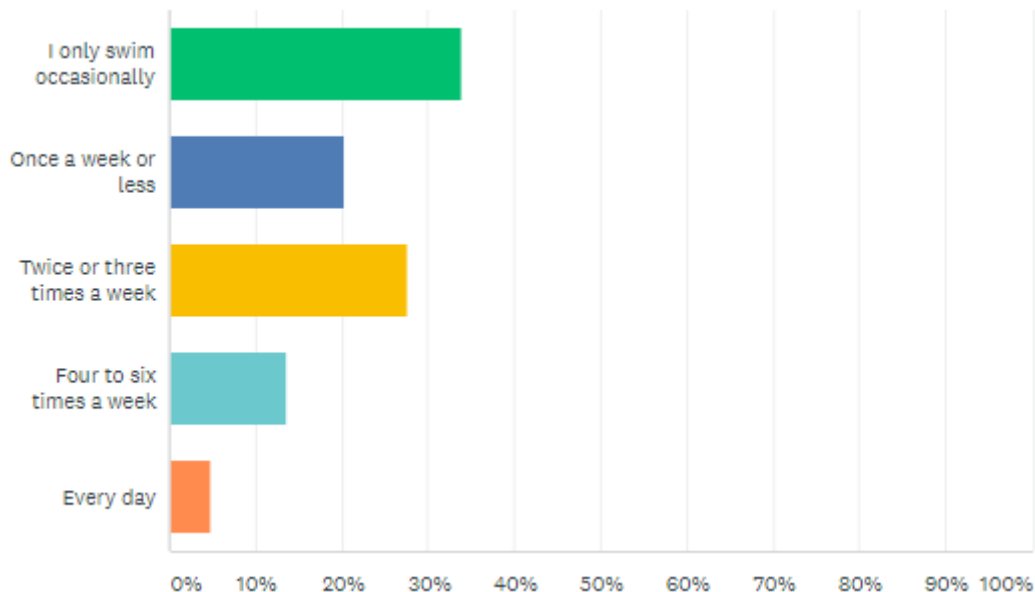
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Q1. Have you swum at the Heath's Bathing Ponds or the Parliament Hill Fields Lido prior to this summer?



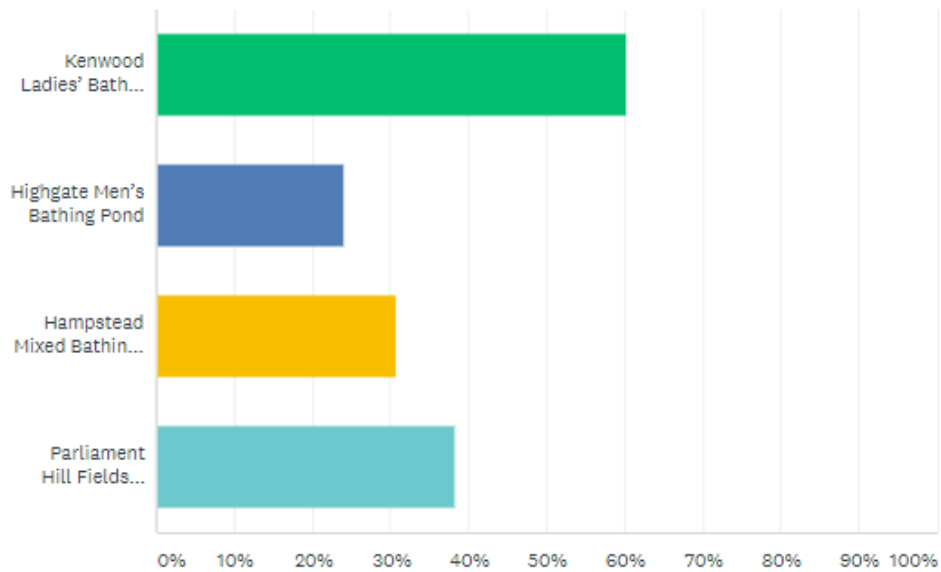
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	89.95%	994
▼ No	10.05%	111
TOTAL		1,105

Q2. Outside of COVID-19 restrictions, how many times did you swim on the Heath?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ I only swim occasionally	33.82%	370
▼ Once a week or less	20.20%	221
▼ Twice or three times a week	27.51%	301
▼ Four to six times a week	13.62%	149
▼ Every day	4.84%	53
TOTAL		1,094

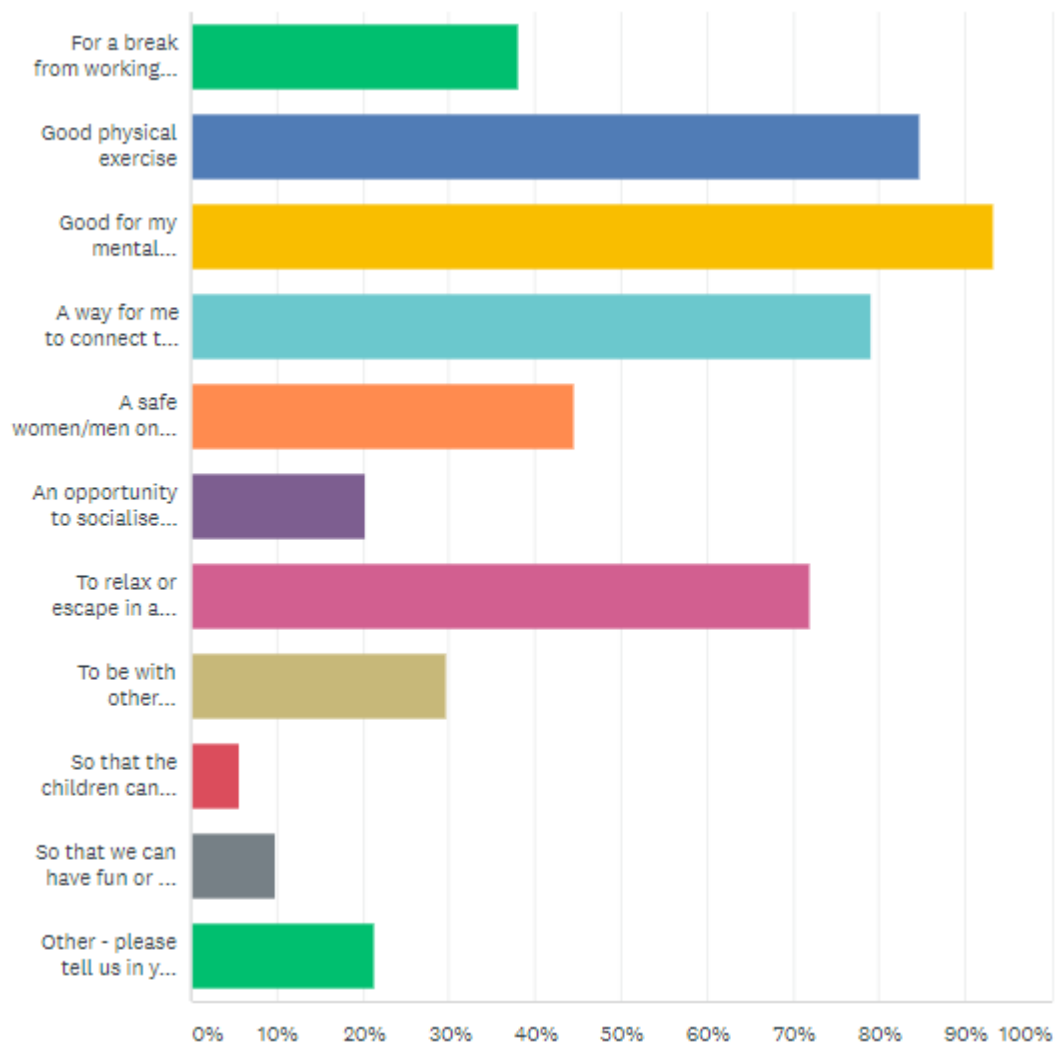
Q3. Which swimming facilities do you use?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond	60.33%	666
▼ Highgate Men's Bathing Pond	24.00%	265
▼ Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond	30.80%	340
▼ Parliament Hill Fields Lido	38.22%	422
Total Respondents: 1,104		

Respondents were asked to tick all boxes which applied to them

Q4. We have listed some reasons below why people might swim outdoors at the Ponds or Lido. Please tell us which apply to you.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ For a break from working from home	38.03%	421
▼ Good physical exercise	84.82%	939
▼ Good for my mental wellbeing	93.41%	1,034
▼ A way for me to connect to nature	79.13%	876
▼ A safe women/men only space to relax in	44.53%	493
▼ An opportunity to socialise in a safe way	20.23%	224
▼ To relax or escape in a pleasant atmosphere	72.00%	797
▼ To be with other like-minded people	29.81%	330
▼ So that the children can have fun, be entertained or kept occupied	5.60%	62
▼ So that we can have fun or be entertained	9.76%	108
▼ Other - please tell us in your own words the reasons you swim outdoors	Responses 21.41%	237
Total Respondents: 1,107		

Word map of 'Other' answers

important experience feel good beautiful places London heat
 swimming Ladies pond away work help improves winter
 natural space peace s well benefits back unique see day
 escape much reasons enjoy came place offers
 swim ponds physical health pool year round
 cold water city go community love chronic lido
 especially ponds facility swimming life water
 always nature started good safe space men pond
 free keep feel exercise women cool London trees
 mental health weather natural challenge
 women s pond hot cold chlorine special find way outside
 swim outdoors even calm summer Also able indoor pool
 wonderful Ladies pond people used body



Q5. What's your favourite thing about the Ponds or Lido?

Below are a selection of answers from respondents from various age, gender and ethnic groups who agreed to their responses being shared:

"A way to escape city life, and let your thoughts drift away! Growing up in and around the sea it's a real lifeline for me in the city, so much so being near the Heath, Lido and Ponds was a top priority when looking for a new property in the area!"

"The peace, tranquility and nature around the [Ladies'] pond. The Lido has a great sense of community and history. It's a privilege to have it so nearby."

"Just being in the open air, and able to appreciate nature while swimming in a more natural environment than an indoor pool"

"[...] in particular, swimming there is good for my health as I have MS and swimming, particularly in cold water, helps me to deal with this condition both physically as well as mentally."

"Having a swim before work and on my days off really relaxes me and has a huge positive impact on my mental health"

"The peace, the feeling of being properly 'outdoors' and away from London; the cold water, the kind atmosphere!"

"I love the women's only space. And the secludedness and privacy of the Ladies' Pond. The ducks and the trees and lying on my back looking at the sky. It's a magical, relaxing and restorative experience to visit and I always feel extraordinarily lucky to be able to swim in such a place. Thank you, City of London, for enriching the lives of so many north Londoners."

"The tranquillity, connection with nature. The timed entry made this possible once again on sunny days - much appreciated"

"I like how secluded it is and the fact it is women only (including trans women, and this inclusiveness is very important to me). I also like how friendly the environment is. Also just the experience of swimming in a non-laned pool which is hard to find in London."

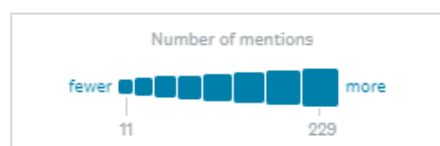
"The community of people and the shiny bottom of the Lido. And that it's open all year, even through the winter. Oh, and the amazing new sauna at the Lido."

"Being in cold water really helps to manage stress. I love the Lido lining, which makes the feel and colour of the water so nice. My kids swim from May to September at the Lido and they love having such a big space to swim in."

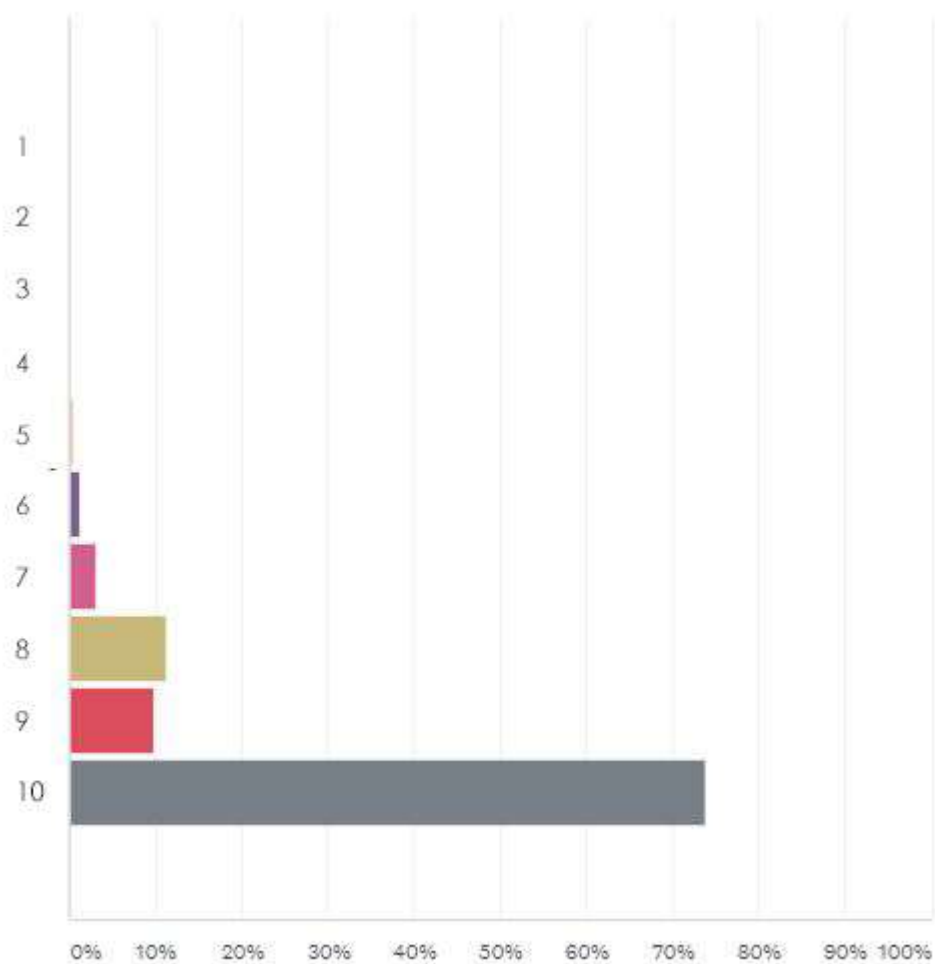
"As someone who grew up in the inner city, the option to try outdoor and winter swimming without needing to rely on support of a parent or income was an invaluable opportunity and improved and changed my life. The ponds have been a rock in my life, helping me through the tough times and have given me so much confidence.[...]"

Word map

quiet well access facility lovely need close nature wildlife cold
 relaxed atmosphere Swimming outside able beautiful peace quiet
 mental health s pond enjoy women space great day open air
 much experience love swimming pool city
 natural environment made community pond feels
 people summer outdoors exercise London amazing s
 accessible relaxed friendly atmosphere environment
 water natural surroundings ladies pond setting lido
 beauty nature able swim swimming time ponds
 fact feeling tranquility space surroundings love
 connection nature place freedom cold water now
 women safe space peace clean safe Covid free long
 natural life used fresh air open staff
 Swimming outdoors sanctuary peaceful natural setting go
 friendly atmosphere also escape outside ducks connect nature really
 calm sense Swimming natural heath good around unique one way
 special

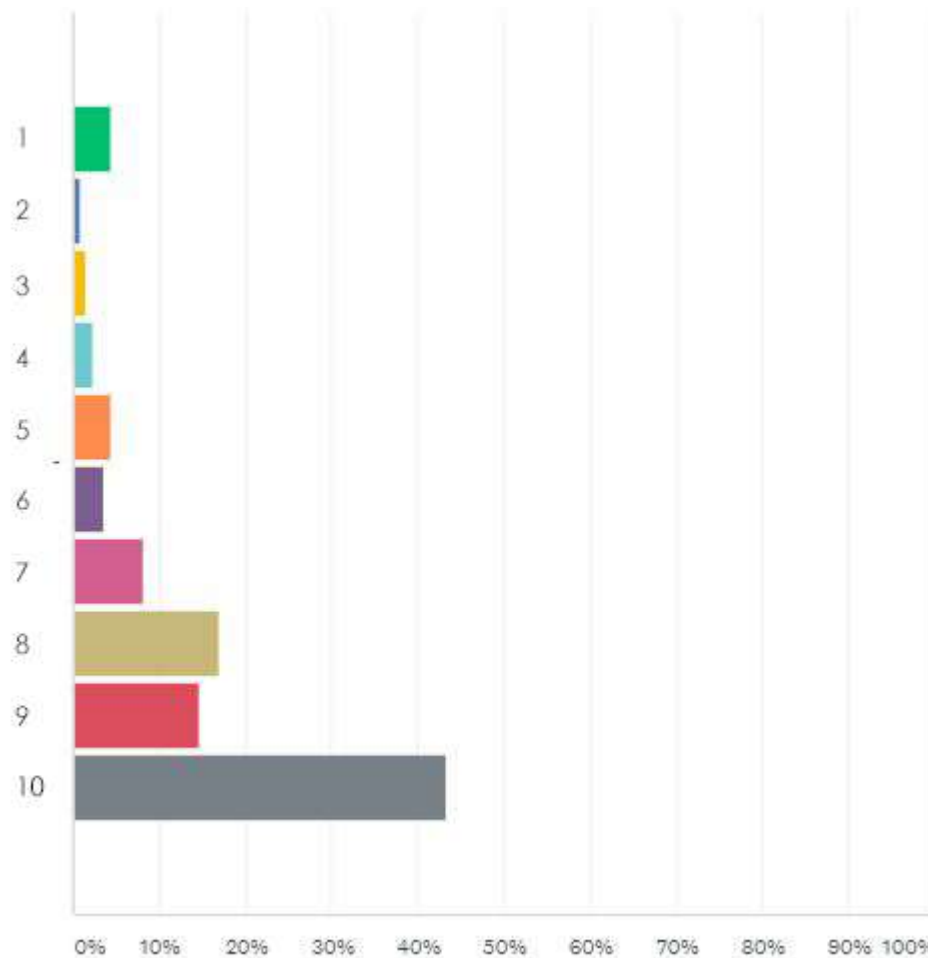


Q6. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is very much and 1 is not at all, how much do the Ponds and Lido benefit your physical and mental health?



NOT AT ALL	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	VERY MUCH	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
0.18%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.45%	1.27%	3.08%	11.32%	9.87%	73.82%	1,104	9.49
2	0	0	0	5	14	34	125	109	815		

Q7. And thinking about your visit overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is Excellent and 1 is Very Poor, how would you rate the Coronavirus safety measures that we had in place around the Ponds and Lido?



VERY POOR ▾	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	EXCELLENT ▾	TOTAL ▾	WEIGHTED AVERAGE ▾
4.30% 47	0.92% 10	1.56% 17	2.20% 24	4.49% 49	3.57% 39	8.15% 89	16.85% 184	14.74% 161	43.22% 472	1,092	8.20

Q8. In your own words, please tell us your experience of swimming on the Heath this summer during the COVID-19 restrictions?

Below are a selection of answers from respondents from various age, gender and ethnic groups who agreed to their responses being shared:

"Impressed by the hard work to reopen as soon as possible and as safely as possible and trying to accommodate all fairly. Well done and thank you."

"Everything has been clearly communicated and the ticketing system has been effective."

"The lockdown was handled in a very professional manner. The facilities were clean and in excellent shape. Lack of partition wall benefited the overall appreciation of the ponds."

"Better organised, less crowded and more enjoyable having pre-paid slots than before the COVID-19 era."

"A brilliant reprieve from everything else going on."

"It has been fantastic to have the Ponds and Lido open again. Given all the worry and restrictions caused by the pandemic, swimming on the Heath has been an oasis of pleasure."

"Very good overall experience as the measures to ensure the swimmers safety is evident. The Eventbrite app was a good addition to help facilitate booking and track n trace."

"A blessing and also somewhat frustrating. I appreciate the great lengths you went to to facilitate reopening the ponds, but the requirement to preplan visits a week ahead seemed exclusionary and counter to the open nature of the ponds."

"Well-organised without being too regimented. No feeling of being rushed. Altogether delightful."

"The Lifeguards are all excellent, and the site is managed very well. I have felt safe and comfortable during the COVID restrictions. I actually prefer it this way. I like the booking system. This is something that could remain it ensures that there is always a comfortable space to swim in. I'm sure it could accommodate season ticket holders - which I have been previously."

"It has been my sanctuary. I felt very safe swimming and very much appreciate the efforts of staff to keep it going."

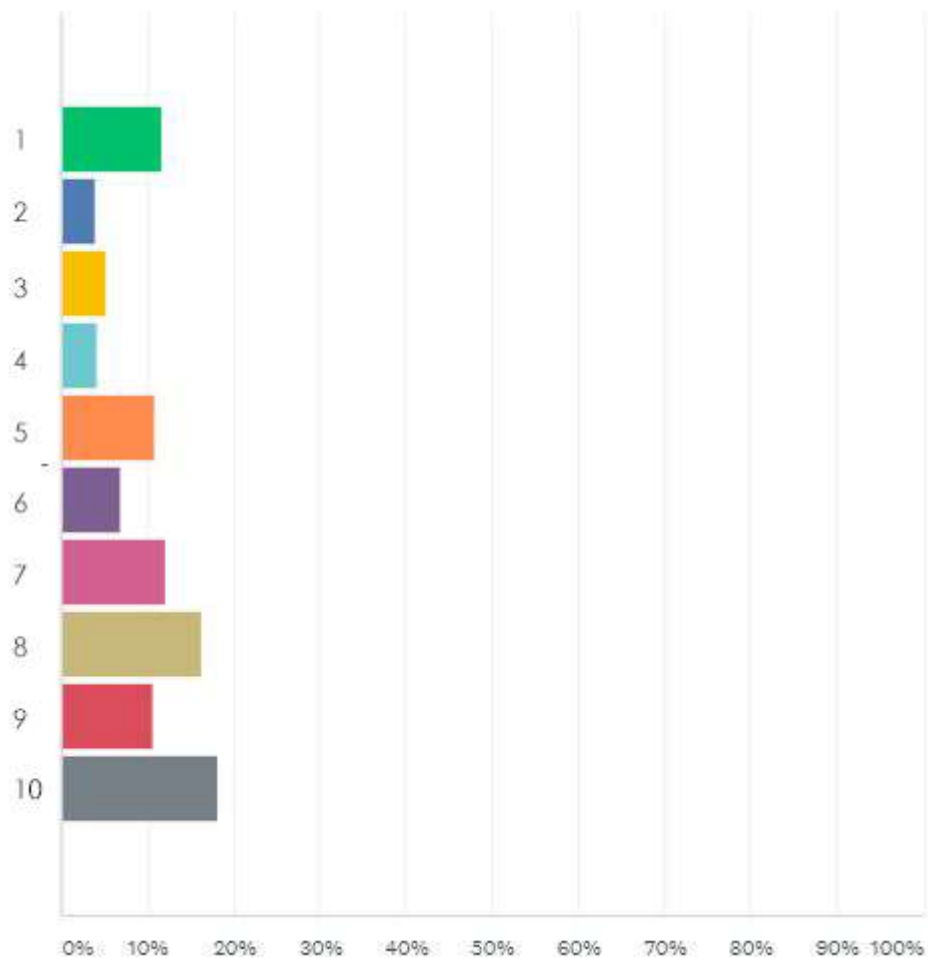
"I barely used the ponds over the Summer - initially the difficulties using the system and getting a slot made it impossible, and I gave up as I did not want to be constantly disappointed. I had a swim in September which was fine, and I appreciated the relatively low-key and relaxed atmosphere which staff had created."

Word map

Covid things safe disappointed place due relaxed take used now
 frustrating facilities swimmers book slot open managed difficult
 understand staff able However especially lifeguards season ticket
 day restricted found bit really pleasant keep allowed feel
 lovely lido water slot though think even experience
 meant booked changed go know time way ponds
 space swim given good fine booking system long
 people expensive made will great visit also atmosphere
 felt enjoyed summer well one turn much easy
 well organised nice able swim queue S seemed
 ladies pond wonderful pay crowded felt safe social distancing loved
 Excellent needed shame tickets pool always hour swimming ponds
 limited restrictions Thank session new week advance work



Q9 Due to COVID-19 restrictions an online booking system was necessary to allow safe access the Ponds/Lido. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is Excellent and 1 is Very Poor, how would you rate this booking system?



VERY POOR ▾	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	EXCELLENT ▾	TOTAL ▾	WEIGHTED AVERAGE ▾
11.65% 128	3.91% 43	5.28% 58	4.28% 47	10.83% 119	6.92% 76	12.10% 133	16.29% 179	10.65% 117	18.11% 199	1099	6.40

Q10. If you have any specific feedback on the booking system, please tell us here

Below are a selection of answers from respondents from various age, gender and ethnic groups who agreed to their responses being shared:

"Actually easy to use and good at making me commit to the exercise."

"Although I book online, I was delighted to see a phone booking could be made as this makes the Lido accessible to all."

"The booking system has been well organised but I hate having to book in advance (+ it is often not convenient) and really miss being able to turn up without booking."

"So difficult to book family swim sessions. Frustrating to book in advance and not be able to cancel or transfer. I was ill and had to miss two sessions which was a shame if someone else could have used them."

"Outside of very hot weather, I'd prefer a more relaxed system- and season tickets for regular swimmers"

"I think you did a great job. It was easy to use with the option to phone for those not able to manage the online system."

"I think the booking system is great and it should stay in place. There is just a nice comfortable amount of people swimming at any one time[...]"

"Having to book a week in advance is off putting. As a free spirit I prefer to swim as the mood takes me. If I book in advance I have to worry about the weather or I might not feel up to swimming on that particular day."

"The additional support via email has been good. Staff are very friendly online and a credit to the institution."

"Overall it was good. And thank you for having it ready, it was online very quickly after reopening. Well done."

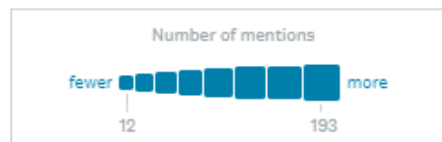
It was so difficult to book slots and I'm a digital-savvy millennial. I wonder how many long time pond swimmers were excluded."

"It was much better than just turning up - it was brilliant to know you had a slot and guaranteed a swim instead of just turning up and queueing."

"I like having a specific slot because it means the Lido was never full or stressful, and I was able to access it even during hot summer days."

Word map

issue advance free never turn option pay unable place look first early see clear
fine trying cancel hour way though easy use especially always
much better need keep know every time s show think online also
poor one now go rather tickets given ponds book slot
booking system lido people many time often
swim worked well book lot slots sometimes good
able day space system means use will Eventbrite
refund make app sessions sold easy hard find nice
difficult many people great able book take charging work annoying
frustrating said much problem seems necessary available start
really week advance None bit friend quickly even N allow understand access
book week advance

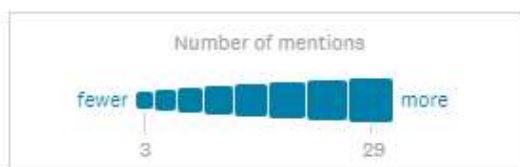


Q11. How do you find out/stay up to date on swimming on Hampstead Heath?

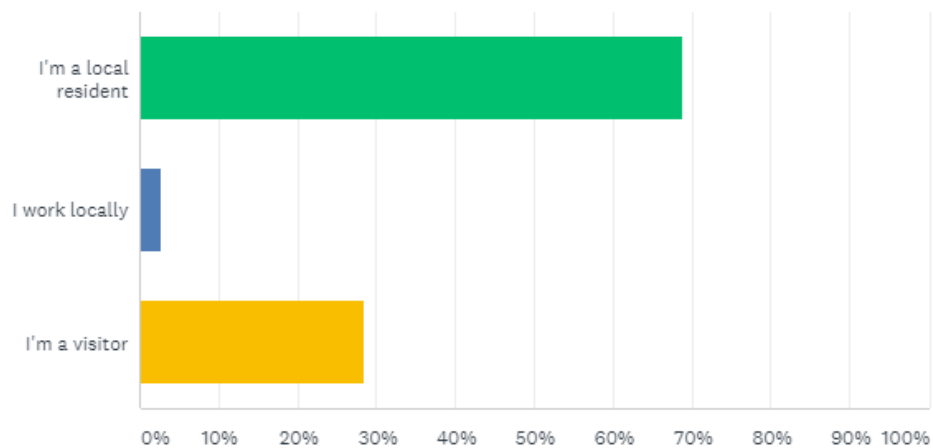
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Word of mouth	42.91% 472
City of London staff	5.82% 64
National newspaper or magazine article / feature	2.36% 26
Local newspaper or article / feature	6.55% 72
TV programme / TV news item or feature	0.73% 8
Radio programme / radio news feature	0.55% 6
Signage / banners outside the site itself	7.91% 87
City of London/Hampstead Heath website	37.64% 414
Hampstead Heath's social media pages e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter	39.18% 431
Friends / relatives social media posts e.g. comments, pictures	14.18% 156
Review websites e.g. TripAdvisor	0.36% 4
Email / e-newsletter from us	19.82% 218
Swimming Associations	22.36% 246
Internet	21.55% 237
Other (please specify) Responses	12.18% 134
Total Respondents: 1,100	

Word map of 'Other' answers

Lido heath user group Eventbrite Facebook group save ponds
 Facebook knew PHLUG page twitter website
 KLPA social media emails years ponds group
 swimming Pond association Facebook page Hampstead Heath
 newsletters book Kenwood Ladies Pond

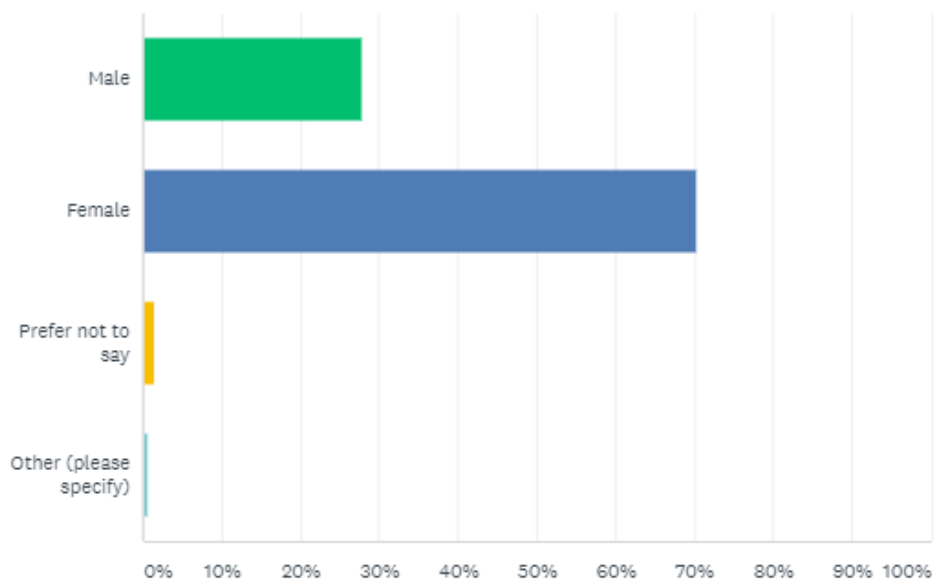


Q13. Do you live or work near the Heath or are you a visitor?



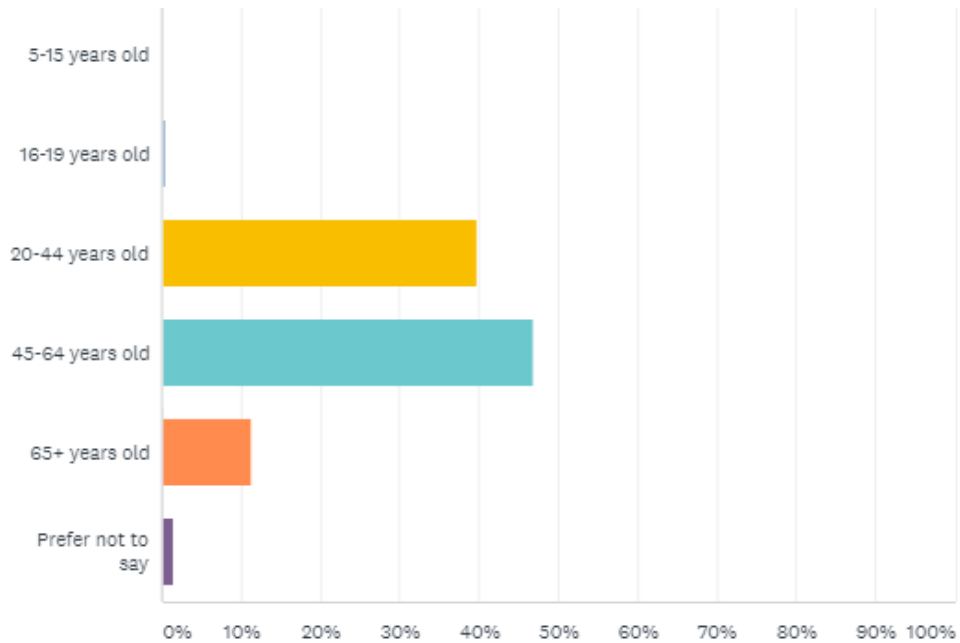
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ I'm a local resident	68.84%	749
▼ I work locally	2.76%	30
▼ I'm a visitor	28.40%	309
TOTAL		1,088

Q14. What gender do you identify as?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Male	27.73%	302
▼ Female	70.25%	765
▼ Prefer not to say	1.47%	16
▼ Other (please specify)	0.55%	6
TOTAL		1,089

Q15. What is your age?

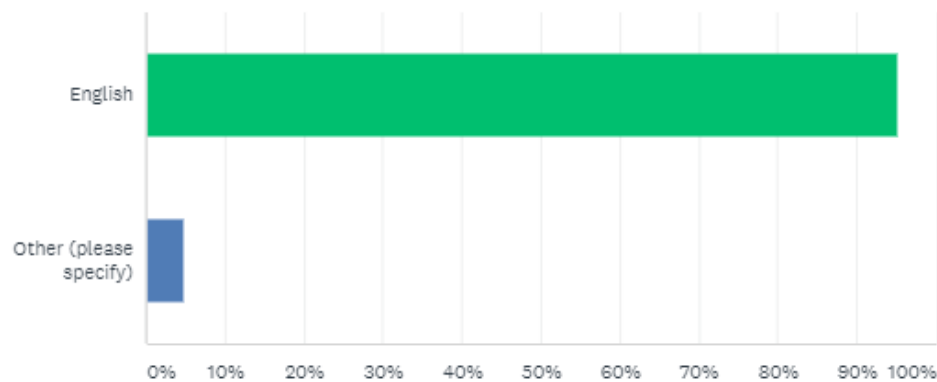


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 5-15 years old	0.09%	1
▼ 16-19 years old	0.37%	4
▼ 20-44 years old	39.80%	433
▼ 45-64 years old	46.88%	510
▼ 65+ years old	11.40%	124
▼ Prefer not to say	1.47%	16
TOTAL		1,088

Q16. What is your ethnic group?

▼ White	47.79%	518
▼ White - Irish	5.54%	60
▼ White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	26.85%	291
▼ White - Scottish	1.11%	12
▼ Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
▼ Roma, Gypsy or Traveller	0.09%	1
▼ Other White background	7.38%	80
▼ Black or Black British - Caribbean	0.09%	1
▼ Black or Black British - African	0.09%	1
▼ Other Black background	0.09%	1
▼ Asian or Asian British - Indian	0.55%	6
▼ Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	0.00%	0
▼ Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
▼ Chinese	0.46%	5
▼ Other Asian background	0.37%	4
▼ Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	0.65%	7
▼ Mixed - White and Black African	0.18%	2
▼ Mixed - White and Asian	1.20%	13
▼ Other mixed background	1.48%	16
▼ Arab	0.00%	0
▼ Not known	0.00%	0
▼ Prefer not to say	4.89%	53
▼ Other ethnic background (please specify)	Responses 1.20%	13
TOTAL		1,084

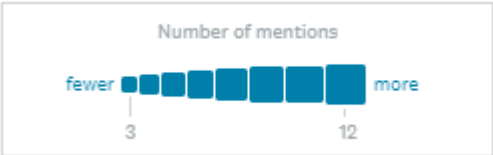
Q17. What is your main language?



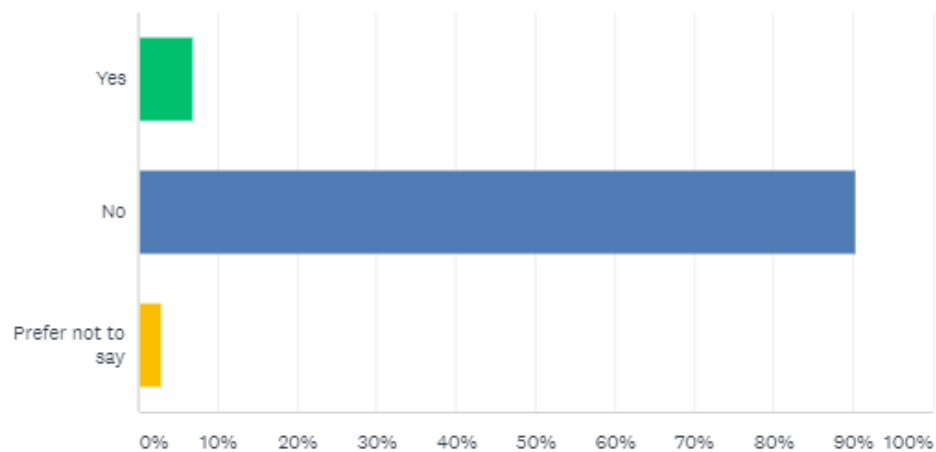
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
English		95.22%	1,035
Other (please specify)	Responses	4.78%	52
TOTAL			1,087

Word map of 'Other' answers

Portuguese Turkish French Polish German Spanish



Q18. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	6.80%	74
No	90.35%	983
Prefer not to say	2.85%	31
TOTAL		1,088

Q19. What is the first half of your postcode?

Word map

N11_{EC1V} N12_{se15} N16_{E8} NW10_{W12} NW11_{SW11} N2_{SE17} N8_{W9} NW1
N N1_{SE1} N6_{N17} NW5_{N3} NW3_{N15} N19_{NW4} NW6_{En5}
N7_{E9} NW2_{E5} N4_{W2} N10_{W6} N5_{SE14} N22_{E10} E17_{NW9} NW



This is one of
14 green spaces
managed by the
City of London at
little cost to the
general public.

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	19/10/2020
Subject: Review of the 2020 Events Programme & Provisional Events planned for the 2021 Programme	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Discussion
Report author: Paul Maskell	

Summary

The following report details the significant impacts Covid-19 has had on the 2020 Hampstead Heath Events Programme. The report sets out the events currently scheduled for 2021, taking account of possible further impacts which could arise as a result of Covid-19. Members feedback on the proposed 2021 Events Programme is sought.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members:

- Provide feedback on the principle of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain extending the traditional Easter Fair as set out in paragraph 23.
- Provide feedback on the principle of adding a second event after the Affordable Art Fair in April/May 2021.
- Provide feedback on the proposed 2021 Events Programme (appendix 1).

Main Report

Background

1. The Hampstead Heath Site Specific Events Policy (Part 2), which was approved in September 2018, sets out the framework for making decisions about events at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

Current Position

2. Due to the Covid-19 lockdown and introduction of social distancing measures, only two events have taken place at Hampstead Heath during 2020. The South of England Cross-Country Championships (25 January 2020) and Zippos Circus (10-15 September 2020).
3. Further Government Guidance received in late September has outlined that mass participation sporting events will not be able to resume in October 2020 as previously expected.

4. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Officer Events Group (OEG) are taking a practical and informed approach in relation to considering event applications, being mindful that the current situation lacks certainty. Therefore, it is very difficult for event organisers to make applications within the usual timeframes, especially in relation to larger events, or those which involve mass participation.
5. The OEG wish to support smaller Covid Secure cultural and community events which may arise at short notice but are compliant with the latest Government Guidance.

The 2020 Events Programme

6. South of England Cross-Country Championships took place on 25 January 2020. The event was well attended with record numbers of participants in the youth event. The championships included the 125th staging of the Men's race and remains the only 15k championship in Great Britain. There were over 5,600 entries across the 10 events.
7. Zippos Circus (10-15 September 2020). In response to Covid-19 Zippos Circus ceased performances at the commencement of the Lockdown in March 2020. Since then performers and staff have remained in the country, staying at the Company Headquarters. Each Act has remained within a 'bubble' which means that should any individual in an Act show symptoms then that Act could be withdrawn from the Show, whilst not affecting other artists and Acts.
8. The Circus has worked closely with the Government and the Association of Circus Proprietors in order to achieve an agreed set of control measures, which form the basis of their comprehensive Risk Assessment. Audience numbers were limited to 360 per performance. The number of performances per day were also reduced.
9. The Circus were originally due to undertake performances on the Heath between 20-25 October. However, in consultation with the Leisure and Events Manager, the performances were brought forward to 10-15 September 2020. The change in date was made to facilitate refurbishment works at the East Heath Car Park in autumn 2020. Unfortunately, in part due to the introduction of new Government Guidance on the rule of six, ticket sales were very low.

Postponed, rescheduled and cancelled Events

10. Race for Life have been coming to the Heath for over 20 years. It is currently unclear if the event, which was due to take place on 15 June 2020, will be able to take place during summer 2021. The event organiser has therefore asked for flexibility when considering the 2021 event date. In addition to a summer date, the event organiser is also considering holding the event in the middle of August or early November 2021.
11. Affordable Art Fair (AAF), Hampstead was due to take place between 29 April - 5 May 2020. The event was tentatively rescheduled to 19 – 22 November 2020, however, in late August the event organisers cancelled the 2020 fair due to continued uncertainty around Covid-19. 2020 would have been the 10th addition of the Affordable Art Fair at Hampstead Heath.

12. Highgate Harriers' 'Night of 10,000m PB's was cancelled in early April 2020. The event had been due to take place on 6 June.
13. The summer 2020 music programme has been cancelled. 23 band performances had been scheduled to take place at Parliament Hill and Golders Hill Park during June-August 2020. The Leisure and Events Manager hopes to launch a new summer music programme in May 2021.
14. Give It A Go! Festival – Throughout 2019 and early 2020 the Leisure and Events Manager had been working with our community partners to plan and prepare for this year 2020 event. In early June, in collaboration with our partners the decision was taken to cancel the 2020 event, which had been due to take place on 5 July. The Leisure and Events Manager will make tentative plans for a July 2021 event.
15. The 21st Hampstead Heath Duathlon, which was due to take place on 6 September, was cancelled in a joint decision between the Leisure and Events Manager and the Hampstead Rugby Club, who co-run the event. 65 teams had already signed up to take part, and despite considerations around introducing staggered start times and Social Distancing measures, it was decided to cancel the event and put plans in place for a 2021 return.
16. Run for your Life is one of our most popular fun runs on the Heath and is run in partnership with the Armoury, Jubilee Hall Trust. 466 runners took place in the 2019 event. The 2020, which was due to take place on 13 September, was cancelled in August. The Leisure and Events Manager is in talks with the event organisers in relation to a possible Spring 2021 return.
17. A total of six Weddings and Civil Ceremonies took place to date at Hampstead Heath during 2020. A further ceremony is planned for early October.
18. The London Youth Games is due to take place on 16 November 2020. The Leisure and Events Manager is currently in talks with the event organisers, around the difficulties in managing the mass start and the potential conflicts with other user groups and spectators. It is likely the event will be postponed to 2021.
19. The Christmas day swim (25 December) is a unique part of the Heath's history. The 40-yard race has become a Christmas tradition for many, since it first started three decades ago. Run by the Highgate Lifebuoys, swimmers are put in the festive spirit by a bugle rendition of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' before diving in for their race. Over the years the event has attracted large numbers and several ancillary races for men and women. We are currently in talks with the Lifebuoys with regards to this years event, which will be limited to only members of the Highgate Lifebuoys. Spectators will be allowed to view from the banks.

Proposed 2021 Events Programme

20. The English National Cross-Country Championships are due to take place on 6 March 2021. The events organising Committee are looking at new ways in which they might be able to stage these unique championships in March, but the conflict with spectators in an open space is a hurdle that they are finding difficult to overcome. The Leisure and Events Manager is in regular contact the organisers, but it is likely the event will be postponed until 2022.
21. The AAF is keen to go ahead with a 2021 Hampstead Art Fair, and have also applied to host a second event in 2021, following on from the Art Fair. It is

proposed that the marquee will be in situ for an additional week to enable a second event in April/May.

22. The addition of a second event will reduce the overheads of the AAF and will result an increase to the licence fee paid to the City of London Corporation for hire of the event space. A second event would require only a week extension to the existing AAF Licence. The Superintendent is seeking Members feedback on the principle of adding a further event in April/May 2021.
23. Linked to the proposals for a secondary event managed by the AAF, the Leisure and Events Manager has discussed with the Showmen's Guild, proposals for a longer Easter fair, to replace the Whitsun fair. The Superintendent is seeking Members feedback on the principle of extending the Easter fair in 2021.
24. Highgate Harriers have made a 2021 application for the Night of the 10,000 PB's event to take place on 5 June 2021. The event, as agreed with British Athletics and European Athletics is based on hosting under the assumption of 'normal' non- COVID-19 restrictions. The event will be the Team GB Olympic trials and the European Cup, as was intended for the 2020 event. The event organisers will plan to implement necessary Covid-19 measures as required, but if restrictions persist as they currently are, then the event would potentially be cancelled again.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. The Events Programme directly supports the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.
26. The provision of the events programme also meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2018-19 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
27. The events programme contributes towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), Support a thriving economy (5) and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).

Implications

Financial

28. The Events Policy details the framework for event cost recovery. The associated charges for holding events are set out in the annual Fees and Charges which is review and approved by Members on an annual basis.
29. As a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic revenue from events has been severely curtailed, which has placed additional pressure on the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.

Conclusion

30. The remainder of the 2020 Events Programme and the proposed 2021 Events Programme are subject to Government Guidance and Policy regarding the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The Leisure and Events Manager is in regular contact with the event organisers and is confident that if Covid-19 measures ease the Heath can return to hosting a wide range of events that promote sport, health and well-being, whilst contributing to achieving the Outcomes of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed 2021 Events Programme.

Contact

Paul Maskell

Leisure and Events Manager, Open Spaces Department

T: 020 7332 3772

E: paul.maskell@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Event	Event Date	Event Duration	Event opening hours	Set-up & Strike	Event Details	Event Scale
Showman's Guild Easter Fair	2-11 April 2021 (not open 6-7 April)	8 days	Funfair opens 12 noon-10pm (except Sundays)	5 set up days (28 March-1 April) 2 strike days (12-13 April)	Traditional Family Funfair at the Lower Fairground site. Approx. 15-20 funfair operators will be taking part.	Major
Affordable Art Fair	6-9 May 2021 (Private view 5 May 2021)	4 days	<p>Wednesday 5 May 17:30-21:30</p> <p>Thursday 6 May 11:00-21:00</p> <p>Friday 7 May 11:00-19:00</p> <p>Saturday 8 May 11:00-18:00</p> <p>Sunday 9 May 11:00-18:00</p>	<p>15 set up days (21 April – 5 May).</p> <p>6 strike days (10-15 May)</p>	<p>Art Fair at the Fairground site. Use of East Heath Car Park and Jack Straws Castle Car Park for visitor and exhibitor parking.</p> <p>The estimated number of participants over the course of the fair is 15,000 with 110 exhibiting galleries are anticipated.</p> <p>Structures: main tent 4250m2, cafe 650m2, entrance 400m2. These structures are built on a scaffold frame to provide a strong, flat base. Internally there are approx. 110 individual booths built from painted timber panels.</p> <p>The 2021 Hampstead AAF Charity Beneficiary is The British Red Cross.</p> <p>DJ on Wednesday and Thursday evening, recorded music during fair, possible live acoustic on Wednesday evening – all within the tent structures.</p> <p>An application from the AAF for a second event utilising the Art Fair infrastructure is anticipated.</p>	Major

Highgate Harriers Night of 10,000m PB's	5 June 2021	1 day	12noon-10.30pm	<p>1 set up day (4 June)</p> <p>1 strike day (6 June)</p>	<p>460 participants (including 100 children) are expected. 5,000 spectators are anticipated.</p> <p>The event comprises nine 10,000m events with a circus atmosphere and spectators viewing from track. The championship races include the European Cup with 28 nations bringing their best athletes to compete for the iconic cup.</p> <p>The Championships races also include the British Championships and in 2021 will be the Team GB trials for the Tokyo Olympic Games.</p> <p>A DJ will be on the back straight of the track with speakers facing away from residential area and we also use a 4-piece acoustic band on the home straight of the track.</p> <p>Portable Toilets will be hired for spectator use.</p> <p>The 2021 event will use the same layout as 2019, with temporary structures consisting of three 30m x 9m marquees (two on the track and one on the grass just beyond the Banjo area), finish line gantry and we will once again use the temporary pedestrian bridge.</p> <p>First aid and waste collection arrangements are in place.</p>	Major
Race for Life	12 June 2021	1 day		<p>Set up and Strike will take place on the day of the event.</p>	<p>Charity Fun Run in aid of Cancer Research.</p> <p>Estimated 1,500 participant (1,200 adults, 300 children).</p> <p>The event organiser will provide portable toilets and hand sanitiser stations and will undertake cleaning of the toilets throughout the event. The portable toilets will be removed after the event.</p>	Medium

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date: 19/10/2020
Subject: Revised Tender Timeline for the Parliament Hill Café, Golders Hill Park Café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Richard Gentry	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members on the proposed revised timeline for the tendering of the Parliament Hill Café, Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café and the Golders Hill Park Café.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the proposed revised timeline, as set out in paragraph 7.
- Note the feedback and recommendations from the Golders Hill Park Café User Engagement - outcome report (appendix 1).

Main Report

Background

1. The leases for the Parliament Hill Café, Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café and Golders Hill Café are due to expire on 12 January 2021. Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent impact on Officer workload, the tenders for the cafés have been delayed.
2. In letting the Cafés for the longer terms that are now available under section 6 of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018, Members must have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the service or facility is provided to a satisfactory standard throughout the duration of the lease. Before granting a lease, the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHGWWQPC) must consult such persons or bodies as it thinks appropriate. Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 (which provides security of tenure for commercial tenancies) does not apply.

Current Position

3. At the 9 September 2020 meeting of the HHHGWQPC it was agreed by Members that the leases for the Parliament Hill Café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café are held over for 12 months to 12 January 2022 enabling a tender process to be undertaken during 2021.
4. The licence holder for the, Golders Hill Park Café notified the City Corporation of their intention to end their lease in November 2020. However, the lease holder has agreed to remain in situ as a tenant in the café at Golders Hill Park until January 2022.
5. In relation to the Golders Hill Park Café, a consultant was appointed to undertake user engagement, to establish the views and opinions of Park visitors. As part of the engagement the consultant ran two online focus group meetings, which were attended by 20 participants. An online questionnaire ran between 28 July – 17 August 2020 and received 866 responses. The results of this engagement can be found at appendix 1.
6. The main observations and feedback from the user engagement were that the café:
 - should be unique and managed in such a way that reflects the character of the local community.
 - should provide a simple, healthy, homemade offer.
 - should cater for all members of the community.
 - should feel inviting and make the most of its space and location in the Park.

Timeline

7. It is recommended that the revised timeline for the delivery of this tender project is:
 - **20/10/2020 – 27/11/2020** - user engagement and consultation for the Parliament Hill Café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café.
 - **25/11/2020** – update HHHGWQPC on progress.
 - **25/01/2021** – present user engagement outcome report and outline tender process – HHCC.
 - **24/02/2021** – present outcome report HHHGWQPC and outline tender process.
 - **25/03/2021 – 08/05/2021** - commence tender for the Golders Hill Park Café and Heath Extension Kiosk.
 - **19/04/2021** – update Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) on progress.
 - **30/04/2021 – 11/06/2021** – commence tender Parliament Hill Café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café.
 - **09/05/2021 – 23/05/2021** – evaluate compliant Golders Hill Park Café and Heath Extension Kiosk bids.

- **26/05/2021** – update HHCC.
 - **12/06/2021 – 26/06/2021** – evaluate Parliament Hill Café and Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café bids.
 - **06/09/2021** – present update report – HHCC.
 - **29/09/2021** – report recommendations following evaluation to the HHHGWQPC.
 - **30/09/2021** – award leases.
 - **October 2021** – lease execution.
 - **13/01/2022** – lease commencement.
8. Throughout the process the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath will engage with the Café Working Group.

Proposals

9. The Superintendent is proposing that any future lease arrangements be for a period of at least ten years, with suitable break clauses and rent reviews, subject to satisfactory performance and service delivery.
10. The City Corporation, when developing the tender documents, e.g. the Submission Document for prospective bidders to complete, will consider the following key deliverables, these have been previously been discussed with the Café Working Group:
- Strong links with the local community
 - Passionate about making the café an integral part of the community
 - Environmentally aware
 - Offer quality food at affordable prices
 - Be innovative and creative
 - Cater for a diverse community
 - A diversity of seasonal activities
 - Provide a family friendly offer
 - Offer a range of payment options

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. Hampstead Heath is a registered charity (Charity No. 803392), for which the City of London Corporation is the Trustee. The purpose of the charity is the preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The HHHWQPC manages Hampstead Heath on behalf of the City of London Corporation and must take decisions in the best interests of the charity.
12. The provision of Café facilities provides income that contributes to the maintenance of Hampstead Heath, and the cafés must be let on the best terms that can reasonably be obtained for the charity, in order to comply with the duties of the Trustee. However, the cafés are also fundamentally part of the experience provided to users and the HHCC and the HHHWQPC may consider the wider social and environmental benefits that they bring to the Heath.

13. The letting of the Cafés at Hampstead Heath contributes towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporation Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments, in particular the following Corporate Plan outcomes:
- (4) Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
 - (5) Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.
 - (10) We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.
 - (12) Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.
14. It also meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2019-20: (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
15. Tendering the catering facilities provides the opportunity to ensure the Cafés support the Strategic Outcomes set out in the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028:
- A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape,
B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors,
C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors,
D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

Implications

16. Previously, the tender of the Hampstead Heath Cafés, in particular the Parliament Hill Café and the Golders Hill Park Café generated media interest. Officers will liaise with the City Corporation, Media Team and inform and update Stakeholders and visitors throughout the tender process.

Conclusion

17. The City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018 provides the opportunity of a longer-term lease allowing greater continuity of service, investment in the facilities and development of the business.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Golders Hill Park Café User Engagement – Outcome Report.

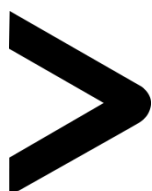
Richard Gentry

Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager, Hampstead Heath, Open Spaces Dept.

T: 020 7332 3322

E: richard.gentry@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Golders Hill Park Café Consultation



1. Introduction & Background

The City of London Corporation appointed Groundwork London to carry out a public engagement and consultation process with Golders Hill Park users and the wider community to ensure that the park café continues to meet the needs of local users and residents. The process was commissioned as a consequence of the withdrawal of the leaseholder from their agreement to provide café services. The findings of this process, which took place in July and August 2020, will inform the tender specification to determine who will take over the lease for the café.

This report is based on the findings of an online questionnaire and two focus groups. The link to the online questionnaire was shared widely with key user groups and the wider community and paper copies with pre-paid return envelopes were available on request. A direct email allowed the public to contribute additional comments throughout the process. The questionnaire received 866 responses, with 412 people leaving further comments or suggestions to contribute their expectations and aspirations for the café. Two virtual focus groups were held with a total of 20 residents that had expressed their interest in taking part via the questionnaire, selected with a view to providing insight from a range of age groups and backgrounds

2. Key Findings

2.1 Focus Groups

Simple, healthy, fresh offer

All participants favoured a small menu of simple, homemade, high-quality food and drink over a larger variety of offerings, with healthiness and freshness of food emphasised repeatedly. Food options mentioned most frequently were homemade soups, salads, changing specials, breakfasts, children's meals and vegetarian/ vegan options. All present felt the homemade ice cream currently available to be an important part of the café offer.

A park café that caters for all

Those present agreed that it was important for a park café offer to reflect the diversity of the local community, as demonstrated in the following quote: "We have to think of all walks of life. Everybody wants to use the park as it is the most wonderful place to be." There will be a need for affordable dishes and drinks on the menu, while striking a balance between affordability and quality. Participants discussed dietary requirements of the local community, with some expressing a desire for the café to be kosher certified and others expressing that the café couldn't "be all things to all people". Most agreed that the next café management should take care to provide options that satisfy the vast majority of the dietary requirements and preferences present in the community, such as high-quality vegetarian/ vegan options and pre-packaged kosher options.

Community-minded management

Participants agreed that the café should be unique and identifiable with the surrounding community. Some stressed that they would not like the café to be taken over by a chain however all agreed that the quality of the food and drink on offer and the ability of management to provide options for the whole community should be the top priority. Some felt that the café should be a destination for something unique and a few suggested ways to achieve this, e.g. a pizza oven, cream teas. All agreed that friendly and familiar staff service was essential in a park café and some expressed a desire for the café to open earlier in the mornings and to stay open into the early evenings.

Inviting atmosphere

An inviting atmosphere was felt to be crucial to the success of the park café. The café layout was seen to play a key role in this. Suggestions were made for how this could be improved, for example installing more comfortable seating, both indoors and outdoors, a mixture of types of indoor seating, an outdoor parasol and changing the counter size and position. All praised the beautiful outdoor setting and vistas surrounding the café. Participants felt that the recent introduction of a separate coffee window has helped to ease crowding and shorten waiting times, felt to be particularly important in the current climate of COVID-19 restrictions.

Access

Physical access was discussed by several participants, who emphasised the importance of all residents being able to access both the café itself and the toilets.

2.2 Online Questionnaire Survey

Q1 showed that 72% of respondents visit Golders Hill Park at least once a month. Q2 showed the times that the park is visited most frequently to be weekdays (19%), weekends (20%), during the day (18%) and year round (20%). 10% of respondents visit in the mornings and 6% in the early evenings. For Q3, 71% of respondents answered that they usually visit the park to go for a walk or run. Q4 showed that 47% of respondents visit the café at least once a month with a further 35% visiting more than once every few months. See Appendix for full data for all questions.

To Qs 5 and 6, 58% of respondents answered that they hadn't visited other cafes near to Golders Hill Park in the last year. Of the 39% that answered that they had visited other nearby cafes, the most cited reasons given were 'convenience of location' (37%) and quality of food (15%).

The three main reasons that respondents visit the café (Q7) are For a quick tea or coffee break (29%), To socialise with friends or family (21%) and At the start or end of a walk (17%). The least popular reasons chosen were As an alternative location to work from (0.5%) and Before or after attending an event nearby (1%). 42% of respondents visit the café with friends or family with children, 24% visit as a couple and 22% visit with adult friends or family (Q8).

In Q9, respondents were asked to select the two drink types they would most like to be served in the café. Respondents overwhelmingly selected Fresh brewed coffee/ tea with this option receiving 42% of the vote. Fresh fruit juices and smoothies came in second with 21% and Hot drinks to take away third with 16%. The option chosen least frequently was Alcoholic drinks with 4%.

Q10 asked respondents to select their two preferred types of food. Four options clearly came out on top: Sandwiches and cold snacks (12%), Main meals and hot food (12%), Cakes (11%) and Healthy options (10%). Hot snacks (9%), Breakfast pastries (8%) and Cold meals (8%) were also selected frequently. Of the 4% of 'Other' votes, 35 of the 109 comments related to ice cream and 18 related to kosher food options. Q11 shows that 37% of respondents would like Fresh/ homemade food options to form part of the food offer. A wide variety of options (18%), Health food (15%) and Vegetarian/ vegan options (14%) also proved popular.

Q12 sought to ascertain priorities for how the café is managed by asking respondents how strongly they agreed or disagreed with three statements. A clear priority is the café being run in an environmentally friendly manner with 83% agreeing and strongly agreeing. A total of 82% agreed or strongly agreed that the café should have a connection to the local area and 68% agreed or strongly agreed that the café should provide opportunities for local people, while 27% responded neutrally.

Finally, Quality of food and drink was selected as the most important aspect of the café with 34%. Good staff service was the second most popular option with 17%, followed by Affordability of food and drink with 16%.

Respondents were able to add any other comments or suggestions they might have. Of the 412 responses received, 86 comments related to the café retaining its individuality, 69 related to service, 52 related to quality of food and 48 related to ice cream.

3. Headline Findings/ Recommendations

The Golders Hill Park café should provide a simple, fresh and homemade offer.

The consultation process has revealed park users' aspirations for a simple, fresh and homemade food and drink offer. At focus groups, many comments expressed that menus should be kept small and simple in order to maintain a high level of quality. Quality of food and drink was valued highly throughout the process, with questionnaire respondents selecting this as the most important aspect of the café (34% of vote). However, the variety of food and drink on offer also emerged as the 3rd most common reason given for visiting other nearby cafes in Q5. A balance will need to be struck between quality and providing enough variety to satisfy the diverse dietary requirements of the local community.

There was a strong desire for the café to offer fresh and homemade food, with this ranking as the most popular food option. Options favoured throughout were sandwiches, main meals, changing specials (e.g. soups/ salads), hot and cold snacks, breakfast pastries, vegetarian/ vegan food and children's meals. High quality ice cream has emerged as a key priority in all engagement activities and was mentioned in the survey comments 83 times. Coffee and tea (42%) and juices and smoothies (21%) emerged as the drink options valued most highly.

The Golders Hill Park café should cater for all members of the community.

A key aspiration of participants for the café was as an inclusive space that reflects the diversity of the local community. Many suggestions were made for how best to provide for members of the community that adhere to certain dietary requirements, with kosher food in particular emerging as a priority for some. A total of 40 survey comments asked for kosher food options and some cited the lack of these as their reason for choosing other nearby cafes instead. Most focus group participants agreed that the café could not be "all things to all people" but must ensure to provide options that satisfy a diversity of dietary requirements. There was a view that high-quality vegetarian and vegan options and prepackaged kosher options should form a key part of the offer and an expectation that management have an understanding of the local community and their needs and strive to achieve a balance between quality, variety and freshness of food and drink for several types of diet.

Affordability also emerged as a key theme with comments highlighting the diverse socioeconomic backgrounds of park users and emphasising the café's role as an "invaluable community resource". In Q13, affordability of food and drink was rated as the 3rd most important aspect of the café with 16% of votes. Comments were also made about the need to ensure that the physical infrastructure of the café cater for all, with concerns raised about accessibility to the café and toilets.

The Golders Hill Park café should feel inviting and make the most of its space and location in the park.

This theme was clearly expressed in all engagement activities. Focus group participants discussed the need for the café to offer an inviting environment and 21% of survey respondents selected To socialise with friends and family as their main reason for visiting (ranked 2nd). The café décor was described in survey comments as "dated" and several comments were received throughout suggesting ways to change the layout and invest in furniture to make both the interior and exterior more inviting. Participants also suggested layout changes to remedy issues of overcrowding and waiting times, which most felt had improved with the introduction of an outdoor service window for coffees. There is scope for the next leaseholder to invest in the café layout and implement some of the suggested changes in order to create a more inviting atmosphere.

Participants commented on the "wonderful location" of the café and the "viewpoint over the park" and some expressed their aspirations for indoor and outdoor seating designed with the surrounding natural environment in

mind. 20% of respondents visit the park year round and some suggested outdoor cover to improve visitor experience on rainy and sunny days. It will be essential for the next leaseholder to have a vision for how to make the most of this space and location.

The Golders Hill Park café should be unique and managed in such a way that reflects the character of the local community.

A clear message coming out of the consultation process is that café users value the uniqueness and individuality of the café. In Q12, 82% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the café should have a connection to the local area and respond to specific, local needs and 86 people left comments asking that the café not be managed by a chain. In focus groups, participants stressed the importance of a personal, local touch but agreed that the quality of the food and drink and the capability to provide options to suit the whole community was paramount.

Friendly, efficient service is clearly also valued highly. Participants chose staff offering good customer care as the second most important feature of the café with 17% in Q13. Staff service was mentioned in comments 69 times. This quote is reflective of the sentiment expressed in these comments: “I think it is essential to deliver a local, community feel for somewhere frequented by local people, some who have been visiting for generations”. Some participants called for the café to open earlier and close later in comments with 10% selecting that they visit the park in the mornings and 6% selecting early evenings in Q2. 83% of respondents to Q12 agreed or strongly agreed that the café should be run in an environmentally friendly manner.

4. Conclusions

Park users and local residents are clearly passionate about Golders Hill Park and its café, with many regarding the café to be an integral part of their experience using the park. Several residents expressed that the café holds a special place in their hearts and memories as a “community institution” that they have been visiting for generations. Others view it as a “vital amenity that serves a large number of people from within and beyond the borough”. The aspirations and priorities of the community that have emerged from the process, to uphold the high-quality offer, the individuality and the community spirit of the café, are therefore unsurprising.

It is recommended that the City Corporation take account of the feedback following this engagement process, focussing the tender documentation on the aspirations of those who participated in the process and the outcomes.

The main observations and feedback from the user engagement were that the café:

- should be unique and managed in such a way that reflects the character of the local community.
- should provide a simple, healthy, homemade offer.
- should cater for all members of the community.
- should feel inviting and make the most of its space and location in the Park.

Appendix:

Q1: How often do you visit Golders Hill Park?	
Every day	9%
More than once a week	29%
More than once a month	34%
More than once every few months	25%
Once a year or less	3%
Never	0%

Q2: When do you usually visit Golders Hill Park?	
Weekdays	19%
Weekends	20%
In the mornings	10%
During the day	18%
In the early evening	6%
In summer	7%
Year round	20%

Q3: What is usually your main reason for visiting Golders Hill Park?	
For a walk or run	71%
To walk the dog	10%
For a sports practice or event	0%
Other:	19%
<i>To bring children</i>	6%
<i>To visit the playground</i>	2%
<i>To visit the zoo</i>	2%
<i>To go to the café</i>	5%
<i>To relax</i>	1%
<i>To socialise</i>	2%
<i>For an ice cream</i>	1%

Q4: How often do you visit the café in Golders Hill Park?	
Every day	3%
More than once a week	17%
More than once a month	27%
More than once every few months	35%
Once a year or less	14%
Never	4%

Q5: Have you visited other cafes near to Golders Hill Park in the last 12 months?	
Yes	39%
No	58%
Don't know	3%

Q6: If yes, what was your reason for choosing those instead of the café in Golders Hill Park?	
Location was convenient	37%
Atmosphere	6%
Quality of food	15%
Quality of coffee	4%
Quality of service	4%
Variety of food	10%
Price	8%
For a change	2%
For kosher options	7%
Too crowded	4%
Golders Hill Park café closed	3%

Q7: What would be the two main reasons you would go to the café in Golders Hill Park?	
For a quick tea or coffee break	29%
For a quick snack	15%
For a meal, i.e. breakfast, lunch or dinner	13%
At the start or end of a walk	17%
To socialise with friends or family	21%
Whilst walking the dog	4%
Before or after attending an event nearby	1%
As an alternative location to work from	0%

Q8: Who would you be most likely to visit the café in Golders Hill Park with?	
Alone	9%
As a couple	24%
Friends/ family with children	42%
Friends/ family with adults only	22%
Members of groups or teams e.g. tennis	1%
With colleagues	1%
Other	1%

Q9: Which two drinks would you most like to be sold in the café?	
Fresh brewed coffee/tea	42%
Hot drinks to take away	16%
Hot chocolate	11%
Branded soft drinks	8%
More unique soft drinks	6%
Fresh fruit juices/smoothies	21%
Alcoholic drinks	4%
Other (please specify)	2%

Q10: Which two types of food would you most like to be sold in the café?	
Main meals/ hot food	12%
Cold meals, e.g. salads	8%
Hot snacks	9%
Sandwiches and cold snacks	12%
Packaged, take-out options; e.g. sandwiches	4%
Cakes	11%
Children's meals	5%
Baby food	1%
Specials which change regularly	6%
Breakfast pastries	8%
Cooked breakfasts	5%
Healthy options	10%
Snacks, e.g. crisps, fruit, chocolate	5%
Other (please specify)	4%

Q11: Which two drinks would you most like to be sold in the café?	
Health food	15%
Fresh/ homemade options	37%
Wide variety of options	18%
Organic	5%
Vegetarian/ vegan	14%
Kosher food options	6%
Food suitable for those with intolerances	3%
Other (please specify)	2%

Q12: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?					
It is important to me that the new management ...	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
... provides opportunities for local people to be employed and trained in the kiosk.	4%	1%	27%	36%	32%
... has a connection to the local area and runs the kiosk in a way that responds to specific, local needs.	4%	1%	13%	36%	46%
... runs the café in an eco-friendly manner e.g. biodegradable packaging, recycling.	4%	1%	12%	34%	49%

Q13: Which of the following is most important to you in relation to what the café in Golders Hill Park offers?	
Quality of food and drink	34%
Affordability of food and drink	16%
That the café is environmentally friendly	8%
Links to the local community/local area	7%
A wide range of food and drink	5%
Healthy food and drink	10%
Staff offering good customer service	17%
Speed of service	3%

Q15: Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to share with us about the café in in Golders Hill Park?	
Theme:	No. of comments
Individuality of café	86
Environmentally friendly	8
Quality of food	52
Ice cream	48
Opening hours	10
Atmosphere	30
Price	18
Accessibility	7
Service	69
Dietary requirements	14

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 19102020
Subject: Authorisation of Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for byelaw offences and certain other offences under the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018.	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Richard Gentry, Constabulary & Queen's Park Manager	

Summary

The City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 ("the Open Spaces Act 2018") sought to modernise the management of certain offences by providing a power for authorised officers to offer a Fixed Penalty Notice ("FPN") as an administrative alternative to prosecution before the magistrates' court, known as an Out of Court Disposal.

This report sets out the proposal to seek delegated authority for the Director of Open Spaces and Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park to authorise officers to issue FPNs and require a name and address where there is reason to believe that a person has committed an offence, pursuant to the Open Spaces Act 2018.

The report also provides sets out the proposal to seek authority to set the amount of the fixed penalty pursuant to the Open Spaces Act 2018 for a relevant offence at £80.00, with a reduction to £50.00 if the penalty is paid within 10 days. This would include all byelaw offences at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, as well as offences under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (littering) and section 10(4) of the Open Spaces Act 2018 (carrying on a specified commercial activity without a licence or in contravention of a licence).

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Discuss the delegation of authority to the Director of Open Spaces and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park to authorise officers to issue FPNs and require a name and address where there is reason to believe that a person has committed an offence, pursuant to the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018.
- Discuss the amount of the fixed penalty for offences within Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park in respect of which an FPN may be issued under the Open Spaces Act 2018 being set at £80.00 with a reduction to £50.00 if paid within 10 days.

Main Report

Background

1. FPNs may be issued as an alternative to prosecution in the Magistrates Court in respect of a range of offences. An FPN is a notice offering the person to whom it is issued the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty to the City of London Corporation. Unlike conditional cautions, an admission of guilt is not a prerequisite to issuing an FPN. No proceedings may be taken in respect of the alleged offence before the end of 14 days following the date on which the notice was issued and the person may not be convicted of that offence if the fixed penalty is paid to the City Corporation before the end of that period.
2. Section 11 of the Open Spaces Act 2018 provides the opportunity for FPNs to be introduced for all byelaw offences at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, as well as offences under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (littering) and section 10(4) of the Open Spaces Act 2018 (carrying on a specified commercial activity without a licence or in contravention of a licence). Section 12 of the Open Spaces Act 2018 also enables authorised officers to require a name and address, where there is reason to believe that a person has committed an offence, to enable FPN's (or summonses) to be issued in person or by post.
3. It is noted that the City Commons have had Committee approval to utilise FPNs in the enforcement of Dog Control Orders (and subsequently Public Spaces Protection Orders) since 2014 and that Epping Forest received similar approval with respect to the powers under the Open Spaces Act 2018 in May 2020.

Enforcement Protocol

4. The enforcement of breaches will take place as an Out of Court Disposal through the issue of FPNs pursuant to the Open Spaces Act 2018. This approach would allow the authorised officers to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first-time offending which could be resolved more appropriately without a prosecution in court.
5. The Hampstead Heath Constabulary Manager will carry out a review of the Enforcement Strategy of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, bring a paper to a future consultative meeting for discussion.

Fixed Penalty Notices

6. Under section 11(7) of the Open Spaces Act 2018 the amount of any fixed penalty must be prescribed by the City of London Corporation. There may be differing amounts in relation to different classes of case but any fixed penalty may not exceed £100.00. The proposed fixed penalty charge for all relevant offences is £80.00, with a reduction to £50.00 if paid within 10 days. This reflects the charging levels set for Epping Forest and the City Commons and is in line with current Local Authority best practice.
 - As an example, current Fixed Penalty Notice fine levels across neighbouring boroughs:

Dropping and leaving litter (littering) contrary to the Environmental Protection Act 1990)		
Authority	Discounted Penalty	Full Penalty
Camden	£80	£100
Barnet	None	£100
Brent	None	£100
Haringey	None	£80

Authorised Officers

7. Under section 11(1) of the Open Spaces Act 2018 an FPN must be issued by an authorised officer. The power to require a name and address under section 12(1) of the Open Spaces Act 2018 must also be exercised by an authorised officer. 'Authorised officer' means an officer or employee of the City Corporation, or other person acting under the control of the City Corporation in relation to an open space, who is authorised in writing by the City Corporation for the purposes of the function concerned.
8. It is proposed that delegated authority is sought from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee to enable the Director and the Superintendent to authorise officers and contractors as and when necessary for these purposes, for example following any change of staff.

Appeals

9. There are no formal grounds of appeal against an FPN. This is because a fixed penalty notice is an invitation for the offender to discharge their liability to prosecution by payment of the full amount of the penalty. In essence this means that whilst this is not an admission of guilt, the offender does agree that an offence has been committed and that by paying the sum of money specified that no further action will be taken by or on behalf of the City of London Corporation.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. This proposal is in line with the City of London's Corporate Plan 2018-23 and supports the aim of 'Contributing to a flourishing society' by pursuing the priority of ensuring 'People are safe and feel safe', and the aim of 'Shaping Outstanding Environments' through the twin priorities of 'We have clear air, land and water and a thriving sustainable natural environment' and 'Our spaces are secure resilient and well maintained'.
11. The proposal also contributes to the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2020-21 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.

Implications

12. **Financial:** Income from FPNs will be credited to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Local Risk budget for use in the management of these Open Spaces.
13. **HR:** Staff will be properly trained and apply the FPN process and standards professionally and monitor compliance with the Enforcement Strategy.
14. **Charity:** Hampstead Heath (number 803392), Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn (number 232986) are registered charities. Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Public Relations implications

15. The opportunity to quickly discharge offences under the FPN process may be welcomed by many offenders who wish to avoid involvement with a Magistrates Court hearing.

Conclusion

16. The delegated authority to the Director and Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, will allow authorised officers to require names and addresses and issue Fixed Penalty Notices offering an Out of Court disposal for certain breaches including byelaw offences and will bring Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park into line with the discharge of similar processes in other authorities. This

formal delegation of powers means that valuable court time is not wasted, and effective, timely resolutions can be sought for relevant breaches.

Appendices

- None

Richard Gentry

Constabulary and Queens Park Manager, Open Spaces Department

T: 0207 332 3322

E: richard.gentry@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date: 19/10/2020
Subject: Additional Tree Planting – Parliament Hill Area of Hampstead Heath	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Discussion
Report author: David Humphries	

Summary

This report sets out proposals received from the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum for additional tree and hedge planting across the Parliament Hill area of Hampstead Heath.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the options set out.
- Provide views on the two options linked to Project 17, as outlined in paragraph 19.

Main Report

Background

1. The adopted Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum - Neighbourhood Plan (DPNP) - March 2020, makes reference to has greenways (green corridors) as a as noted within chapter 7, p65, Environment & Sustainability (appendix 1).

Current Position

2. Representatives of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum (DPNF) met on site with the Heath's Tree Officer, Conservation Manager and representatives from the Heath & Hampstead Society in late July and early August.
3. The purpose of the site meeting was to discuss Project 17, as set out in the DPNP (appendix 1).
4. The site meetings began at the Swains Lane entrance to the Heath, taking in the line of London planes along Highgate Road and other recently planted trees in the area then on to the Broad walk from the bandstand to the Hive, looking at the tree cover in that locality.

5. The DPNF proposed planting additional London planes (exact numbers not agreed) to act as long-term replacements for the mature trees along the road (appendix 2, Figure 1). The Conservation Manager does not support this proposal and will provide an update at the meeting. Establishment of an additional line of London Planes will be problematical, necessitate pruning of the existing trees and could increase the incidence of Massaria branch failure.
6. The DPNF also proposed an avenue of trees to be planted along the Broad Walk (appendix 2, Figure 2 & 3).
7. Within the last 5 years the City Corporation has undertaken additional tree planting in the eastern side of Parliament Hill. Young oak and lime trees have been planted across from the northern end of the London plane line and fruit trees incorporated into the orchard on the eastern side of the Petanque area.
8. The establishment of young trees in this part of the Heath has been a challenging due to ground conditions and vandalism.

Options

9. There are tree planting opportunities both along the eastern boundary of the Heath and along the Broad Walk. Discussion at the site meetings centred on 2 main options.

Option 1

10. A formal approach including avenues and a natural approach including groups of trees.
11. Benefits would include:
 - Naturalising the broad walk, extending the green corridor.
 - Habitat for wildlife.
 - Provision of additional shade in hot periods.
 - Addition of carbon capture and storage.
12. The Heath's Tree Officer proposes that selective individual trees could be added to the area opposite the London plane line.

Option 2

13. Alternatively, groups of trees in clusters of 3's, 5's & 7's, could be planted along the Broad walk. These trees would add to the green corridor of the existing trees planted around the north east corner of the Athletics Track. This proposal has been looked at in previous Management Plans but not been implemented.
14. It is proposed that planting would consist of native species to include oak; field maple; hornbeam; small leaved lime; wild service; Dutch Elm Disease resistant elm; alder; sweet chestnut.
15. Consideration will need to be given to land drainage in the vicinity of the Athletics Track. The longstanding finish line for National and Southern Counties Cross Country Championships will also need to be considered.

16. These proposals would require the purchase of up to 25 Trees from bio-secure local nurseries and bought in at 160/180 mm girth of the tree at 1m height. Trees of this size cost between £250/300 plus transportation, planting and aftercare. Planting and maintenance would need to be programmed into the Annual Work Programme.
17. Project 17 also relates to *Opening up views*: Removing more metal railings and hedging, to open out views and access and encourage the rural feel of Hampstead Heath. The Superintendent will provide a verbal update on this aspect at the meeting.
18. Project 18: ACVs: The Forum recognises the importance of the pubs to the vibrancy of the Area and to generate footfall for other businesses in the Area. The Dartmouth Arms has already been designated as an Asset of Community Value, but the Forum would support the designation of the other pubs in the Area as ACVs. We also support the designation of both the Lido café and Parliament Hill café on the Heath as ACVs.
19. The Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café has been designated as an Asset of Community Value by Camden Council on the 20 May 2016 <https://opendata.camden.gov.uk/widgets/84z2-jixf>
20. Members views on the two options linked to Project 17 are sought.

Strategic Implications

21. Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: Outcome A's three priority objectives focus on habitat conservation and enhancement, heritage and landscape character, and maintaining a balance between nature conservation and heritage value and visitor activities. B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.
22. The proposals also meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2018-19 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives
23. This proposal contributes towards the achievement of the two aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).

Financial Implications

24. A fully costed proposal will need to be prepared and considered within the context of the Annual Work Programme.
25. A joint application between Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest has been submitted to the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The application

incorporates tree planting projects. The Superintendent will provide an update on the progress of the funding application at the meeting.

Conclusion

26. The City Corporation consider that additional tree planting would be a benefit to the long-term strategy of maintaining tree cover within the Parliament Hill area.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Letter from Chair of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum.
- Appendix 2 – Planting proposal diagrams.

David Humphries

Tree Officer, Open Spaces Dept.

T: 020 7332 3322

E: david.humphries@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Ms Anne Fairweather,
Chairman, Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
City of London, Guildhall,
London EC2V 7HH

13 July 2020

Dear Ms Fairweather

Approval and adoption of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Plan

I am writing on behalf of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum (DPNF) to let you know about the next phase of the Forum, now that the Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) has been made. I would also like to seek your advice on and support for a number of projects.

This plan was approved by a local referendum in February 2020. It was formally adopted on 2nd March 2020, after a referendum in which 87.9% of the votes cast were in favour. The referendum and details of the Plan can be viewed online at our website www.dpnf.org. Details can also be found on the Camden website at:

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/web/guest/dartmouth-park-neighbourhood-forum>

A copy is attached for ease of reference.

The next phase involves acting as statutory consultee and a custodian of the Plan as well as taking forward a number of projects. The vision for the area is set out in the plan. A key part of it is to ensure that the area's village character, rich architectural heritage, attractive green streets, open spaces and natural environment are not only maintained but enhanced. The Plan covers the area of the Heath from Gospel Oak station to Swain's Lane. It contains 38 references to Hampstead Heath in the text.

During the drafting of the plan, the City of London were consulted on possible projects on the Heath. These are detailed in the extract below:

Project 17: Hampstead Heath: The Forum has identified the following projects to improve the facilities on Hampstead Heath. The City of London is responsible for the Heath, and it would be necessary to work with the Hampstead Heath Management Committee to develop and implement these projects.

Replacement trees: Planting a line of trees parallel to those lining Highgate Road, to serve as a backup when the existing trees reach the end of their lives or if they are affected by disease.

Opening up views: Removing more metal railings and hedging, to open out views and access and encourage the rural feel of Hampstead Heath.

Additional trees: Planting more trees along the path between the staff yard and Nassington Road, along the path up to the Lido, and delineating the football pitches north of the Lido.

Project 18: ACVs: The Forum recognises the importance of the pubs to the vibrancy of the Area and to generate footfall for other businesses in the Area. The Dartmouth Arms has already been designated as an Asset of Community Value, but the Forum would support the designation of the other pubs in the Area as ACVs. We also support the designation of both the Lido café and Parliament Hill café on the Heath as ACVs.

We would be very grateful for your advice on and views as to the next steps in taking forward these projects.

- Is the CoL will progress Project 17 in its entirety or in part in the near future?
- As to project 18, has the CoL any objection to registering these two sites as ACVs?

We would be grateful if you could inform the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee at their next meeting of the publication of the neighbourhood plan, ask them to note the proposed projects and advise us of their views and possible actions. We would like those that cannot be progressed at present be left on file for possible future action.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Maya de Souza

Chair, Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum

CC:

Karina Dostalova - Deputy Chairman HHCC

Bob Warnock – Superintendent of Hampstead Heath

Nick Bradfield – DPCAAC representative on HHCC

Leanne Murphy -Town Clerks Department CoL

Appendix 2



Figure 1 - Areas for additional tree planting along Highgate Road boundary.

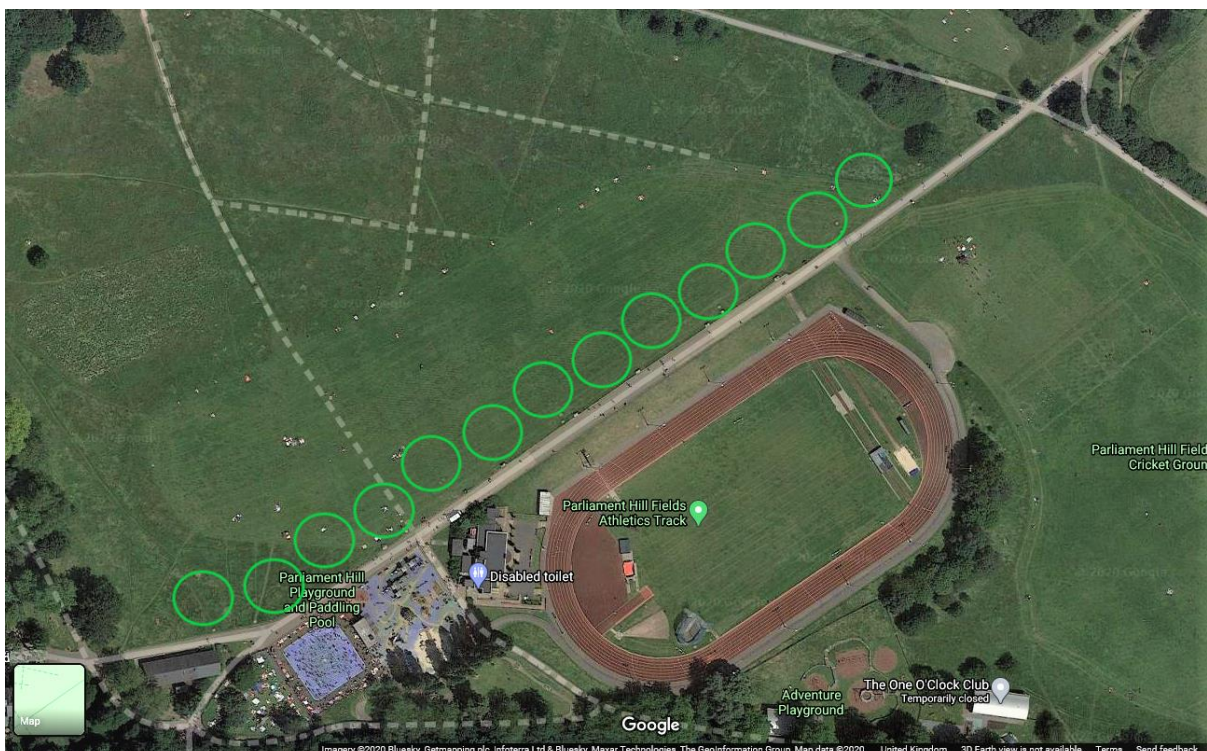


Figure 2 - DPNF proposal for line of trees along the Broad Walk.

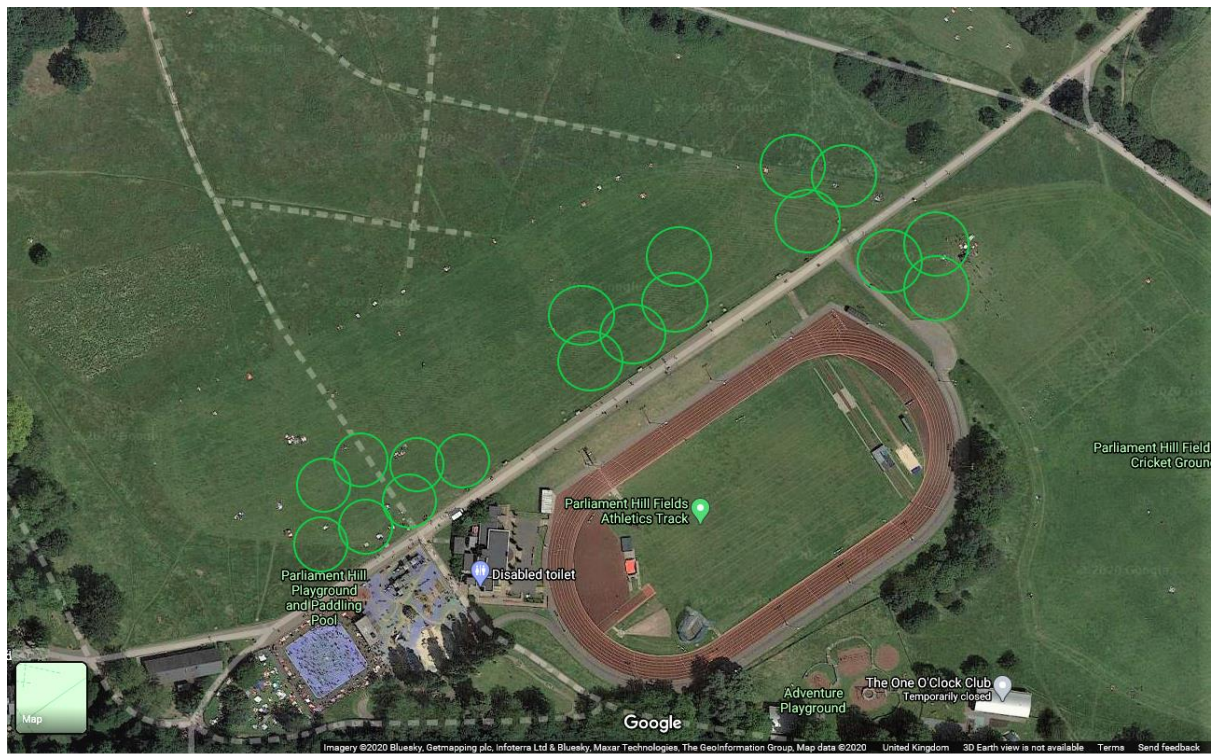


Figure 3 – City Corporation proposal for additional tree planting along the Broad Walk.



Heath Hands Update – September 2020

Volunteer programmes began a phased reintroduction across the site from mid-June. Over 1,300 hours contributed by volunteers across some 120 sessions, largely focused on garden maintenance, litter picking and habitat conservation activities. An average of ten sessions per week, which is approximately 60% of pre-lockdown levels.

Volunteers assisting the teams regularly again at:

- The Hill Garden
- Golders Hill Park
- English Heritage Kenwood Estate
- Highgate Wood
- Education and community gardens e.g. Secret Garden and Old Orchard and Whitestone Pond Garden
- Limited number of conservation sessions undertaking task from Annual Work Programme on main body of the Heath e.g. invasive species control, scrub management
- Keats House garden and assisting with reopening of House to public

Major focus assisting Ranger Teams tackling litter over Summer, with a coalition of local groups including Parkrun, Camden Greenpeace, GetaGrip and Park the Plastic assisting Heath Hands volunteers. Over 40 organised events, and small-scale sessions continuing to be organised each week. Many hundreds from local community helping tackle litter problems voluntarily.

Youth volunteer programmes restarted in mid-September with increased sessions after school and on weekends to help young people get involved in beneficial projects.

Wildlife monitoring has continued over summer with restricted projects on reptiles and dragonflies and hedgehog conservation. Wildlife Interpretation and some other volunteer roles remain suspended due to health and safety restrictions.

Heath Hands Community Heath programmes for local groups and community organisations slowly restarting as restrictions have eased, and benefits of outdoor events. Activities organised with North London Cares, the Camden Society, the Winch amongst others.

Funding from Camden Giving, is supporting efforts to improve accessibility to our green spaces and our work to provide opportunities for those of all abilities and backgrounds.

Heath Hands programme of walks and talks including activities to improve mental health and wellbeing restarting formally in October. This is part-funded by a grant from the Postcode Local Trust.

Volunteer capacity remains severely restricted, and there are few opportunities for recruitment of new volunteers, despite overwhelming interest from local community. The active volunteer group has fallen to below 140 people.

Staff monitoring official guidelines, with the health and welfare of staff and volunteers the priority.

29th September 2020

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The Heath & Hampstead Society

President Lord Hoffmann *Vice President* Martin Humphery *Chair* Marc Hutchinson
Patrons Lady Hopkins, Sir Simon Jenkins, Bill Oddie OBE, Tom Oliver, Sir John Tusa

Heath & Hampstead Society **Proposal for Nature Appreciation Display Boards on Hampstead Heath** **to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the 1871 Act**

Submitted to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

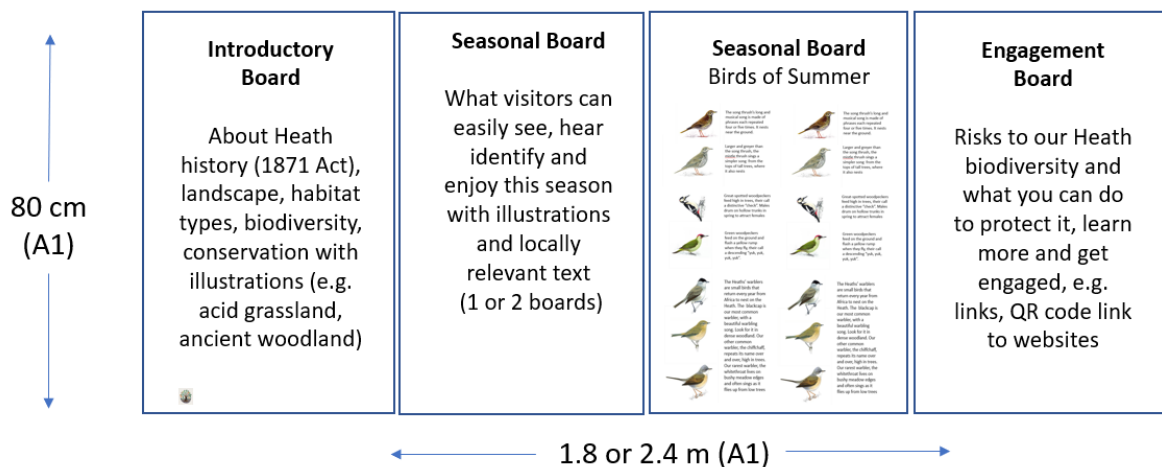
In 2021, we will mark the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act, which set aside the Heath for public recreation under the proviso that “the natural aspect and state of the Heath” be preserved and protected. Today, in the 21st Century, no issue challenges the future of the Heath more than that of maintaining that natural state in the face of rapidly increasing visitors and the effects of a changing climate.

To celebrate and support the conservation of this uniquely biodiverse urban open space, The Heath & Hampstead Society proposes to create a series of high-quality display boards which could be placed at entrances to the Heath to introduce visitors to the Heath’s natural history and how it can be appreciated and protected. The display would be run for the entire sesquicentennial year, and changed quarterly to reflect seasonal nature highlights. There would be a particular emphasis on changing birdlife, in memory of Kate Springett, who did so much to popularize and protect birds on the Heath, and making use of valuable information gained from the 2020 Nesting Bird survey, which H&HS ran with City of London and English Heritage.

The intended audience for these boards would be Heath visitors whose enjoyment of, and care for, the Heath could be improved by better understanding of its natural history, including adults and school-age children. The display would therefore include simple, information-rich text and high-quality images of Heath habitats and wildlife. Many London open spaces place signage for nature appreciation and education across their landscapes. This project seeks to achieve similar education and conservation benefits, while acknowledging our shared view that the Heath itself should not be covered with signs.

H&HS has made a preliminary general design for the display, based on research on similar displays in nature reserves and public spaces, which will be discussed and developed with City and other groups that we both feel should be involved, for instance RSPB and the Marylebone Birdwatching Society. The following is therefore only indicative, as H&HS, City and selected groups will make the final design. We are thinking of a mounted display of three or four flipchart paper-sized (A1) boards. The first would introduce the Heath, its protection by the 1871 Act, and its distinctive natural habitats. The next one or two would illustrate bird and other charismatic species that visitors can easily find, identify and enjoy. The last panel will highlight the dramatic recent decline in biodiversity worldwide and in London, and show how

biodiversity on the Heath is being protected in various projects. It will explain how visitors can themselves use the Heath in a biodiversity-friendly way. The centre board(s) would be changed seasonally, to capture our changing wildlife and flora. A possible schematic is shown below:



The emphasis would be on enriching the Heath experience, hence boards would illustrate wildlife that visitors would be likely to see, hear and identify during a visit. Brief descriptions would include a “story” element. For instance, an illustration of the Heath’s woodpeckers like that below might include mention of the green woodpecker’s dependence on anthills for food, which is why they are found in meadows. Unintentional destruction of anthills by visitors and dogs is currently threatening this species on the Heath, hence the display could help visitors be more nature- and conservation-aware.

Illustrations here are borrowed from RSPB website, and we would ask organizations like RSPB to allow us to use their high-quality images.



Great-spotted woodpeckers feed high in trees, their call a distinctive “chik”. Males drum on hollow trunks in spring to attract females



Green woodpeckers feed in meadows at ant hills and flash a yellow rump in flight. Their call is a descending “yak, yak, yak, yak”.

Preliminary discussions between H&HS and City have identified several sites at public entrances to the Heath where copies of the display might be sited in order to engage the greatest number of visitors as they enter the Heath. These include café areas, like Parliament Hill, and possibly car parks. H&HS is has also approached English Heritage to be a partner in this project, with the idea of placing a display at Kenwood. H&HS has set aside funds to develop the boards, and would seek *pro bono* contributions towards design and illustrations.

As a joint effort, the display would be branded with H&HS and City logos and links, and those of other partners. Planning permission would be sought from Camden Council. If approved, an effort would be made to have at least some of the displays in place in January 2021. This would be a one-year project, linked to the celebration of the 1871 Act, but if it proves popular and effective, displays could perhaps be updated and continued.

Prepared by the Heath and Hampstead Society, Heath Subcommittee, 28 September 2020