



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 19 APRIL 2021

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)
- Simon Hunt (Open Spaces 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

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<https://youtu.be/VfZADi6bql>

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

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 non-public summary of the meeting held on 25 January 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 1 - 12)

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 24 February 2021.

For Information
(Pages 13 - 22)

5. HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES

To receive the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 15 March 2021.

For Information
(Pages 23 - 30)

6. HEATH HANDS UPDATE

Heath Hands to be heard.

For Information
(Pages 31 - 32)

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.

For Discussion
(Pages 33 - 40)

- a) Appendix 1 - Biodiversity Interpretation Boards (Pages 41 - 44)
- b) Appendix 2 - Heath Extension Play Area Improvements Design Brief (Pages 45 - 48)
- c) Appendix 3 - Sports & Wellbeing Forum - Draft Terms of Reference (Pages 49 - 52)
- d) Appendix 4 - Feedback received on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum (Pages 53 - 54)
- e) Appendix 5 - Annual Work Programme Projects (Pages 55 - 62)
- f) Appendix 6 - Draft Annual Swimming Report 2020-21 (Pages 63 - 96)

- g) Appendix 7 - Feedback on the Draft Swimming Annual Review 2020-21 (Pages 97 - 100)
- h) Appendix 8 - Swimming Capital Project Gateway 2 Report (Pages 101 - 106)
8. **OPEN SPACES - UPDATE ON PLANNING RELATED MATTERS**
Report of the Remembrancer.
For Information
(Pages 107 - 108)
9. **OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021-22**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
For Information
(Pages 109 - 116)
10. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
12. **MEETING DATES**
The 2021 HHCC meeting dates are:
 - 1 November 2021 5.30 pm
 - 6 September 2021 5.30 pm
 - 19 April 2021 5.30 pm

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Agenda Item 3

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 25 January 2021

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on Monday, 25 January 2021 at 5.30 pm

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)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Simon Hunt (Open Spaces Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)

In Attendance:

Rob Shakespeare - Principal Curator, Keats House

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
Alison Bunn	- Assistant Director Facilities Management, City Surveyors
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cindy Galvin, John Weston, David Walton, Steve Ripley, Ellin Stein, Harunur Rashid and Sharlene 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 19 October 2020 were approved as a correct record subject to a typo.

Matters arising

150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act

Members received an update from Rob Shakespeare, Principal Curator, and the following comments were made:

- The main 150th Anniversary community event is provisionally held for 29 June 2021. The Anniversary will be an opportunity to explore important issues including the impact of the Act, conservation, preservation and engagement with the Heath.
- Two displays are being progressed; a temporary outdoor display consisting of 9 monoliths which will be situated on the Heath during June-July, and a series of permanent signboards which are being designed in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society.
- The local community and stakeholders will be consulted regarding the plan and outline content in February.
- A joint logo and communications plan are in development to enable a community partnership approach to the celebrations.
- It is hoped a national perspective would emerge from the online programme, local media coverage and community events.
- The Chair highlighted that emphasis should be placed on the Hampstead Heath charity and hoped the anniversary would be an opportunity to underline the importance of the registered charity.

Victorian gate and display board

Officers agreed to follow up with the interested Member offline regarding possible use of the gate. The previous City Skyline display board from the top of Kite Hill has been offered to the Museum of London.

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 7 January 2021 were received.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent regarding Hampstead Heath and the following comments were made:

COVID response

- The Superintendent stated that the overriding priority during the current lockdown was to keep the City Corporation's Open Spaces open, safe and as accessible as possible. There had been an increase in the number of staff shielding and testing positive for COVID. The primary issue at the Heath remains the significantly increased footfall and resulting compaction and ground erosion. Staff are undertaking waste

collections very early in the morning as paths are very busy during the day.

Constabulary

- Members were informed that despite there being no New Year's Eve fireworks display, approximately 500 people gathered at the Parliament Hill viewpoint.
- The Constabulary have continued to Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce in relation to antisocial behaviour, cycling on non-designated paths and dog control.
- An online assessment through the Civil Aviation Authority is now required concerning the use of drones and the Heath's drone policy will be updated accordingly. Drones remain unpermitted at the Heath.
- With regard to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), Members were advised that Officers were working with colleagues across the City Corporation to embed an FPN Scheme.
- A new Heath Radio system is being investigated. The St Columba Radio Mast lease will expire in Autumn 2021 and renewal is not possible.
- In response to a query from a Member (Highgate Society) concerning whether the mast could be removed, Officers confirmed that enquires would be made.

Savernake Bridge

- Members noted the existing and proposed plans, artists impressions and photographs for the new scheme provided in Appendix 1 which would realign the bins and posts and open up the area to make it more welcoming. New wooden fencing and gates would replace the current metal structures in line with the work to paths and entrances elsewhere on the Heath.
- Officers are working in collaboration with the London Borough of Camden and Heath Hands to introduce cycle parking, bridge artwork and planter improvements.
- A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted that from the Camden side, there was no indication that the bridge led to the Heath and recommended introducing a finger point/notice board with a map to make this clearer. It was also suggested that the nearby Primary School could get involved with the project.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) felt this project was not a priority over other projects needed on the Heath and that relocating the sign board

was not necessary. Officers confirmed that relocating the sign board would provide a better view onto the Heath and shield the Hive building.

- A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) confirmed that the Heath and Hampstead Society agreed with the improvements, planting and replacement to wooden fencing and gates.

Playgrounds

- The Superintendent noted a letter received from a local young resident (Appendix 2) regarding proposals to extend the age range at the Heath Extension Playground and improve accessibility. Officers have met with the local resident on site to discuss their initial ideas and a Landscape Architect has been engaged. The next steps are to meet online with local Stakeholders to scope the development of the playground.
- It was noted that the local resident has already engaged in fundraising activities to help fund the project and has worked to gather support from the local community. Members complimented the local resident on their hard work and saw this as a great example of how young people could get involved in caring for the Heath. It was hoped this initiative could be built on to bring in young people on other projects.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) voiced concern over the increase in age use for the playground as the space was designed to give small children a safe space to play. The Superintendent confirmed that the space was large, and that the proposals were to extend the age range to up to 12 years.
- In response to a question concerning the character of the equipment Officers confirmed that new equipment would align with the Heath and the play principles. Natural materials and features would be used to complement the setting, rather than bold bright colours.

Health Connections

- Members were advised that exploratory talks had taken place to develop an initiative to map the facilities and activities available on the Heath, and to build connections with local Clinical Commissioning Groups, charities and Partners to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- It was noted that the Sports Advisory Forum welcomed and supported the proposals.
- A Member (Highgate Society) highlighted the elderly as an important group and queried if local resident/care homes could be included. The Chair noted that the Heath had mobility scooters that could be a helpful resource.

- Officers hoped the initiative could be integrated with the annual “Give it a Go” event to promote health and wellbeing. It was noted that Hand Hands and Camden Council were heavily involved.
- A Member (Barnet Mencap) highlighted Social Prescribers in GP Practices. The Chair encouraged Members to suggest any local connections that could be involved in Health Connections initiative.

Professional Dog Walking

- The Superintendent confirmed that correspondence had been received from many professional dog walkers and their clients. A meeting with the newly formed Hampstead Professional Dog Walking Association took place in December 2020 and Officers were working on an Expression of Interest Form to gain further information around the split between full and part time professional dog walkers who would wish to apply for a licence.

Contractors & Maintenance

- Members were informed that gas line replacement works would take place on the Heath from March 2021, with a programme of 6-8 weeks.
- The toilets at Parliament Hill have been refurbished. Works at the toilets in the Traditional Playground are due to be completed by 12 February 2021.
- Works at the East Heath Car Park have been postponed until April due to the very wet ground conditions.
- Funding has been sourced and investigations have begun this week concerning the Lido leak. Further exploration will continue, but Officers are optimistic that the source of the leak has been identified.

Capital projects

- The project concerning the accessibility, safety and security of the three Bathing Ponds and Lido is being progressed to Gateway 2.
- The Athletics Track Reconstruction Project has not been approved for Capital Funding and is deferred/ on a reserve list should funding become available. It was noted that the Track surface was still compliant with the TrackMark Accreditation but would need to be replaced in the near future to retain the accreditation.
- The Hampstead Heath Pergola superstructure repair and replacement bid was also deferred/on a reserve list should funding become available.

Planning

- **Telecoms Mast (outside Ivy House).** The appeal was dismissed on 12 January 2021.
- **108 South Hill Park.** A decision by Camden Council is pending.
- **55 Fitzroy Park.** Camden Council is still to determine the planning application.

Events

- The Leisure and Events Manager stressed the uncertainty and difficulties in planning and preparing any events for 2021 due to the pandemic. Officers will take a flexible approach and work with event organisers to facilitate events where possible.
- The Affordable Art Fair event organisers are currently planning September dates, although these remain subject to COVID guidelines.
- The event organisers for the Night of 10k Personal Bests are in discussion with UK Athletics and will confirm this week if the event will take place in 2021.
- The English National Cross Country Championship has been postponed and the event organisers are considering if an Autumn event will be possible. The event organisers have contributed to planned restoration works by donating towards the cost of purchasing grass and wildflower seed mixes for the Heath.

Swimming

- The proposals (Appendix 3) set out plans for swimming during Spring/Summer/Autumn 2021. The proposals have been compiled to comply with Social Distancing and Tier 4 regulations, which were in place in December 2020. The proposals will be reviewed and amended ahead of implementation following updated Government Guidance.
- Feedback from the Swimming Forum and Sports Advisory Forum included reviewing the commencement date of booked sessions to align with the Lido, to offer an open “all-comers” session at the Lido, to consider swim tests for young swimmers at the Bathing Ponds, and retaining a cash payment option.

Financial Implications

- The situation has deteriorated since Christmas and an analysis of the December actuals is taking place to identify the extent of the budget overspend. Income streams are currently very limited, and expenditure

remains high to manage the impact of the high footfall being experienced at the Heath.

- A Member (Highgate Society) congratulated Officers on the phone mast appeal outcome and requested that the appeal document be circulated.
- Following the City Corporation's consultation feedback on the Planning White Paper, the Town Clerk agreed to follow up with the Remembrancer to provide an update at the next meeting on the next steps and to outline what the City Corporation was doing to raise awareness of the condition of its public open spaces and the need for Government to support their maintenance and restoration.
- A Member (Highgate Society) noted changes to the draft London Plan which were required by the Minister and would result in weakening the protection of Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land and recommended that the City Corporation request clarification on these changes.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) queried if the donate page on the Hampstead Heath website was a work in progress as the link currently only took the user to an email address. It was felt this needed more work to encourage donations.
- The Director of Open Spaces confirmed the donations page was launched in December 2020. It would now be possible to donate to individual projects or make general donations via the website. This would take the donator to a giving form rather than an email address. A key aim was to get the message out to the public that the Heath was a charity.
- It was noted that Heath Hands and Kenwood House also had their own donations pages.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Provide feedback on the Savernake Bridge outline design proposals (appendix 1);
- Provide feedback on the proposed Swimming arrangement for 2021, as set out in appendix 3.

6. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out the draft Divisional Plan 2021-2024 and the Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2021-2022 for Hampstead Heath.

Members were advised that Officers had prepared the AWP in November 2020; however, projects were being reprioritised to focus more on recovery and restoration following the announcement of the third National Lockdown. It was

noted that the Heath was incredibly wet with eroded path edges and wide informal trails which would be a significant challenge to recover, with work taking a number of years to achieve this outcome. Restoration works are planned to commence in March/April. Dead hedging will be used to protect areas from compaction and to encourage bramble to recolonise where appropriate.

Members were very concerned by the current poor condition of the Heath and felt that restoration and recovery works should be prioritised over all other work. The Chair noted that Officers were working to produce more data on the footfall numbers at the Heath.

A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) recommended the use of hawthorn which is impenetrable. Another Member (Highgate Society) queried if there was scope for volunteers to assist with restoration and recommended using local newspapers and social media to highlight the damage and compaction caused by increased footfall and usage.

Officers confirmed that they were working with the Heath Ecologist and Heath Conservation Supervisor to sequence restoration works. Officers were also considering introducing further wildflower meadows to aid restoration and increase biodiversity. A drone would be used to assess the extent of damage across the Heath.

With regard to a question concerning bringing in more volunteers, the Superintendent confirmed Heath Hands were the primary volunteer Partner. Currently volunteering activities are impacted by social distancing measures but as soon as it was safe to resume volunteering there would be an ambitious programme of work to tackle.

It was noted that enclosing areas for restoration would be challenging when balanced with the fact that space was required to enable visitors to socially distance. A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) stated that the condition of some areas, e.g. the sunbathing meadow by the Boating Pond, would only recover by fencing it off for some time, and that Heath users needed to be informed as to why it would be necessary.

A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt, given the impact of COVID and finances, that the strategy should be reviewed in a year to see what if anything needed to be changed around priorities.

A Member (London Wildlife Trust) was reassured that Officers were prioritising recovery and noted the damage to land and ancient woodland flora across London with COVID exposing that there was not enough green space available. The Member felt drone footage would assist the evidence base to show the impact. The Chair agreed as the impacts would affect future costs.

It was suggested that a Government Minister be invited to visit the Heath to understand the damage and pressure on open spaces. The Director of Open Spaces advised that London-wide and National groups were pressing hard for

a green recovery fund from the Government as there was huge concern regarding all open spaces, especially natural environments and conservation sites. This work was being led by Natural England.

Members voiced support of the Chair and Deputy Chairman's stance on the budget reductions given the current condition of the Heath and were supportive that more investment was needed.

With regard to the Divisional Plan, the Superintendent advised that projects had been reviewed and reprioritised towards recovery and restoration. Electric vehicle options were being investigated to ensure the Heath fleet is compliant with the Ultra Low Emissions Zone in October 2021.

Regarding the feasibility study concerning charging payment for access at toilets, a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) felt this was a challenging subject and should be properly discussed. Members were advised that the study was a starting point to bring information to the Committee for consideration.

In response to a query from a Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) concerning the view at the top of Parliament Hill, it was confirmed that the Tree Team would progress work in the AWP to open up the view before bird nesting season.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members provide feedback on the draft Divisional Plan 2021-2024 (Appendix 1);
- Members provide feedback on the draft Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme 2021-2022 (Appendix 2).

7. FEES AND CHARGES 2021-22 & 2022-23

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out the proposed fees and charges for a range of sports and services provided at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park for 2021-22 and the proposed fees and charges for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies for 2022-23.

The Sports Advisory Forum feedback was that the inflation increase should happen to avoid a bigger increase in the following year.

A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) noted concern for Clubs who were struggling financially and offering refunds for membership and hoped that they could be offered a group discount for multiple use. A monthly direct debit scheme for people struggling to pay off their season ticket was also suggested. Officers agreed to look at the feasibility of this option.

In response to a query concerning inflation increases on those paying by cash, Officers confirmed that the vast majority of people were paying by contactless or card.

A Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) suggested that the City Corporation revisit further opportunities for above-inflation increases in charges for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies, Forest Schools, photography, etc.

RESOLVED – That:-

- The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group and Queen's Park Consultative Group discuss the proposed fees and charges for 2021-22 and 2022-23, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and Queen's Park Consultative Group be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 24 February 2021.

8. CYCLICAL WORK PROGRAMME (CWP) 2021/22 UPDATED BID REPORT

Members considered a report of the City Surveyor setting out the details of projects which will now be undertaken in 2021/22 and delivered within that year which form part of the previous year's programmes. In addition, the main changes to how the CWP will operate and be delivered in year 2022/23 onwards is also provided.

Officers reassured Members that whilst funds had reduced, all urgent health and safety works would be identified working with the City Surveyor and funds would be bid for when necessary.

RESOLVED - With two hours having elapsed since the start of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order No. 40 the Committee agreed at this point to extend the meeting by up to thirty minutes.

In response to a concern raised by a Member (Vale of Health Society) regarding mountain bikers at Sandy Heath, Officers confirmed Lifeguards were supporting the Ranger Team and Constabulary to patrol this area.

RECEIVED.

9. VOLUNTEERING UPDATE

Members received an oral update concerning volunteering at the Heath. Members were advised that as a result of the COVID restrictions, Heath Hands have proactively undertaken work where possible in a COVID secure manner and have ensured that volunteers were updated and supported.

Heath Hands have secured funding to purchase an electric vehicle to assist with moving materials across the Heath. Support is also being offered for Health Connections. It was hoped that volunteers could return to full strength in the summer and support staff with recovery.

10. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting on 19 April 2021 was noted.

The meeting ended at 7.38 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
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Agenda Item 4

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE Wednesday, 24 February 2021

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (https://youtu.be/_RVRzzbAgRg) held on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy David Bradshaw
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Deputy Edward Lord
Wendy Mead
Ruby Sayed
Deputy John Tomlinson
William Upton QC
Yianni Andrews (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Chris Byers (English Heritage)
Richard Cornelius (London Borough of Barnet)
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Oliver Sells QC (Ex-Officio Member)

In attendance:

David Humphries - Tree Management Officer, Hampstead Heath

Officers:

Colin Buttery	-	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Katherine Radusin	-	PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Alison Bunn	-	Head of Facilities Management, City Surveyor's Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Head of Finance, Chamberlain's Department
Gerry Kiefer	-	Department Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Richard Gentry	-	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager, Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	-	Operational Services Manager, Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	-	Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Yvette Hughes	-	Business Manager, Hampstead Heath
Paul Maskell	-	Leisure and Events Manager, Hampstead Heath
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Michael Hudson and Adeline Siew Yin Au.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the public minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

4. HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) meeting held on 25 January 2021 were received.

5. FRONT LINE WORK UPDATE

Members received a verbal update from David Humphries, Tree Management Officer for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, providing a front-line worker perspective on the issues experienced concerning tree management.

Members were advised that the pandemic had directly impacted the Tree Teams work. The Heath is very heavily compacted in areas, which was impacting on soil health and the ecology it supports. Members were shown pictures of stock fencing around trees, which has been installed to help reduce soil compaction.

After 35 years working at the Heath, the Tree Officer highlighted that he had never seen the Heath used as heavily as it has been throughout the pandemic. There had also been a noticeable seasonal change in recent years and these issues were also having a subsequent impact on the health of the soil and environments. Compaction of soil would be an ongoing issue and legacy of the impact was not yet fully understood by Officers.

It was noted that tree inspection surveys were now up to date. It was estimated that 11% of the Heath's veteran trees had been lost over the last 18 years. There are 470 veteran trees, compared to 530 recorded during a 2002 study. There had also been an increase in tree failures during 2020, with 110 failures recorded, compared to the mean average of 70 a year.

A Member questioned if soil compaction and tree failure was a result of climate change or the recent pandemic impact. Members were informed that the pandemic had had a significant impact, but Officers were also carrying out more ecology work concerning urban heat from climate change.

With respect to the protection of veteran trees, a Member recommended using dead hedging instead of fencing. Members were advised that dead hedging had been traditionally used around individual trees, but sadly instances of arson had led to more damage. Dead hedging was used as a short-term option and new options such as chestnut pale fencing and semi-permanent stock fencing would be used.

6. ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the Committee's Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED - That:-

- the Terms of Reference of the Committee, subject to any comments, be approved for submission to the Court in April 2021 as set out in the appendix; and
- any further changes in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chair.

7. 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 recognised the incredible effort from staff since Christmas, particularly in light of the recent mild weather and earlier snow.
- The recently announced Government roadmap will allow the Team to plan the reopening of sports activities from 29 March and timetable events from 21 June. It was highlighted that the key role of Open Spaces would remain, especially at Easter and during the summer, as people were being encouraged not to holiday abroad.

Contractors & Maintenance

- Ground recovery works will be undertaken by staff during the spring and autumn. An 8-week programme of gas supply works will take place at Parliament Hill, starting in late spring; A 8-week programme of resurfacing and drainage works at the East Heath Car Park would commence in early April.
- With regards to the gas supply works, a Member cautioned Officers regarding contractors taking space for storage, etc, as the City Corporation had unhappy experiences with this in past. It was recommended that use to contractors be time and space limited. Officers confirmed the contractor had been made aware the Car Park was vital to generating income to support the Heath Charity. A compound would be in place for 8 weeks only and a fee would be charged.
- Officers were pleased to report that recent drainage investigations had located the location of the Lido leak. Works to replace the pipework were being undertaken and thanks were given to the City Surveyor's Department for their ongoing assistance in resolving the leak.

Planning

- The Superintendent updated Members on the following planning application:
 - **Cranwood Development (Haringey).** Officers attended a Development Forum hosted by the London Borough of Haringey. Following the Forum, Officers met with representatives from Haringey and the developer and had submitted written representations. Officers will continue to engage prior to a planning application submission.

Hampstead Heath Events Programme 2021-22

- Members were informed that the ongoing COVID pandemic had made it incredibly difficult as the lack of certainty for event organisers meant they were unable to make applications as normal. The Officer Event Group will continue to take a flexible approach and will work with event organisers to facilitate events where possible under the current restrictions.
- The Night of 10k Personal Bests event has been cancelled for 2021.
- The English National Cross Country will not take place in March 2021, due to the current restrictions. Ongoing dialogue is taking place with regards to an alternative event date in November 2021.
- The Heart walk is celebrating its 60th anniversary and a provisional date of 11 July was confirmed pending a risk assessment.
- The planned May date for the Race for Life event was postponed and would hopefully take place on 21 August.
- The Discussions are ongoing with the Showman's Guild regarding a longer Whitsun Fair, owing to the 2021 Easter Fair being cancelled.
- The Affordable Art Fair event organisers are currently planning for September dates and Zippos Circus is planned to go ahead on 18-24 October.
- The Leisure and Events Manager provided an overview of a possible new event, the Hideaway Cinema. Consideration was being given to a five-day outdoor cinema event located on the Lido field in early September 2021.
- The Chair felt the events were a balancing act as the Heath had lost income but there was a risk of damage to the Heath by visitors. The ticketing basis of these events would provide surety on the numbers expected.

Swimming

- Officers confirmed that capital funding had been secured for a project concerning accessibility, safety and security at the three Bathing Ponds and Lido and this was progressing to Gateway 2.
- With regards to the proposed operating arrangements for the 2021 summer season. Officers have prepared draft arrangements and have consulted with the Heath swimming community, Members of the Sports Advisory Forum and the HHCC. A draft outline of the proposals, which remain subject to further Government Guidance, are set out in appendix 1. Officers continued to work towards a planned re-opening date of 29 March. It is proposed to also open the Mixed Bathing Pond from 29 March to provide additional swimming capacity.
- The Chair confirmed the swim season would be reviewed annually and Members approved the draft swimming arrangements for 2021.

Highgate Wood

- It was noted that despite the stay local message to the public, Muswell Hill Road was regularly lined with cars from visitors driving to the Wood. The number of visitors has also increased due to the pandemic. Staff are preparing for 29 March and have a programme of ground restoration work to undertake.
- With regard to unprecedented numbers, a Member queried whether the Wood had reached a point of too many visitors. Members were advised that approximately a million people were visiting annually. A number of Conservation Areas are currently fenced off, but Staff have reported a number of new desire lines opening up during the pandemic. The Chair stated that people had found new Open Spaces during the pandemic and there were campaigns for more Open Spaces in London.

Queen's Park

- Officers confirmed that there were damage and compaction concerns at the Park, as well as some recent flooding. The Friends of Queen's Park were meeting this weekend to discuss projects at the Park. A draft plan for the Woodland Walk project was being reviewed locally.

RESOLVED – That Members agree in principle the Swimming arrangements for 2021 (appendix 1) as set out in para 17.

8. FEES AND CHARGES 2021-22 & 2022-23

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out the proposed fees and charges for a range of sports and services provided at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park for 2021-22 and the proposed fees and charges for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies for 2022-23.

The Chair noted that an email had been received from Catherine West MP expressing concern regarding bringing the Bathing Ponds Concession Season Ticket charges in line with a 40% discount on the adult rate.

Members were informed that the Retail Price Index for November 2020, 1.3%, was being applied to the majority of the fees and charges for 2021-22. The hourly car parking charges were being increased above inflation but remained lower than the local benchmarks. It was noted that concessions offered a 40% discount on the adult rate, and the need for Bathing Pond Concession Season Ticket charges to be increase to align with the 40% discount had been identified as part of the March 2020 Swim Review.

Members made the following comments:

- A Member supported the recommendation and felt the increase was reasonable as all Departments were expected to make 12% savings.
- In response to a query concerning the charges for Professional Dog Walking Licences, Members were advised that a pro rata rate would be applied.
- A Member was surprised that charges had not been rounded. Officers advised that the majority of payments were being made via contactless and card payments, and that there would be a lesser impact from providing change. As the majority of charges were being increased by 1.3% rounding of the charges would result in a greater charge increase and it was agreed to keep precise rates.
- Members considered the 5% charge for Forest Schools to be reasonable.
- A Member noted that an annual swimming update would be prepared for consideration at the May meeting of the Committee and felt uncomfortable making a decision on the swimming fees now as they had not appreciated the concession issue. It was felt £9.97 was a large increase and the percentages masked the figures.
- Another Member highlighted the need to remain open and accessible to all and felt the increases would impact low income and vulnerable users. The Member consequently did not support the increase due to the current challenging period. The Chair reminded Members that the uplift was in line with the decision made by the Committee in March 2020 as the City Corporation offered a 40% concession in all other areas. The Member noted that they raised this objection to the March decision and formally still objected.
- The Chair acknowledged the dissent voiced by some Members regarding the 40% concession rate, but that Members approved the other recommended fees.

- Members discussed the options to raise the Bathing Pond Concession Season Ticket rate by inflation (1.3%) or to bring it in line with the 40% concessional rate across the City Corporation's Open Spaces. A Member did not think a vote was justified as the rates were modest and it was unfair to the other Open Spaces who were all suffering huge income pressures. Another Member felt balance was needed and that Members needed to understand the impact.
- Officers confirmed it had been an extremely difficult year with huge income losses, but the City Corporation had continually made the choice throughout the year to reopen swimming when possible. The cost to provide swimming during 2020-21 would be set out in the annual Swimming review.
- The Chair proposed a vote be taken based on two proposals: to increase the Bathing Pond Concession Season Ticket rates in line with the recommendation within the report or to freeze rates until the discussion at the May meeting could take place. A ballot was cast with 10 Members in support of the original recommendation and 5 against it giving a clear majority in favour of the recommendation.
- The Chair thanked Members for their full exploration of the report and considered debate.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Agree the proposed fees and charges for 2021-22 as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;
- Agree the proposed Wedding and Civil Ceremony fees and charges for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;
- Agree to add Housing Benefit to the Concession Rate Criteria, as set out in para 11.

9. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out the draft Divisional Plan 2021-2024 and the Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2021-2022 for Hampstead Heath.

Members were advised that Officers had prepared the AWP in November 2020; however, projects were being reprioritised to focus more on recovery and restoration following the announcement and impacts of the third National Lockdown. Similar plans for Queen's Park and Highgate Wood were also being prepared and would come to the Committee in May.

With regards to the 150th anniversary celebrations, it was noted that a partnership statement and logo had been agreed to ensure a joined-up approach to promoting the anniversary. A Member felt that the monolith

exhibition should be used as an opportunity to promote the future and not just past.

The Director of Open Spaces noted that the anniversary was an opportunity to promote the work of the Hampstead Heath Charity and would hopefully encourage donations to support the work of the Charity. The Director also noted that people could now donate to particular projects via the City of London website.

Donations were being sought to fund works at the Model Boating Pond 'Island'. It is planned to revert the area to an island and increase aquatic planting in the channel created to support and improve the biodiversity of the area.

A Member enquired how the City Corporation would support SMEs during the upcoming café tendering process. Officers confirmed the process would start with local engagement, which would inform the tender process.

A Member felt the AWP did not adequately tackle the human impact issue on ecology and species at green spaces and queried what species monitoring was being undertaken based on species decline. Officers confirmed an innovative volunteer led bird nesting survey was completed last year and data was being collated by the Heath Ecologist. Volunteers were also identifying areas of high bird nesting activity. Volunteers from Heath Hands continue to support species monitoring.

The Superintendent added that there were a number of measures to protect ecology and biodiversity (including species monitoring) set out in the Divisional Plan; however, COVID recovery was currently the highest priority. The Conservation and Ecology AWP was set out in appendix 2 with new ground restoration works highlighted in blue.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- Agree the draft Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-2024 (appendix 1);
- Agree the draft Hampstead Heath Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme 2021-2022 (appendix 2).

10. OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22

Members received a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out the high-level Business Plan for the Open Spaces Department for 2021/22.

Members were advised that the Plan identified seven major workstreams for the whole Department together with the actions within various Corporate strategies that the Department was helping to deliver. The current Departmental risks, financial information and performance measures were also set out.

RECEIVED.

- 11. CYCLICAL WORK PROGRAMME (CWP) 2021/22 UPDATED BID REPORT**
Members received a report of the City Surveyor setting out the details of projects which would be undertaken in 2021/22. In addition, an update was received regarding changes to how the CWP will operate, and be delivered, from 2022/23 onwards.

It was confirmed that Officers remain in discussion with the Chamberlain as there was an option to apply for emergency funding for health and safety related works.

RECEIVED.

12. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee noted a report of the Town Clerk updating Members on action taken by the Town Clerk under urgency or delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman since the last meeting of the Board, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 41 (a) and (b).

The Chair provided context for the urgency concerning Departmental and Service Committee Budget Estimates 2021/22 which followed the motion of the Committee at its last meeting resulting in budget approval.

RECEIVED.

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

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

A Member noted the death of local author and Heath resident John le Carré who was a great fan of Heath, which featured in much of his fiction. It suggested that reference to his work could be included at the 150th anniversary celebrations.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

17. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

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

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 5.52 pm

Chairman

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

Agenda Item 5



Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum

Monday 15 March 2021, 5.30pm

Online

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
Nigel Robinson	NR	Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Camden
Eleanor Kennedy	EK	Parliament Hill Lido User Group
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Winter Swimming Club/ Heath & Hampstead Society
Sandy Nairne	SN	Hampstead Heath Croquet Club
Ella Mitchell	EM	Hampstead Rugby Football Club
Simon Taylor	ST	Hampstead Rugby Football Club
Robert Gibbs	RGi	Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society
Joseph Lowe	JL	Highgate Harriers
Natasha Cendrowicz	NC	Highgate Harriers
Richard Priestley	RP	Highgate Harriers

Officers

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

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	John Carrier, Brian Presley, Richard Caylor, Phil Cordingley, Rudolf Benjamin and David Walton.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting (19 January 2021) and Matters Arising	
	Minutes agreed.	
3.	COVID-19 Update & re-opening facilities from 29 March 2021	
	BW works have commenced to protect a number of the Heath's Veteran trees with fencing and dead hedging. Seed has been purchased and tractor mounted seeder has been hired to enable larger areas to be re-seeded. Ground restoration works at Golders Hill Park play area will be delayed until the autumn, in recognition that there will be a high demand for use of the playgrounds over the spring and summer months. DG staff are focused on preparing facilities to re-open on 29 March. Sports pitches are being prepared for the coming season.	

	<p>PM the Swimming Team have been very busy preparing for opening. Risk Assessments have been updated and pre-opening checks of the one-way systems and social distancing measures that will remain in place. The Lido leak has been fixed, and the area is being restored ahead of re-opening. The Lido liner has been cleaned.</p> <p>EK huge thanks to the Team and all those involved in fixing the leak.</p> <p>RS what is the situation with ParkRun and group activities?</p> <p>PM ParkRun have announced events will resume on 5 June. It will be difficult to resume on the Heath due to the number of people visiting at the moment. A meeting with the Event Organisers is scheduled for next week.</p> <p>NR if digital marketing support is required, GLL can support.</p> <p>PM. The Heath's Comms Officer has a communication plan in place, but additional support from Camden would be helpful.</p> <p>RG a local school have signed up for free angling sessions from June.</p> <p>RS in relation to the long-term changes and impacts of Covid, this should be considered in more detail at the next meeting of the Forum in July.</p> <p>BW Officers will work with the Clubs to build up information on the impacts.</p>	
4.	<p>Establishment of the Sports and Wellbeing Forum</p> <p>BW a draft proposal has been prepared. Members views are welcome. The strategies referenced can be shared with Members. We have also received correspondence from the Swimming Associations.</p> <p>RS this is the most importance change the Forum since it was set up.</p> <p>Broadening the remit and making the Forum more strategic. The Forum needs to be strategic in order to function well and will not be dealing with operational issues or individual issues. An additional paragraph needed to representation, as although members will be representing individual organisations/sports, the Forum will be about looking at sports as a whole and this is what members will need to contribute to, rather than just their individual areas of expertise.</p> <p>ST fully support. Will schools be represented?</p> <p>RS important to have schools represented and would support this.</p> <p>JL welcome the proposals, having a strategic Forum is a good thing. In the purpose, could Capital schemes be referenced. The Chair arrangements proposed are a change, think an independent Chair is helpful. Can ParkRun be referenced.</p> <p>RS in relation to Capital, I understand it is intended to include and in practice we would want to look at potential priorities to develop a Capital strategy. It is important to look and plan ahead. In relation to ParkRun, we can't create a Forum that is too large as it will not function. The Swimmers have also asked for a significant representation, which we need to discuss.</p> <p>NC suggest dog walking be included. It would be helpful to have a dialogue with dog walkers.</p> <p>RS is there separate arrangements to dialogue with dog walkers?</p> <p>BW the Heath's Divisional Plan captures both dog walking and Capital schemes, so these elements are captured within the ToFR. We will also be reviewing the High-Level Asset Management Plan, which will be discussed with the Forum. In the representation section, we have included Licenced activities, which would enable ParkRun to join discussions at particular meetings, and</p>	

representation for young people, schools, volunteers, disability, mental health and other target and underrepresented groups has also been referenced. Depending on the agenda, particular expertise could be brought into the Forum for discussion. Dog walking and walking are important physical activities on the Heath, and representatives could be brought in when this is a topic on the agenda.

AF having a more strategic look at sports has been on the agenda for a while. The dialogue with swimmers around the wider wellbeing benefits of cold-water swimming has led us to explore social prescribing, and it is clear that wellbeing cuts across many different sporting activities. When looking to move to a more strategic look, the proposal to have the Chair of the Heath Management Committee as Chair of the Forum is to add accountability and to give an opportunity for those involved in sports across the Heath an opportunity to speak directly to those managing the Heath. It is important to retain the knowledge and expertise of the current chair of the Forum, who is proposed as the Deputy Chair. It is around creating a balance of accountability and expertise. The Chair of the Heath's Management Committee currently Chairs the Swimming Forum. We want to bring all sporting and wellbeing activities together into a wider Forum to look holistically and health and wellbeing. During the last year, access to green spaces has been hugely valued, and people are missing being able to access the activities which contribute towards their mental and physical health. This is an opportune time to bring these elements together.

MH an independent Chair would be preferable. Has consideration been given to including so many more members, as there will be lesser opportunity for Members to speak and the agenda will balloon. Has consideration been given to the efficiency of the Forum? What is the indented role of the Swimming Forum in future and how will duplication be avoided?

BW the intention is to have a single Forum to have a wider strategic approach. Officers will continue to liaise across the facilities with Sports Clubs in relation to operation issues, and if there are particular topics relating to a facility, or which a Club want to raise, these can be brought through as representations.

AF hope we are moving towards a more stable time. A lot of the Swimming Forum discussions are around individual issues. These can continue to be discussed with the Team. Need to get a balance between swimming and all sports and to consolidate the opportunities for people to speak to the Heath Management Chair publicly and at a strategic level.

SN timely to move to a broader agenda. To have an overview of investment and Capital is important for all. There is commonality around increasing participation and involvement and how we can think in a broader way to get more people involved in sport and wellbeing activities. It is still important to celebrate the high points of sporting engagement and international competition.

RS co-ordination across sports should be referenced, as should international competition.

EK supports having an independent Chair of the Forum. Concerned around not having a Swimming Forum, as there is a lot of debate that takes place at meetings. There is a danger that the Sports & Wellbeing Forum agenda could be skewed towards swimming if there are not other opportunities for issues to be discussed ahead of the Sports & Wellbeing Forum meetings. Support having wider Swimming representation at the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.

RS a mix of views in relation to how the new Sports & Wellbeing Forum would operate, given the new Membership, which is being proposed, with potentially 5 new Members from Swimming, and how the Forum could be skewed. As opposed to maintaining a separate Swimming Forum.

RGi there could be multiple fishing representatives, noting the number of fishing ponds.

RS the question is around whether there is overarching representation for a Sport, or whether it is broken down to the different parts of the Heath.

ST a hierarchy is needed, with individual Forums which feed up into it. The new Sports & Wellbeing Forum is an ideal way to attract new sports and to attract young people in taking part. We have previously discussed Basketball as possible new sport on the Heath.

AF operational issues will be able to be discussed with Officers locally, and where issues are not able to be resolved, they can be brought to the Sports & Wellbeing Forum. There should also be the opportunity to discuss new sports and opportunities strategically. The Governance structure needs to make sense without the individuals concerned. So that if those individuals move on, roles are still filled.

The structure needs to be able to adapt to the changing demands of users. Managing the agendas will be key. There could be a rolling agenda, to rotate focus to different themes and issues throughout the year, rather than covering all sports and issues at each meeting.

RS there isn't overarching agreement on Membership. We have covered that Capital, and International sports should be covered, and the role of swimming. In regard to Chairing, this should be considered by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. On the issue of representation, there is a danger if there are too many members and the membership is skewed. Thinking strategically, and not just around the sports individual represent is key. If operational issues are discussed at the Forum, it will not be able to achieve what we have set out to do. Therefore, we need to be careful with membership, and it will not be possible for every organisation which uses the Heath to join the Forum. We need to ensure Members of the Forum think strategically in the broader sense.

RS what are the thoughts of the Forum around whether the Heath & Wellbeing Forum membership should be larger or smaller. Regarding Mental Health, the Camden and Islington Mental Health Trust should be asked if they would like to join to represent this area. There are no further views on the size of the Forum being expressed.

RGi think the Forum is full to capacity, could there be satellite groups? More is less.

RS there are different views on the size of the Membership and a concern that the size could lead to discussions which get dispersed, but on the other side, in broadening the remit of the agenda to include Mental and Physical Health, the Forum will have to be slightly larger in any case.

RS are there any views on including all of the Swimming Representatives requested?

JL would support as the venues are all very different. Could ParkRun be included in the Track Forum?

EK important to have all of the swimming venues represented in the new Sports & Wellbeing Forum. The agenda would need to be managed as there are other activities which take place across the Heath, other than swimming.

RS on balance, there is support for the additional swimming representatives.

	<p>RS there should be an annual cycle of meetings, so we know what we are discussing at each meeting for the coming year.</p> <p>BW we will reflect on the discussion and take an updated draft to the Hampstead Heath Consulative Committee.</p>	
5.	Health Connections	
	<p>PM growing participation is a key avenue of work for the future. Especially for people who have problems in accessing the facilities. We have been talking to the Clinical Commissioning Groups at Camden and Barnet, as well as PAC to create a Health Connection. The Health & wellbeing Forum will be essential to this work. We hope the Clubs will support mapping what is available on the Heath.</p> <p>BW this is an area of priority. We will need support from the groups using the Heath. The approach of Boroughs differs. Heath Hands is a key partnership to this initiative.</p>	
6.	2020-21 Swimming Annual Review	
	<p>BW this is the first annual review. We have tried to look at the 2020/21 swimming season, the outcomes of the March 2020 review to provide an update on achieving these outcomes, and we are also looking ahead to the upcoming swimming season. There are a number of discussion topics set out in the review. It has been an unusual year, and we need a further year to stabilise the changes which were developed as a result of the March 2020 review.</p> <p>RS invite general feedback on the report.</p> <p>AF if there are views on the format of the annual review moving forward, in providing a clear overview of the swimming offer. We would look to report on an annual basis moving forward. It has been an odd year, which is why it is important to reflect on what we have been able to offer in between the National Lockdowns.</p> <p>RS are you optimistic on swimming moving forward?</p> <p>BW yes, particularly in relation to summer 2018 and 2019 where the facilities were overwhelmed, and staff were under immense pressure with the demand for swimming. We have been in a better position to facilitate swimming during Covid. The feedback from the Lifeguards over the last year has been very positive. As we come back to more open access swimming there are further challenges with managing the bathing load. We have Covid measures in place and hope to see more freedom as we progress through the year.</p> <p>EK the systems in place at the Lido worked incredibly well and the atmosphere at the facility was more relaxed and safer. A return to previous arrangements needs to be reviewed, as there is longevity with the systems put in place due to Covid.</p> <p>JL good report, lots of detail. Getting children active is important and getting the swimming tests back, especially for lane swimming at the Lido. In future, will a day ticket return?</p> <p>BW children swimming, we are waiting for further RLSS advise. Season Ticket holders will not have priority for access, but Season Ticket holders will continue to be well briefed around access arrangements. A day ticket is achievable moving forward.</p> <p>PM the running of the Duathlon will be guided by Government advice. We hope the event will return successfully in future.</p> <p>MH the swimming experience at the Bathing Ponds echoes the feedback from the Lido.</p>	

	<p>AF we are being transparent around what has happened over the last year, and what is proposed for the coming year. There will be further opportunities to feedback.</p> <p>RS the report demonstrates it is hard to understand the impact of the decisions taken in March 2020, and a further look in a years time is needed. It is positive the number of people who have been able to swim. The number of season tickets sold is positive. The survey is also positive. It is important to get young people swimming again, as has been outlined by JL. There have been no comments on the age of who qualifies for the free Morning Swim. I wonder how hot weather days will be handled, along with managing the non-bathing facilities. How can we prevent swimming in the other ponds? There needs to be further considered, given moving forward initially swimming numbers will still be limited.</p>	
7.	#Heath150	
	<p>MH this Forum will not meet again until after the 150th anniversary, on 29 June. The Heath & Hampstead Society have considered the possibility of hosting a cricket match and an athletics competition as part of the celebrations.</p> <p>BW supportive of the proposals. We have developed a partnership statement and logo to help build momentum for the anniversary and celebrations. Heath Hands are arranging a Community event for 27 June, and we are looking at an event on 29 June to mark the boundary and to draw together the local community.</p> <p>AF we are keen to everyone to be involved in celebrating the anniversary. The more activities we can put on the better.</p> <p>JL is would be helpful to discuss this further at the Track Forum next week.</p> <p>NC the Highgate Harriers 150th anniversary is coming up in 8 years.</p> <p>PM will speak with individuals to see what we can do and put together a programme. We just need to be mindful of managing events in a Covid secure way.</p> <p>RS there could be a charity walk around the boundary to raise funds for the Heath charity and raise awareness.</p> <p>EM happy to be involved in putting on a touch rugby event.</p> <p>RGi the angling fraternity would be happy to support, and we have spare kit.</p> <p>RS if an email could be sent round to let members of the Forum know how to link in with the events.</p>	PM
8.	Events	
	<p>PM due to Covid we are taking a practical approach to considering event applications, being mindful it is difficult to pin down dates/times for events to take place at the moment. The Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests is cancelled for 2021, as participation from spectators is key to the event. The English National Cross Country is now looking at a November 2021 date. The Race for Life will hopefully be going ahead in August. Give it a Go will return in 2022.</p>	
9.	Pro-Active Camden Update	
	<p>NR PAC's immediate priority is to investigate the impact of the pandemic on the physical activity system in Camden. It is perceived the impact is greater on the voluntary and community sector organisations. This is very concerning, and further investigative work will be undertaken to assess this impact and to raise awareness of this within Camden. This will inform a strategy to support the voluntary sector in whatever form is required. Statistics have show that inactivity is increasing, we need to minimise this direction.</p>	

	<p>AF to what extent do you see the Heath as a delivery partner. What can we do to support this work?</p> <p>NR there has been great support from the Heath and PM's Team. The offer has diversified over the years. The use of parks has exploded during the Pandemic, is this sustainable? Do we need to market open spaces differently?</p> <p>RS there may be further phases to this work. It is important to recognise the squeeze on financing. The case will need to be made for sports and physical activity funding.</p> <p>RGi the restrictions on travel have also impacted on the increase usage of the Heath and parks. Once other leisure activities are available again, there may be a reduction in usage of the Heath.</p>	
10.	AOB	
	RS a helpful discussion has taken place in relation to the new forum. There is still some consideration to be given to the new membership. There is a value to the broader remit of the Health and Wellbeing Forum and the strategic purpose.	
11.	Upcoming 2021 Meeting Dates	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 July 2021, 5.30pm - 4 October 2021, 5.30pm 	

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Volunteering Update – April 2021

- volunteering suspended due to Lockdown, resumed after Easter with focus on littering.
- main conservation and grounds maintenance programmes resuming initially on a phased basis at Highgate Wood, East Heath, Hill Garden, Golders Hill Park, Keats House, Kenwood Estate and enclosed gardens.
- wildlife monitoring and youth programmes expected to restart in mid-April .
- review of scope of wildlife interpretation programme.
- enquiries for corporate volunteering opportunities being received again.
- community outreach and events programmes (see below) restarting through April and into May.
- over 20 sessions for community groups in Sep-Dec, including parents and toddlers, activities for older people, disabled groups and wellbeing sessions etc
- restrictions on group sizes and capacity remain and limits on recruitment an ongoing issue.
- risk assessments and Covid safe working arrangements have been reviewed.
- approximately 3069 hours contributed by volunteers in 2020/21; reduced from 15,000 the previous year.
- increasing proportion of sessions supervised by Heath Hands staff team during 2020-21.

Selected Projects

- Community Fun Day planned for 27th June as part of the **150th Celebrations**; support being given to wider programme of events where needed.
- related **Video Project** a huge success with dozens of visitors telling us why they #lovetheheath.
- new **fundraising** platform (a bit like Justgiving) launched: <https://heathhands.enthuse.com/profile>
- discussions on hold regarding Heath Hands creating new interpretation/educational space at the **Dairy**.
- Heath Hands **online shop** came online in September: www.heath-hands.org.uk/shop
- membership of the **Friends of Heath Hands** is growing fast, and **wildlife home adoption** scheme is equally popular.
- Electric ATV** purchased to support work across the Heath
- funding from Camden Giving and the Postcode Lottery has enabled us to develop a programme of **public walks and talks**, largely related to wellbeing and mental health to roll out through 2021.
- Work Experience** programme to provide opportunities for those underrepresented in the sector expanded to four placements in 2021 – first 2021 trainee, Edozie, recruited
- the **Heath Friendly Schools** programme relaunched in early 2021 with huge interest amongst local schools.
- Youth Programmes** momentum has been affected by lockdowns but after school and weekend activities have been oversubscribed with hundreds of attendees and will expand through rest of 2021 led by Heath Hands new team of **Session Leaders**.
- Savernake Road Bridge**: Heath Hands with the support of the Heath and Camden Council is taking responsibility for enhancing the neglected southern end of the bridge; and working with the City of London to progress landscaping and habitat improvements around the Hive

Heath Hands Highlights - 2020/21

Activities around lockdowns:
from June—November 2020
and December 2020

Over 3000 hours
contributed
across over 316
sessions



Highgate Wood:
weekly sessions
resumed: September
2020



Monitoring re-started
gradually with staff initially
running transects and
volunteers brought in over
the summer



Friends of Heath
Hands membership
grew to over 40

Golders Hill Park, Keats and
Hill Garden: sessions resumed
in July 2020



Electric ATV
purchased



Youth programmes restarted in
October, with weekend and team
of Session Leaders recruited



Digital Heath
celebration for
150th anniversary
of Hampstead Heath
Act successfully
completed with
dozens of videos
submitted

Kenwood Estate sessions
resumed in August



Community activities
resumed in September
with older people,
parents and toddlers,
disabled groups etc.
taking part in activities
on the Heath. New
mindfulness sessions
launched.



Heath Friendly Schools (HFS)
scheme relaunched in
November



Wildlife Interpretation
(WaHH) sessions remained
suspended due to Covid



Dozens of litter picking
sessions carried out over
the summer with
volunteers and local
groups



Festive wreaths and walks
programme for volunteers and
community in December.



First
corporate
volunteering
group in
October -
Corporate
membership
scheme
launched.



Recruitment for first of 4 work
experience trainees
(underrepresented
backgrounds) —Edozie joined

Agenda Item 7

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 19/04/2021
Subject: Superintendents Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since January 2021.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the Heath Extension Playground Design Brief (appendix 2).
- Provide feedback on the concept of 'cycle bursts' utilising specific routes on the Heath to help reduce traffic congestion linked to the local school run, as set out in paras 14-16.
- Provide feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum (appendix 3).
- Provide feedback on the Annual Work Programme - Projects (appendix 5).
- Provide feedback on the draft Annual Swimming Review 2020/21 (appendix 6) as set out in para 31.

Main Report

Coronavirus Emergency Response and Issues

1. On 22 February 2021, the Government announced the Roadmap out of Lockdown. In-line with the announcement the Tennis Courts, Bathing Ponds, Parliament Hill Fields Lido, Parliament Hill Athletics Track and Trim-Trail re-opened from 29 March 2021.

2. The Superintendent will provide a further update at the meeting and will continue to monitor the Government Guidance.

Constabulary

3. The Constabulary Manager will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

Golders Hill Park

4. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update on the following:

- Waste & Recycling
- Tennis Courts
- Zoo & Butterfly House
- Grassland management
- Drainage
- Accessible Car Park

Divisional Plan

150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act (HH5)

5. Five biodiversity display boards have been installed across the Heath, with a further board installed at the West Meadow on the Kenwood Estate. The boards have been installed in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society and the interpretation reflects the four seasons to provide information about habitats and species found on the Heath. A copy of the biodiversity interpretation is attached at appendix 1.
6. An Exhibition celebrating the history of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act will be installed at South End Green between 23 June – 8 August.
7. A partnership statement has been developed and #Heath150 will be used to promote events related to celebrating the 150th Anniversary.
8. A number of events are being planned, including a Community Fun Day (27 June 2021) organised by Heath Hands, and a marking of the bounds event (29 June 2021) organised by the City of London.
9. The Leisure & Events Manager is in discussion with the Heath & Hampstead Society in relation to events to mark the 150th Anniversary.

East Heath Car Park (HH8)

10. Resurfacing works commenced on 6 April 2021. The works are expected to take 6/8 weeks. Parking is available at Jack Straw's Castle and the Lido Car Parks.

Playgrounds (HH9)

11. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update on the Divisional Plan playground projects at the Adventure Playground, Vale and Preachers.
12. The design brief for the Heath Extension is attached (appendix 2) and Members feedback is sought.

Savernake Bridge (HH10)

13. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

Cycling (HH11)

14. Greater emphasis is being placed to providing cycle parking on the periphery of the Heath. The works at East Heath Car Park will include a cycle parking area with direct access to the adjacent shared use path. Camden Council are also installing cycle parking at the recently refurbished Savernake Bridge. Officers have met with Camden Council to discuss the possibility of providing dockless cycle parking zones and cycle parking stands through a Borough wide initiative to promote cycling. This would involve suspending Highway parking bays at specific locations.
15. The Green School Runs organisation have approached the City of London Corporation regarding school 'Park & Stride' initiatives involving the use of Heath Car Parks. This has been previously discussed with the Consultative Committee and the consensus was that emphasis should be towards improved public transport and non-car based solutions. This includes schemes such as walking buses and 'Cycle Bursts'.
16. In relation to 'Cycle Bursts' for school children, Officers from Camden Council have proposed that children and their parents/carers could use specific paths across the Heath to travel to School. The discussions are at a formative stage and Members views are sought. The routes currently being proposed include the footpath extending north of the Lido to join with the Broad Walk. A second route to provide a link from the Broad Walk to the shared use path that runs from East Heath to Spaniards. This could utilise Nassington Road, Tanza Road and Parliament Hill to minimise the impact on the Heath. The routes would be time limited to facilitate the morning and afternoon school runs. However, it is recognised that the wider impacts on the Heath particularly in relation to enforcing any scheme, additional signage, a code of conduct and the resource implications to manage a 'Cycle Burst' scheme will need to be carefully considered.

Sports & Wellbeing Forum (HH17)

17. The draft Terms of Reference for the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum are attached at appendix 3. The draft Terms of Reference were discussed with the Sports Advisory Forum at their meeting on 15 March 2021. Further feedback, received after the Sports Advisory Forum meeting, is attached at appendix 4.

Professional Dog Walking Licence (HH20)

18. Officers have developed an Expressions of Interest form to further inform the implementation of the Licencing Scheme for Professional Dog Walkers. Officers are also putting in place the online application process, ahead of launching the Licencing Scheme in October 2021.

Forest School Licencing (HH22)

19. The Conservation Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

Planning (HH26)

20. The Superintendent will provide an update on current planning applications.

- Jack Straws Castle (2020/1828/P)
- Murphy's Yard
- 55 Fitzroy Park (2018/3672/P)

Annual Work Programme (AWP)

21. The draft AWP Projects for 2021/22 are attached at appendix 5. Members feedback is sought.

Branch Hill Pond (C&E-CW218)

22. The Highgate Wood, Trees & Conservation Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Ponds and Wetlands Conservation Plan (CE-PR 5)

23. As part of the Ponds and Wetland Conservation Plan we are planning to begin implementing recommendation 8.2.1 and subsequent AWP item C&E - CW11. This involves the designation of sections of ponds as dog swimming zones and areas where dog swimming is restricted. Signage will initially be placed followed by floating booms similar to those already in place at Highgate No.1 Pond and the Vale of Health Pond.

Dams & Spillway Maintenance (C&E-CW1)

24. Following the Reservoirs and Ponds bi-annual inspection on the 7 April 2021 further restoration works are required on the spillway between Model Boating Pond and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond to tackle compaction and erosion.

25. To address the compaction and erosion on the Model Boating Pond Dam Crest it is proposed to add a Hoggin (a finely sifted gravel containing a clay binder) surface along the crest of the dam. Following several attempts at top dressing and reseeding the grass has not provided a sufficiently durable surface on this popular route around the pond.

26. The Viaduct Pond spillway requires scarification, topsoil and re-seeding.

Cyclical Work Programme (CWP)

27. The Operational Services Manager will provide and update on:

- Traditional Playground toilet refurbishment project, which have been successfully completed.
- Drainage works on the Lido field.

28. In relation to the Lido Leak, investigations have been on-going for a number of years. Non-invasive investigations and fixes to resolve the leak have been attempted but proved un-successful.

29. Further, more invasive investigative works to detect and fix the leak, commenced on 16 January 2021. Following excavations, leaks were detected on one of the pipes connecting the deep end outlets to the plant room filters. Works to replace and update the pipework and flanges have been completed and following checks, the filtration system is operating correctly. Re-instatement works are due to be completed on 15 March 2021. This project has been successfully undertaken during a challenging period. The City Surveyors Department have been instrumental in supporting and arranging these works. The Contractor worked through difficult weather conditions and maintained COVID-19 Secure working arrangements and thoroughly cleaned the premises before handing over to the team.

Events

30. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update on events, including:

- Whitsun Fair - Event days: 29, 30, 31 May 2021. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 June 2021 (total of 8 event days). A longer Whitsun Fair is proposed taking account of the Easter Fair being cancelled.
- English National Cross Country - 22 May 2021 event cancelled. Event organisers are considering dates in early November 2021 or March 2022.
- Heart Walk - 11 July 2021.
- Race for Life - 21 August 2021.
- Summer Bank Holiday Fair - 28, 29, 30 August 2021.
- Affordable Art Fair - Event days: 15 - 19 September 2021. Event set up 31 Aug -14 September, event Strike 20 September - 1 October.
- Hideaway Cinema – 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 September 2021.
- Zippos Circus – 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 October 2021.

Swimming

31. The Bathing Ponds and Lido re-opened on 29 March 2021 following the end of the Third National Lockdown. An Annual report has been prepared and Members views are sought in relation to the discussion points set out in appendix 6.
32. Feedback from two of the Swimming Associations is referenced at appendix 7
33. The Gateway 2 Capital Project report for Safety, Access and Security at the Bathing Ponds and Lido is attached at appendix 8.

Learning Team

34. In response to school closures and travel restrictions, the Learning Team developed a flexible learning programme which supported wellbeing and team building.
35. Following the easing of Covid restrictions on 29 March, the team have facilitated outdoor learning programmes for small groups. Working with family and community officers at Camden Council, the team have given priority bookings to local families who have struggled during lockdown, as well as children and their mentors from the charity Chance UK.

36. The Team have been working with the Early Years Intervention Team at Camden Council to plan some introductory sessions to the Heath and the One O'Clock Club, which will re-open from 12 April. The programme aims to engage families who do not currently feel confident to explore Hampstead Heath and introduces some simple outdoor activities that they can enjoy together.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

37. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments.
38. The projects and works outlined in this report also contribute towards 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.
39. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of 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.

Financial Implications

40. The Director and Superintendent will provide a verbal update on the end of year position budget position for 2020/21.
41. A new page has been added to the Open Spaces pages on the website to seek donations towards funding two projects for Hampstead Heath.
 - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000)
 - Bird and mammal shelters (£5,000)
42. From 2021/22, in respect of Open Spaces (Local Risk Budget), income relating to donations and legacies to the Charities shall be ring-fenced and where necessary, carried forward in the relevant ring-fenced Charitable reserve for each Charity.

Resource Implications

43. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the Heath open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

44. The City of London launched its Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 and the strategy is now in implementation stage. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing the City of London's carbon emissions. This will be the main objective at Hampstead Heath in the short term, especially following the impact of exceptionally high number of visitors due to COVID-19.

Legal Implications

45. No Impact.

Risk Implications

46. There is a risk that works will be further impacted by COVID-19.

Equality Implications

47. No Impact.

Security Implications

48. Security implications are addressed in the emergency response to COVID-19 and are being monitored and recorded thought the Departmental Risk Register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Biodiversity Interpretation Boards.
- Appendix 2 – Heath Extension Playground Design Brief.
- Appendix 3 – Draft Terms of Reference for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.
- Appendix 4 – Feedback received on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.
- Appendix 5 – Draft AWP Projects for 2021/22.
- Appendix 6 – Draft Annual Swimming Report 2020/21.
- Appendix 7 – Feedback received on the Draft Annual Swimming Report 2020/21.
- Appendix 8 – Gateway 2 Report - Capital Project for Safety, Access and Security at the Bathing Ponds and Lido.

Bob Warnock

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It's Spring

Hampstead Heath: *Discover, enjoy, and protect its remarkable biodiversity*

This year Hampstead Heath celebrates its 150th anniversary as a protected space. It remains a piece of British countryside in the centre of a metropolis. With over ten million visitors a year, its wildlife and habitats are under pressure from increasing use, climate change and urban pollution. Help us to protect the Heath and keep it a sanctuary for nature and people.

Caring for the Heath: what we all can do!

The City of London and English Heritage manage these habitats to promote biodiversity. You can help too! Spring is the main bird nesting season. When in the woods, please stick to paths and keep your dogs under control, so as not to disturb nesting birds or resting hedgehogs. When in meadows, please do not disturb shrubby meadow margins or anthills.

Fences are few, and are there to protect fragile habitats. Please respect them. Dead hedging, creating a natural fence with fallen branches, is used to protect ancient trees and to discourage people from making new trails, trampling wildflowers and disturbing sensitive habitats. Please don't cross or remove dead hedges.

Frogs spawning
Over a thousand Common Frog breed every Spring in our pools and ponds. Like the Heath's wetland invertebrates and breeding waterside birds, improved planting around ponds and limiting access to ponds by dogs has been beneficial to their success.



Two Woodpeckers
Woodpeckers are drilling their nest holes. Great Spotted Woodpeckers forage on tree limbs, and make a sharp "chip" call. The Green Woodpecker has a yaffling call, and feeds on the ground on ants. Damage to anthills by people and dogs threatens its survival on the Heath.



Thrushes, our Spring songsters
Three thrushes, Blackbird, Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush, nest on the Heath. Numbers of the last two are declining nationally. Song Thrush have a loud song, made of much-repeated phrases, while the Mistle Thrush sing a clear, simple song from the tallest tree-tops.

Warblers from the South
Warblers return from Africa in April. Blackcaps sing a melodious song from bushes. Chiffchaffs sing a song just like their name, from high in trees. The Whitethroat, breeding in only a few spots on the Heath, sings a raspy song from brambly meadow edges.



*The Heath &
Hampstead Society*

Est. 1897

Registered Charity

For over a century, the Heath & Hampstead Society has fought to protect the Heath for visitors and for nature. With our partners, we celebrate the Heath's 150th year with this seasonally changing display. For more information, visit www.heathandhampstead.org.uk



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#Heath150

It's Summer

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Caring for the Heath: what we all can do!

The City of London and English Heritage manage these habitats to promote biodiversity. Long grass and wildflower meadows provide homes for insects and food for birds. Help protect them by keeping your walks to mown "desire lines" and picnicking in short grass areas, leaving the long grass for the creepy crawlies.

We love to let our dogs take a dip in the ponds. But dog swimming disturbs sediments and introduces poisons from flea treatments, both of which can harm dragonflies and other species. To help our pond life, please swim dogs only in designated dog swimming areas.

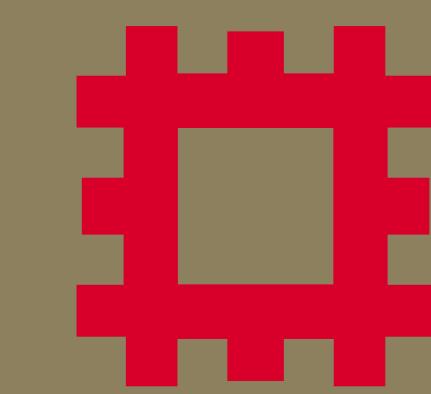


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Stock Dove
Photo: Adrian Brooker

View of Ken Wood from Kenwood House
Photo: © Historic England Photo Library

Common Blue Butterfly
Photo: Adrian Brooker

Migrant Hawker Dragonfly

Kestrel
Photo: Matt Moran

Summer butterflies

Butterfly numbers have declined dramatically across Britain. New wildflower meadows are helping to restore and protect them on the Heath. The Common Blue lays its eggs on the yellow-flowered Birdsfoot Trefoil. It is one of more than 20 butterfly species you can see here.

Dragonflies over ponds

Our ponds support 16 species of dragonfly and damselfly. Hawkers patrol pond edges, while Darters hunt from pondside perches.

Kestrels over meadows

In Summer, watch young kestrels hover over meadows, learning to hunt mice and voles.

It's Autumn

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Caring for the Heath: what we all can do!

The City of London and English Heritage manage these habitats to promote biodiversity. As winter approaches dead wood provides homes and food for many species. Please help by not moving around fallen branches and decaying logs.

Why not try increasing biodiversity in your own neighbourhood? Encouraging wildlife and wildflowers in your own garden, window box or local park will help to create green corridors, linking wildlife habitats across to the Heath and other green spaces in London.

Death by a million footfalls

As more people walk on the Heath, footpaths become so compacted that water cannot penetrate and key soil organisms disappear. With roots starved of water, oxygen and food, pathside trees slowly die. To protect trees, dead hedges are put around them. Please keep to the paths and don't make new ones.

Tree killed by compaction from nearby footpaths



Autumn fungi

Where Heath soils are not compacted they develop a network of subterranean fungi that connect and nourish tree roots. Most send up fruiting bodies in Autumn. The Heath has over 650 species of fungi including some nationally rare species.

Tawny Owls

Around October, you will hear Tawny Owls beginning to call across the Heath around sunset, which they will do until Spring. The Heath supports between five and ten pairs of this nationally declining bird. These nocturnal hunters feed on mice, voles and rats.

Original heathland habitats

In the 1800s, acid grassland, gorse and heather covered much of the Heath. Only fragments of these habitats survive, and their careful management supports rare species, including mining bees and spiders that burrow in their sandy soils. The Ivy Mining Bee is active in Autumn, and feeds on flowering ivy.

Fly Agaric



Tawny Grisette



Tawny Owl



Amethyst Deceiver



Ivy Mining Bee



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It's Winter

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Caring for the Heath: what we all can do!

Why not join a society or volunteer? The Heath & Hampstead Society and the Friends of Kenwood champion the Heath and Kenwood as a place for visitors and for nature. The Marylebone Birdwatching Society runs regular bird walks, and the London Natural History Society runs biodiversity walks and surveys.

Heath Hands helps people of all backgrounds and abilities to get involved in protecting and maintaining Hampstead Heath. Its volunteers help to manage natural habitats and gardens, monitor wildlife and deliver community and learning activities that make the Heath more inclusive for all. Visit the link below for more information.



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Hampstead Heath Extension Play Area Improvements- Design Brief

April 2021

1. About the space

Before it became public open space the whole Heath Extension was farmland landscape as the “former field pattern of Wyldes Farm”¹ and it still retains this character with individual fields, hedges and boundary trees. The play area is situated in what was the ‘Lower Wield Pightle’ field on the farm. It is grass surfaced and is contained by a chestnut pale fence with two access gates.



Strengths

- The natural surrounding area is lovely and feels like countryside.
- Mature trees around the play area.
- Long views from certain areas.
- Seating, especially in the middle of the play area is great for families, social gatherings etc.
- Plenty of space.
- Many fond memories are tied in with the current play area.
- Wildwooders initiative has generated community support and fundraising opportunities.

Weaknesses

- Entrances and approaches to the play area are worn and very muddy when it's wet. The landing zones around the equipment is also worn and muddy.
- A lot of space but not much to do.
- The equipment is old and currently aimed at younger children.
- The play area does not include equipment for older children.
- The play area is not accessible for all children.
- The equipment does not provide opportunities for Parents/Carers to interact with children.

¹ Hampstead Garden Suburb Character Appraisal, Heath Extension - Area D

Opportunities

- Work in partnership with children, their parents, carers and the wider local community to improve and expand the age range and accessibility of the play area.
- A lot of space within the play area to incorporate natural play features.
- Strengthen the links between the history of the Heath Extension and the play area and using this as a theme to inform the concept design.
- Provide a space that supports the mental and physical health and wellbeing of children.

2. What we'd like – Design Principles

An “inclusive, nicer and well kept playground!”²

Play

- There should be more challenge and excitement for all children and more things to interest older children. There should be enough for continuing interest as children grow up.
- There should be more variety of ways to play and more things to do.
- The play area should be more inclusive and designed for a wider range of abilities and ages.
- There should be opportunities for children of different ages and abilities to play together.
- It should be a sociable space where parents, carers, grandparents, older siblings as well as children can share the space and feel welcome.

Place

- The play area should fit into and enhance the ‘spirit of place’ respecting the history and natural environment of the whole Heath Extension area. It should keep a countryside feel rather than feel like an urban park.
- It should be designed with high quality natural materials e.g. timber play equipment and use natural colours.
- Any improvements should respect the sentimental attachment & memories attached to the play space already.
- A play area should be a beautiful place and encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility to care for the Heath.

3. What else needs to be considered – Constraints

- The project is estimated to cost in the region of £40,000.
- The improvements will need to align with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 and the Heath’s Play Principles.
- Equipment and natural features will need to be robust and able to withstand use in a public open space.
- Assess the on-going cost of inspecting and maintaining the new play equipment.
- The finished design will fit with current EN 1176 and EN1177 guidelines.
- A risk benefit process will also be used to assess risk (so we don’t design out excitement!)

² <https://www.wildwooders.uk/post/hidden-gems-around-the-heath>

- The improved play area will need to keep within the footprint of the current play area.
- The upper age limit of the play area will be 12 years old.

4. How we're going to improve the space – Process

1. Form a Stakeholder Steering Group (Wildwooders, City of London Corporation & Landscape Architect, representative of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee).
2. Concept design.
3. Fundraising.
4. Developed design & planning application.
5. Technical design & tender.
6. Works on site by contractor and City of London Corporation.
7. Inspection, handover and re-opening of the play area.

Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum - Draft Terms of Reference

Introduction

It is proposed to broaden and re-focus the remit of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum to form a new Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum.

Purpose

Taking a strategic approach, the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum will develop outcomes for physical and mental health & wellbeing in accordance with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028.

The scope will include supporting capital investment, developing partnerships to promote Health Connections including Social Prescribing and the Heath's role promoting local, national and international events.

This innovative approach will be informed through wider engagement with Heath's representatives for sports, health and wellbeing and guided by relevant strategies including:

- The Corporate Plan 2021-22, and specifically - 'Contribute to a flourishing society' and 'shape outstanding environments'.
- City of London Corporation Sports and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-25.
- Relevant Local Authority Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
- The GLA, Sports England and London Sports ambitions to make London the most physically active City in the World.

Impact Reporting

The impacts of activities, campaigns, projects and programmes that are progressed through the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum will be included in the Annual Update of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028. This is an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved and to set out the priorities and focus of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum for the coming year.

Membership

It is proposed that Membership will comprise:

- The Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.
- Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee nominate two Members representing Sport and Wellbeing.
- A representative for each for the following: Parliament Hill Fields Lido, Highgate Men's Bathing Pond, Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond, Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond, Athletics, Tennis, Bowls/Croquet and Angling.
- A representative for each for the following Team Sports: Rugby, Football and Cricket.
- Representatives from licensed activities relating to sports and physical activity.

- A representative for each of the following: young people, schools, volunteering, disability, mental health, other target groups and underrepresented groups.
- A Trustee representing Heath Hands.
- A representative of Public Health.
- A representative of Camden & Islington Mental Health Trust.
- A representative of London Sport.
- A representative from Pro-Active Camden (PAC).
- Superintendent and Officers from Hampstead Heath.
- Where initiatives and proposals impact on a specific sport, facility, activity or areas of the Heath additional representatives may be invited to participate.

Although Members will be representing individual Organisations, Sports and Clubs, they will be expected to contribute to wider strategic discussions.

Forward Agenda Planning

To support the strategic role of the Forum a forward agenda plan will be agreed and reviewed regularly.

Governance

- Meetings will be Chaired by the Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.
- The Deputy Chair will be a Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Member representing sport.
- The Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum will meet 3 times a year.
- Meetings will have a public gallery (or where held online, a recording will be made and made available following the meeting). Meetings to be organised and minuted by Officers from Hampstead Heath.
- Declarations of Interest to be declared at the start of each meeting.
- Flexibility retained to call additional meetings.
- Superintendent's Office to seek agenda items 10 working days ahead of the Forum.
- Agenda to be agreed by the Chair and Deputy Chair in discussion with the Superintendent.
- Clubs/Associations/Members to forward updates/proposals/representations to the Superintendent's Office 10 working days in advanced of Forum.
- Agenda, actions from the previous meeting, updates, reports, proposals and representations to be circulated to Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum Members 5 working days ahead of the meeting. Late papers to be circulated with agreement of the Chair.
- Action points will be recorded during meetings and circulated to Forum Members. Action points will also be included in the agenda pack of the following Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting.
- The Terms of Reference of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum will be reviewed annually.

Engagement

The Superintendent and City Corporation Officers will continue to actively engage with Heath users, Clubs, Associations and Licensed operators to discuss operational matters, concerns and proposals. Informal site visits and meetings will be arranged to facilitate discussions and develop proposals and initiatives which contribute to achieving the outcomes of the identified strategies. Draft proposals and initiatives will be discussed by the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum ahead of discussion with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. Where required, proposals and initiatives will be considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.

To progress proposals small working groups/forums may be formed to all collaboration between Clubs/users of the facility or

Example – Capital Bid for the reconstruction of the Athletics Track surface. Officers will work with Clubs using the Track Facility to build an application and consider where clubs can contribute and seek external funding to support the Capital Bid.

Implementation timescale

It is proposed the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum will be launched in July 2021.

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Agenda Item 7d

29 March 2021
By email

Feedback received from the Highgate Lifebuoys

I am so pleased to hear that it is proposed to broaden the remit of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum to form the new Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum and I am hoping that the Highgate Lifebuoys, the Highgate Men's Pond's Association, the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association and the Mixed Pond Association, will all be invited to be represented at the Forum.

I really love the addition of the word Wellbeing to the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum, as wellbeing is so very important and more so now than ever, during this Pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the City of London for all of their great work during these very difficult COVID-19 times that we are all having to live through and for managing to follow the challenging Government Rules, to enable the Ponds to stay open when possible, it is very much appreciated.

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COMMUNICATIONS - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
COM-PR1	Communication Plan	Lead on development of Communication Plans for key projects including 150th Anniversary of the 1871 Act (HH5), Professional Dog Walkers Licencing Scheme, playground improvements (HH9), resurfacing of East Heath car park (HH8)	2021	Comms Officer	Outcomes B, C & D
COM-PR2	Management Strategy	Draft an Annual Update which charts the progress of the 2018 - 2028 Management Strategy for Hampstead Heath.	2021	Comms Officer	Outcomes A, B, C & D
COM-PR3	Web updates	Review and ensure content of City Corporation website is correct and up-to-date	Ongoing	Comms Officer	Outcomes B, C & D
COM-PR4	Waste and recycling improvement project	Create communications campaign to support the improvements made to waste and recycling on Hampstead Heath.	2021	Comms Officer	Outcomes B, C & D
COM-PR5	Signage	Replacement of the Heath's main signs (and maps). Work in partnership with the H&HS on new biodiversity interpretation boards linked to the 150th Anniversary of the Heath Act (HH5).	Ongoing	Comms Officer	Outcomes B, C & D
COM-PR6	Swimming Project	Continue to provide communications support related to the Swimming Review and administer the swimming season tickets (HH13)	2021	Comms Officer	Outcomes B, C & D
COM-PR7	Cycling signage	Update cycling signage and leaflets to facilitate compliance with Heath bylaws and promote responsible cycling. (HH11)	2021	Comms Officer	Outcomes B, C & D

HEATH CONSTABULARY - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
HHC-PR 1	Hampstead Heath	Undertake a feasibility study of inform the introduction of Vehicle on-board cameras.	Apr-21	Sgts	Outcomes B, C & D
HHC-PR 2	Hampstead Heath	Develop an Enforcement Policy following the introduction of the City of London (Open Spaces) Act 2018. Develop procedures to implement Fixed Penalty Notices for the enforcement of Byelaws.	September 2021 to April 22	Sgts	Outcomes B, C & D
HHC-PR 3	Hampstead Heath	Review radio communications across the Division, investigate options for upgrading the current system to reflect advancement in technology with expected capital costs.	April 2021 to October 2021	Sgts	Outcomes A, B, C & D
HHC-PR 4	Hampstead Heath	Scope the introduction of a remote reporting module / tablet which will allow Constabulary Officers to record incidents and occurrences whilst away from a fixed office.	April 2021 to December 2021	Sgts	Outcomes B, C & D
HHC-PR5	Hampstead Heath	Review of partnership working with outside partner agencies to work towards more formalised information sharing and partnership working.	April 2021 to December 2021	Sgts	Outcomes B, C & D
HHC-PR6	Hampstead Heath	Develop a Constabulary engagement programme with schools, community groups and stakeholders, promoting the positive role of the Constabulary in the local community.	April 2021 to December 2021	Sgts	Outcomes B, C & D

GOLDERS HILL PARK - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
GHP-PR1	COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme	Undertake a programme of grassland restoration works, focused on the following primary areas: Children's play area; Golders Hill Park girl statue lawn; the cafe lawn; path edges; sports areas.	Spring 2021 and again in Autumn 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A, B & D
GHP-PR2	Waste & Recycling	Installation of timber bin enclosures. Glass recycling bin locations to be piloted. Review the green waste recycling arrangements.	Spring/ Summer 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A, B & D
GHP-PR3	Marginal Planting at the Water Garden, Swan Pond and Lilly Pond	Undertake aquatic planting scheme to increase bio-diversity.	Spring 2021 or Autumn 2021 TBC	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A & B
GHP-PR4	Accessible Car Park	Re-tender to seek design options to facilitate safe access arrangements for weekend and bank holiday opening of the Accessible Car Park, during park opening hours.	Spring/ Summer 2021	Park Manager	Outcomes A, C & D
GHP-PR5	GH / H Ext / Pergola - Memorial Benches	Implement annual bench maintenance schedule with a target of 15 renewals to address benches reaching end of life. Liaise with Support Services for contacting of sponsors.	March to November 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B, C & D
GHP-PR6	Hill Garden Pergola	Plan and implement new planting plan for identified areas (section from bottom of stairs to the Bothy and phase three of Winter Boarder) within the Hill Garden.	March to November 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A & B
GHP-PR7	GHP - Pinetum	Continue with third phase planting plan for Pinetum.	Throughout the Year	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A & B
GHP-PR8	Stumpery	Continuation of phase three of the Stumpery, subject to securing additional stumps.	Spring 2021 and Autumn 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A & B

PARLIAMENT HILL - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
PHF-PR 1	COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme	Undertake a programme of grassland restoration works in high impact areas.	Spring 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A, B & D
PHF-PR 2	Nassington Road, Savernake Road Bridge & Hive	Complete the landscape improvement works as agreed by Committee to this important gateway onto Hampstead Heath.	Winter 2021 to Spring 2022	Site Supervisor	Outcome A, C & D
PHF-PR 3	PHF - Adventure Playground	Assist in landscaping aspect of development project for Adventure Playground. Undertake planting of trees, shrubs and vegetation in line with landscape plan.	Winter 2021-Spring 2022	Site Supervisor, Education Supervisor	Outcome A, B, C & D
PHF-PR 4	Memorial Benches	Implement target of 15 renewals to address benches reaching end of life. Tag and monitor 15 further bench sites for renewal in 2021-2022.	Throughout the year	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B, C & D
PHF-PR 5	Cycling	Repair cycle parking area at the Lido through levelling and installing grass reinforcement panels.	Spring 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcome A
PHF-PR 6	PH Athletics Track	Prepare and submit the Capital Project to reconstruct the Parliament Hill Athletics Track.	Autumn 2021	Operational Services Manager	Outcome B, C & D
PHF-PR 7	Trackmark Accreditation	Realignment of floodlights to give an even distribution of light on track and infield.	Spring 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcome D

HEATH RANGER TEAM - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
HHR-PR 1	COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme	Undertake a programme of grassland restoration works with focus on high impact areas.	Spring - Summer 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A, B & D
HHR-PR 2	East Heath Car Park	Assist City Surveyors Department with the management and control of contractors to implement drainage and car park surface works to agreed design. Attend contract meetings and manage stakeholder communications.	Spring - early summer 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcome B, C & D
HHR-PR 3	East Heath play Area	Implement and oversee agreed design for improvement of existing equipment and introduction of natural play.	Spring-Autumn 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcome B & C
HHR-PR 4	Vale of Health Play Area	Implement and oversee agreed design for improvement of existing equipment and introduction of natural play.	Spring-Autumn 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B & C
HHR-PR5	Heath Extension Play Area	Undertake landscaping works to support re-design of the Play Area, following agreement of a new design in consultation with stakeholders, and funding being identified.	Autumn 2021	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B & C
HHR-PR6	Cycling	Sandy Heath Patrols, install cycle parking East Heath Car Park, install children's scooter parking racks at the playgrounds, install and maintain way markers for the shared use paths across the Heath.	Throughout the Year	Site Supervisor	Outcomes A, B & C
HHR-PR7	Memorial Bench Project	Liaise with Support Services to implement bench sponsorship policy to include renewals, waiting list provision, repairs and maintenance.	Throughout the Year	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B, C & D
HHR-PR8	Forest Schools	Monitoring Forest School activity across Hampstead Heath.	Throughout the Year	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B & C
HHR-PR9	Waste and Recycling	Review the provision of dog waste bins on West Heath.	Throughout the Year	Site Supervisor	Outcomes B, C & D
HHR-PR10	All excavation works	Any extensive excavation work, archaeological monitoring and advice sought prior to breaking ground.	Throughout the Year	Site Supervisor	Outcome A & D

SWIMMING - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
SW-PR 1	Bathing Ponds and Lido	Progress the Bathing Ponds and Lido Capital Project to improve Safety, Access and Security through the Corporate Capital Project Gateway process. Progress the Project to RIBA Stage 2 (Concept and Options) and City of London Corporation Gateway 3/4.	Phased project from 2021	Swimming Facilities Supervisor / Leisure & Events Manager / Superintendent	Outcomes A, B, C & D
SW-PR 2	Lido Security Lighting	Install external security lighting at the rear of the Lido.	Mar-22	Constabulary & Queens Park Manager / Swimming facilities Supervisor / Leisure & Events Manager / City Surveyors	Outcomes C
SW-PR 3	Lido and Paddling Pool maintenance	Undertake maintenance and repair of the Parliament Hill Paddling Pools.	Ongoing 2021	Swimming Facilities Supervisor / City Surveyors	Outcomes B & D
SW-PR 4	Health Connections	Map facilities and opportunities that are available to establish a framework to support the healthy growth of our communities and particularly different groups who experience more exclusion or disadvantage than others.	Ongoing 2021	Leisure & Events Manager / Superintendent	Outcomes A, B, C & D
SW-PR5	User Surveys	Undertake regular user surveys.	Ongoing 2021	Communications Officer	Outcomes D
SW-PR6	Annual Report	Prepare the Swimming Annual Review Report 2021-22.	Mar-22	Communications Officer	Outcomes D

TREE TEAM - PROJECTS

Ref	Location	Details of Proposed Work: April 2021 - March 2022	Timing of work	Who is Responsible	Link to 2018 Mgmt. Strategy
TT-PR 1	Veteran Tree Management	<p>To promote and develop the continuing management of the Veteran and Ancient trees on Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. Re survey of veteran trees across Hampstead Heath is 90% completed with 625 trees registered. Next priority is to draft Management Plan.</p> <p>Continue work to priorities works to stabilise and conserve veteran trees according to condition. Continue to develop Tree Team's specialism in veteran tree management and conservation. Also carry out a programme of veteran tree protection using timber fencing and carry out soil compaction testing and soil testing as a response to increasing visitor pressures heightened by Covid.</p>	Year round	Tree Management Officer & Trees and Conservation Manager	Outcome A
TT-PR 2	Views and Vistas	<p>Identify views to retain and those to be abandoned. Ref HH Management Strategy: Outcome A, Priority 2, Commitment 7. Currently working with Heath and Hampstead Society on prioritising the 16 identified view sites and have agreed that a significant number of these are no longer recoverable.</p> <p>Embarking on a UCL MSc project in January where views will be a study topic.</p>	Year round	Tree Management Officer & Trees and Conservation Manager	Outcome A
TT-PR 3	OPM IPM	<p>Pilot project in HH Bird Sanctuary to identify presence of OPM Parasitoid, Carcelia iliaca. Major success with this collaborative project with H&HS and Heath Hands with 500+ flies emerging from 3 test cages left in HH Bird Sanctuary.</p> <p>Plan is to expand the area of further captive breeding sites and try and measure level of parasitism in each nest.</p>	April to June	Tree Management Officer & Trees and Conservation Manager	Outcome A & D

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Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

(DRAFT) Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds and Lido Annual Report 2020/21

Introduction

There are three Lifeguarded natural Bathing Ponds at Hampstead Heath. The Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond are open all year round, and the Mixed Bathing Pond is Lifeguarded during the Summer season.

The Parliament Hill Lido is a Lifeguarded outdoor un-heated chlorinated 60m swimming pool which also opens all year round.

This annual update sets out:

- A summary of the 2020/21 Swimming Season and the measures put in place to enable the Bathing Ponds and Parliament Hill Fields Lido to open during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The progress towards implementing the outcomes of the March 2020 Swimming Review.
- The arrangements for re-opening the Bathing Ponds and Lido on the 29 March 2021 and the Summer Swimming season, following the Government announcement on Monday 22 February 2021 and the publication of the Roadmap out of Lockdown.
- Topics for further discussion and the next steps.

2020/21 Swimming Season

This section sets the impacts of COVID-19 on swimming at the Bathing Ponds and Lido during 2020/21.

1. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic National Lockdowns, the Bathing Ponds and Lido have had to close several times as set out below:

- Closed: 21 March - 10 July 2020 (due to First National Lockdown)
 - Open: 11 July - 13 July 2020 (advance booking in operation)
 - Closed: 14 July - 17 July (to update online booking system)
 - Open: 18 July - 20 September 2020 (advance booking in operation)
 - Open: 21 September - 4 November 2020 (with Capped Free Flow arrangements)
 - Closed: 5 November - 1 December 2020 (due to Second National Lockdown)
 - Open: 2 December 2020 - 4 January 2021 (with Capped Free Flow arrangements)
 - Closed: 5 January - 28 March 2021 (due to Third National Lockdown)
 - Open: 29 March 2021 (subject to Government Guidance)
2. During the first National Lockdown the Heath Team implemented temporary changes in order to make the Bathing Ponds and Lido COVID-19 Secure to enable re-opening. This included: new access arrangements at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond; installation of additional signage; temporary barriers and one-way systems tailored to each swimming facility.

Summer Season (11 July – 20 September 2020)

3. In order to prevent unauthorised access, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at the Bathing Ponds, the Lifeguards maintained a presence during what would have been their normal opening hours.
4. Dead hedging was also installed at weaker points around the perimeters of the Bathing Ponds. Unfortunately, after finding evidence of night-time incursions, contract Security Guards were employed to undertake patrols during the evenings and early mornings.
5. A part of the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements, timed swimming sessions were introduced along with a reduced bathing and facility loading caps, which were tailored to each facility. This ensured the Bathing Ponds and Lido were not overwhelmed, and that Social Distancing requirements could be maintained.
6. Ahead of opening the facilities on 11 July 2020, a number of carefully controlled test sessions were undertaken to ensure the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements were sufficient and user-friendly. Swimmers with varying access requirements took part in the test sessions to ensure the arrangements provided access for a wide range of swimmers, whilst following Government Guidance.
7. Session tickets were available to purchase via on-line booking platform ahead of re-opening on 11 July 2020. Between 14 - 17 July 2020 the facilities closed whilst changes were made to the online booking arrangements, following swimmers feedback.
8. Consequently, session ticket sales were re-launched via Eventbrite on 17 July and swimming recommenced on 18 July 2020. Swimming session tickets were available to purchase in advanced and a dedicated telephone booking line was introduced to ensure swimmers without internet access were not excluded from swimming.

9. Following re-opening on 18 July 2020, the bathing and facility loading caps were carefully monitored and it was possible to gradually increase the cap on the number of swimmers at each session, whilst maintaining the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements.
10. A summary of the telephone bookings received is set out in table 1.
11. Due to the complexities around introducing timed sessions and pre-booking arrangements, it was not possible for Season Tickets to be used during the summer season, and sale of Season Tickets was suspended during this time.

Location	Number of session tickets booked via the telephone service
Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Ponds	604
Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds	139
Hampstead Mixed Bathing Ponds	87
Lido - Lane Swimming	89
Lido - Family	275
Total	1,194

Table 1 – Session tickets booked via telephone booking line

12. An online summer swimming questionnaire was released on 1 September 2020 to seek swimmers' feedback on their experiences during summer 2020, taking account of the adaptions that were necessary to comply with Government Guidance and to maintain social distancing. The survey was publicised via an e-newsletter, and the Heath's Twitter and Facebook social media feeds. A link to the questionnaire was also sent to nearly 11,000 people who had used the Eventbrite booking platform. The questionnaire closed on Friday 11 September 2020 and received 1,108 responses.
13. The questionnaire showed that the reasons people swim at Hampstead Heath were: the natural surroundings of the Bathing Ponds (79%); the benefits to physical health (84%); the benefits to mental health (93%) as a result of swimming outdoors. There was a mixture of feelings about the COVID-19 secure measures, including the advance booking system. Over 80% of respondents gave the COVID-19 safety measures a score of between seven and 10, with 10 ranked as 'excellent', while almost 60% rated the online booking system between seven and 10. Swimmers commented that the measures were too restrictive and removed the spontaneity of being able to swim without an advance plan. In contrast, swimmers 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. The results of the questionnaire are attached at appendix 2.

Winter Season (21 September 2020 – 4 January 2021)

14. Due to the decline in demand for swimming during the colder months, arrangements were put in place to continue COVID-19 Secure swimming without timed sessions and pre-booking, by using Capped Free Flow arrangements.

Under these arrangements entry is managed by the Steward up to the agreed facility capacity. Once capacity is reached, further entry is managed on a one in one out basis.

15. Ahead of the commencement of the Winter Swimming Season on 21 September 2020, Season Tickets were migrated to an activated wristband system and reissued to swimmers. To use the wristband, Season Ticket holders need to touch the card reader with their wristband when entering the Bathing Ponds or Lido. When touched in, the validity of the Season Ticket is confirmed and a time stamp created. The wristbands do not track the movements of swimmers and the anonymised time stamp data collected will be used to establish participation data. Where applicable, Season Tickets holders were credited for the number of days which their valid season ticket could not be used during the summer.
16. Season Tickets sales resumed between 4 December 2020 - 4 January 2021 before being suspended during the third National Lockdown. Season Ticket sales resumed on the 11 March 2021. The take-up of the wristbands has been higher than predicted. Table 2 sets out details of Season Ticket issued.

Season Ticket Type	12 Month	6 Month	1 Month	Total
All Facilities - Adult	305	102	0	407
All Facilities - Concession	106	19	0	125
All Facilities - Free Early Morning Swim for U16's & 60+	109	363	-	472
All Facilities – Free Carer	6	-	-	6
Lido - Adult	181	72	30	283
Lido - Concession	58	18	10	86
Bathing Ponds - Adult	720	587	-	1,307
Bathing Ponds - Concession	298	265	-	563

Table 2 – Season Tickets issued up to 31 March 2021.

17. Following feedback around the issue of the Free Morning Swim Season Ticket for swimmers aged 60+, the validity of these wristbands has been extended. Swimmers will not be required to renew their Season Ticket after 6 months.
18. Season Ticket wristbands can be purchased online from the City of London Corporation website. For swimmers with no online access, a paper form is available at the Bathing Ponds, Lido and Parliament Hill Office. Card payments can be made at all of these locations. Cash payments for Season Tickets can be made at the Lido and Parliament Hill Office. Season Tickets can be renewed online by completing a paper form.
19. Contactless payment has also been introduced at the Bathing Ponds since the start of the winter season allowing swimmers to turn up, pay and swim. The option for cash payment is also accepted at the Bathing Ponds and Lido. Although, it isn't possible to provide change at the Bathing Ponds.
20. Alongside contactless payment and the activated wristbands, a Heath App has been developed. This enables wristbands to be managed by the account holder and also provides the functionality for the City Corporation to message

Season Ticket holders to provide a range information, such as closures and renewal alerts.

21. In order to provide additional capacity for swimming in the Autumn, the Mixed Bathing Pond was kept open to the public for an additional six weeks until 25 October 2020. This proved popular in part due to warm weather, and the Mixed Pond remained busy, especially at weekends, until it closed on the 25 October. On 28 October 2020, the Winter Swimming Club commenced their licenced swimming arrangements.
22. Table 3 sets out the number of swims at the Bathing Ponds and Lido between 18 July 2020 and 4 January 2021.

Opening Period	Number of Swims
18 July – 20 September 2020	124,776
21 September - 4 November 2020 & 2 December 2020– 4 January 2021	35,396
Total Swims	160,172

Table 3 – Number of swims 18 July 2020 - 4 January 2021.

Children's swimming access

23. Following Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) Guidance in relation to minimising risk, swimmers aged 8-15 were not able to swim at the Bathing Ponds during summer 2020. However, dedicated family sessions were available at the Lido to enable children to swim when accompanied by an adult.

Water Quality Testing & Pollution

24. The Environment Agency (EA) has responsibility for monitoring and protecting designated bathing water across England. Normally, during the summer months the EA test the water quality at the Bathing Ponds weekly and post the results on their website. Due to COVID-19, the EA significantly reduced their testing regime on inland bathing waters that normally meet 'good' or 'excellent' standards, which includes the Bathing Ponds on Hampstead Heath.
25. The City Corporation undertook independent water sample testing on 24 June, 1 July and 16 July, ahead of reopening the Bathing Ponds, as the EA had yet to resume its testing programme. The EA subsequently resumed monthly testing in late July.
26. On 17 September 2020, following a sewage surcharge, the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond was closed. The surcharge was reported to the EA and Thames Water, who maintain the foul sewer network. Thames Water used specialist root cutting equipment to clear the blockage that had caused the sewer to surcharge. This work took place on 17 - 18 September 2020. Thames Water reported an 80% blockage of the sewer comprising of tree roots, north of the Ladies' Bathing Pond Meadow. The section of sewer was subsequently surveyed to ensure there were no further defects that required immediate action. Following the incident Thames Water established a programme of works across the sewer network.

27. As of 12 March 2021, Thames Water confirmed they have completed further patch repairs, and that further sewer lining works will be undertaken in April 2021.
28. Following this pollution incident, the City Corporation commissioned daily tests at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond and the results of these tests plus the results from the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond and Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond are available at: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/assets/Green-Spaces/hampstead-heath-water-quality-report.pdf>. The learning from these incidents has been embedded into the Safe Systems of Work for the Bathing Ponds.
29. Swimming at the Kenwood Ladies Bathing Pond resumed on 26 September 2020 following satisfactory water quality test results. Unfortunately, the Bathing Pond was closed again between 4 - 9 October 2020 due to unsatisfactory water quality test results.
30. Water quality testing continues to be undertaken on a weekly basis. Further information around this pollution incident, and the actions taken in response are set out at: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/where-to-go-at-hampstead-heath/kenwood-ladies-pond>

Lido Leak

31. Investigations into a leak at the Lido have been on-going for a number of years. A number of non-invasive investigations and fixes to resolve the leak have been attempted but proved un-successful.
32. Further, more invasive investigative works to detect and fix the leak, commenced on 16 January 2021. Following excavations, leaks were detected on one of the pipes connecting the deep end outlets to the plant room filters. Works to replace and update the pipework and flanges have been completed and following checks, the filtration system is operating correctly. Re-instatement works are due to be completed on 15 March 2021. This project has been successfully undertaken during a challenging period. The City Surveyors Department have been instrumental in supporting and arranging these works. The Contractor worked through difficult weather conditions and maintained COVID-19 Secure working arrangements.

Implementing the outcomes of the March 2020 Swimming Review

This section sets out our progress towards implementing the outcomes from the March 2020 Swimming Review.

Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work

33. Extensive reviews of the Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work for the Bathing Ponds and Lido were undertaken during the First National Lockdown, to inform re-opening on 11 July 2020. The reviews took into consideration the outcomes of the March 2020 Swimming Review and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Advice. In addition, COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements were developed and incorporate industry guidance from Sport England, Public Health England and the RLSS.

34. Further reviews of the Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work are in progress and will be completed before re-opening on 29 March 2021.
35. Procedures to record assisted rescues, lifesaving rescues and incidents at the Bathing Ponds and Lido in real time are being developed, ahead of the commencement of swimming on the 29 March 2021, to inform decision making.

Preventing unauthorised access

36. During the summer months, a variety of safety signage was installed around the ponds. A targeted approach was implemented to discourage swimming in the non-Lifeguarded Ponds and to engage with members of the public around the associated dangers.
37. At the Model Boating Pond, large banners were placed on Heras fencing panels at strategic locations. Whilst at the Vale of Health Pond signage was placed on wooden stakes within the pond and the Constabulary engaged with people taking part in un-authorised swimming.
38. A range of fencing repairs have taken place along the Highgate Chain and further works are being progressed along the Hampstead Chain.
39. Volunteers from Heath Hands have worked with staff on a variety of habitat and wetland management projects from the Annual Work Programme around the Ponds and assisted the Ranger Team make landscaping improvements within the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond.

Lifeguard Training

40. All Lifeguards have completed RLSS COVID-19 training sessions and the Open Water Training Programme. External validation will be undertaken during April/May 2021. Equality and Inclusion, Transgender Awareness and Unconscious Bias training also forms part of the Lifeguard's Personal Development Objectives.
41. In preparation for re-opening on 29 March 2021, Lifeguards will receive intensive refresher training around use of the rescue equipment and rescue craft. As well as resuscitation protocols and the COVID-19 Secure operating arrangements.

Additional Lifeguards

42. In accordance with the HSE advice received in October 2019, additional Lifeguards have been employed, and since re-opening on 11 July 2020 a minimum of 3 Lifeguards have been on duty at each facility to allow for breaks and rotation of duties to maintain alertness.
43. At the Bathing Ponds the introduction of meaningful breaks away from the water has greatly improved staff morale and has enabled the Lifeguards to maintain their alertness.

Operational Issues

44. A new City of London website was launched in July 2020, which included new swimming information pages. Social Media and a swimming mailing list have been used to regularly provide updates on matters relating to the Bathing Ponds and Lido. A designated email address, HH-swimming@cityoflondon.gov.uk, has

also been set up so the public can get in touch with specific questions on swimming.

Additional Heath Rangers

45. In response to the outcomes from the March 2020 Swimming Review, Stewards have been deployed at the Bathing Ponds to ensure the primary role of Lifeguards is focussed on bather safety. As a result of COVID-19 it has proved more efficient to keep this role within the Swimming Team.
46. The Stewards role includes managing and facilitating entry to the Bathing Ponds, providing information, supporting swimmers with the payment arrangements, responding to incidents within the facilities, liaising with other Heath staff and the Emergency Services, cleaning and assisting with the operation of the Bathing Ponds.
47. The role of the Stewards has been instrumental to successfully implementing the COVID-19 Secure Operational Arrangements and making sure swimmers feel welcomed and safe, especially over the summer months.

Contactless Payment Technology

48. Contactless payment technology has been successfully introduced at the Bathing Ponds and had been in operation since September 2020. Wi-Fi has also been installed and has improved the speed and stability of the internet connections to support the contactless payment technology.
49. The Wi-Fi connection at the Ladies' Bathing Pond has also improved the mobile signal which is critical for communications with the Emergency Services.

Applied Charges

50. At the Bathing Ponds, applied charges have been implemented since opening on 11 July 2020. As set out in the March 2020 Swimming review, the swimming charges for the Bathing Ponds and Lido have been included in the annual review of the Heath's fees and charges which took place during Winter 2020/21.
51. Following consultation, the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee agreed to increase the majority charges by 1.3% from the 1 April 2021. However, the Bathing Pond Concession Season Tickets prices have increased to align with 40% discount on the adult price. Cash payments options have been retained at the Bathing Ponds and Lido.

Income and Expenditure

52. Table 4 sets out the income and expenditure at the Bathing Ponds and Lido for the period of April 2020 - March 2021.
53. During 2020/21 the impact on the Heath's Local Risk Budget is above the agreed level of subsidy set out in the March 2020 Swimming Review. However, taking account of COVID-19, the impact on access, income and expenditure, further analysis will be necessary at the end of 2021/22 to reassess the achievement of the agreed subsidies and the wider impact on the Heath Charity.

	Bathing Ponds	Parliament Hill Fields Lido	Totals
Employee Costs	£794,723	£311,128	£1,105,851
Operational Expenditure	£172,260	£140,940	£313,200
Total Expenditure	£966,983	£452,068	£1,419,051
Income (Online booking fees and VAT have been deducted)	£367,649	£173,473	£541,122
Funding allocated from the Heath's 2020/21 Local Risk Budget	£599,334	£278,595	£877,929
% Subsidy for 2020/21	61.98% £599,334	61.63% £278,595	61.87%
March 2020 agreed subsidy	42% £442,000	35% £205,000	
% of Heath's 2020/21 Local Risk Budget	12.85%	5.97%	18.82%
March 2020 agreed % of the Heath's Local Risk Budget	10%	5%	

Table 4 - Income and expenditure at the Bathing Ponds and Lido for the period of April 2020 - March 2021

Support Scheme

54. An outcome of the March 2020 Swimming Review was to consider the establishment of a Support Fund. A further report was discussed and agreed by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in September 2020, and a Support Scheme was approved, which comprises of the following elements:
- Concessions and Free Swimming - A comprehensive range of concessions which provide a 40% discount of the adult ticket rate are available. Concessions apply to people in receipt of State Benefits including: Universal Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Personal Independence Payments and Housing Benefit as well as people with a Freedom Pass; Disabled Card; Students and Under 16's.
 - A free morning swim until 9.30am is available for under 16's and 60+.
 - During the Summer 2020 free Carer access was introduced to enable swimmers to be accompanied where required. Swimmers or Carers can apply for a free wristband using the Season Ticket application form.
 - Officers continue to engage with Local Authorities and other Partners, such as the NHS to make them aware that free and concession swimming opportunities are available on Hampstead Heath.
 - Working with Partners (Health Connections) - Officers have established connections with the local Clinical Commissioning Group, GP's, Social Prescribers, Heath Hands and Global Generation. This group has an emerging

vision of a river of connections flowing through Camden from Hampstead Heath to Kings Cross, much like the river Fleet.

- In partnership we are working to map facilities and opportunities that are available to establish a framework to support the healthy growth of our communities and particularly different groups who experience more exclusion or disadvantage than others.
- In addition, the Heath Team will continue to work with a number of groups to facilitate free and discounted swimming. In 2020, this included play schemes, schools and migrant and refugee children, who were able to swim at the Lido.
- Volunteering - By volunteering on the Heath with our volunteer partner, Heath Hands, individuals are able to access day and season tickets for a range of activities, including swimming.

Property

55. A Capital Project relating to safety, access and security issues across the three Bathing Ponds and the Parliament Hill Fields Lido has approved funding of £755,000 from the City of London Corporation Capital Works Programme. Stakeholders will be engaged throughout the development and implementation of the project.
56. The City Surveyor's Department Cyclical Works Programme funding for 2021/22 is being prioritised towards safety related projects across the Bathing Ponds and Lido.

Updating the Swimming Regulations

57. The review of the Swimming Regulations has yet to be undertaken. Officers propose to commence the review during 2021/22.

Lido Fence Planning Application

58. The Planning Application and historic building consent for a temporary fence and perimeter lighting at the Lido was modified during 2020, following discussion with the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. The installation of a temporary fence for the summer period was not required, in part as a result of the introduction of Social Distancing measures related to COVID-19 during 2020. Therefore, only planning consent for perimeter lighting was progressed and subsequently approved. Officers are looking into other methods to protect the Lido from un-authorised access, including additional planting, re-locating electrical boxes and security patrols of the perimeter.

Looking forward to the 2021 Summer Swimming Season

The Bathing Ponds and Lido will re-open, after the Third National Lockdown on 29 March 2021, this section sets out the arrangements for the return of swimming at Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the latest Government Guidance.

59. Season Ticket wristbands will automatically be extended by the number of days a valid Season Ticket was held during the time the Bathing Ponds and Lido were closed during the Third National Lockdown. Ahead of re-opening, Season Ticket sales resumed on 10 March 2021.
60. Initially, when the Bathing Ponds and Lido open on 29 March 2021 Capped Free Flow arrangements will be put in place.
61. Ahead of the commencement of the 2021 Summer Swimming Season, Officers will review the success of the Capped Free Flow arrangements during the first month of operation, which will include the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. If Social Distancing measures can be effectively maintained, the Bathing Ponds and Lido will continue to operate with Capped Free Flow for the Morning Session (last entry at 09.30) from 1 May 2021, with pre-booked sessions operating during peak hours.
62. Sessions can be re-booked and paid for using Eventbrite or a dedicated telephone booking line (020 7332 3779). Arrangements have been put in place for 2021 to allow Season Tickets to be used during the summer season. Season Ticket holders will be able to pre-book, without making a payment, by using Eventbrite or the dedicated telephone booking line and will be asked to bring their Season Ticket wristband when attending a session.
63. The dedicated telephone booking line will be in place during the mornings to assist swimmers who are not able to make a booking using Eventbrite. There is a risk that the telephone booking line could be overwhelmed if swimmers who can book online attempt to use this service, which will impact on swimmers who rely on the telephone service.
64. During 2021, there will be trial of an extended summer season at the Mixed Bathing Pond. The Pond will be Lifeguarded from 29 March - 31 October 2021. This will significantly increase the capacity for swimming on the Heath. The trial will be reviewed in November 2021 to inform the arrangements for 2022.

Discussion Topics

This section sets out a number of discussion items, and Officers welcome feedback and suggestions.

Reintroducing Swim Tests at the Bathing Ponds

65. Swimmers aged 8-15 swim are able to swim at the Lido where family and all-comers sessions are available. However, in order to provide further opportunities for swimmers aged 8-15, it is proposed to re-introduce swim test at the Bathing Ponds.
 - It is proposed that specific sessions are set aside to facilitate free swim tests. The swim tests could be booked on-line or via the dedicated telephone booking line. Views and feedback are sought on the proposal to allocate specific sessions for swim tests to take place. The swim test sessions could be programmed for weekends and during school holidays.

Free Morning Swim for Under 16's and 60+

- 66. A range of feedback has been received in relation to the Free Morning Swim arrangements.
- Views are sought in relation age eligibility for the free morning swim and the timing of the free morning swim.

Free & Discounted Swimming

- 67. We welcome feedback on underrepresented groups and organisations, who would benefit from free and discounted swimming.

Season Ticket

- 68. The impact of the National Lockdowns has meant that some Season Tickets no-longer align with the summer and winter swimming seasons.
- We welcome feedback on proposals to re-align the Season Tickets with the Swimming Seasons and to have a 7 month Summer Season Ticket and a 5 month Winter Season Ticket. It is proposed that the 12 month Season Ticket would be retained.

Conclusion

- 69. Significant progress has been made towards implementing the Outcomes of the March 2020 Swimming Review, and this has been critical to maintaining safe access for swimming during a very challenging year. Over 160,000 swims have been facilitated across the Bathing Ponds and Lido. We are delighted that these arrangements have also provided opportunities for children and families to swim at the Lido.
- 70. Further analysis of income and expenditure for the Bathing Ponds and Lido will be undertaken at the end of the current financial year. We will continue to assess the impact on the Heath Charity, and work towards securing the long-term sustainability of swimming on Hampstead Heath.
- 71. The Lifeguards have felt confident in being able to support swimmers accessing the Bathing Ponds and Lido in a safe and welcoming environment. This has positively impacted of their moral and wellbeing. Carefully easing the COVID-19 Secure Operating Arrangements and continuing to manage the Bathing Load remain critical as we welcome swimmers back to the Bathing Ponds and Lido in 2021.

Next Steps

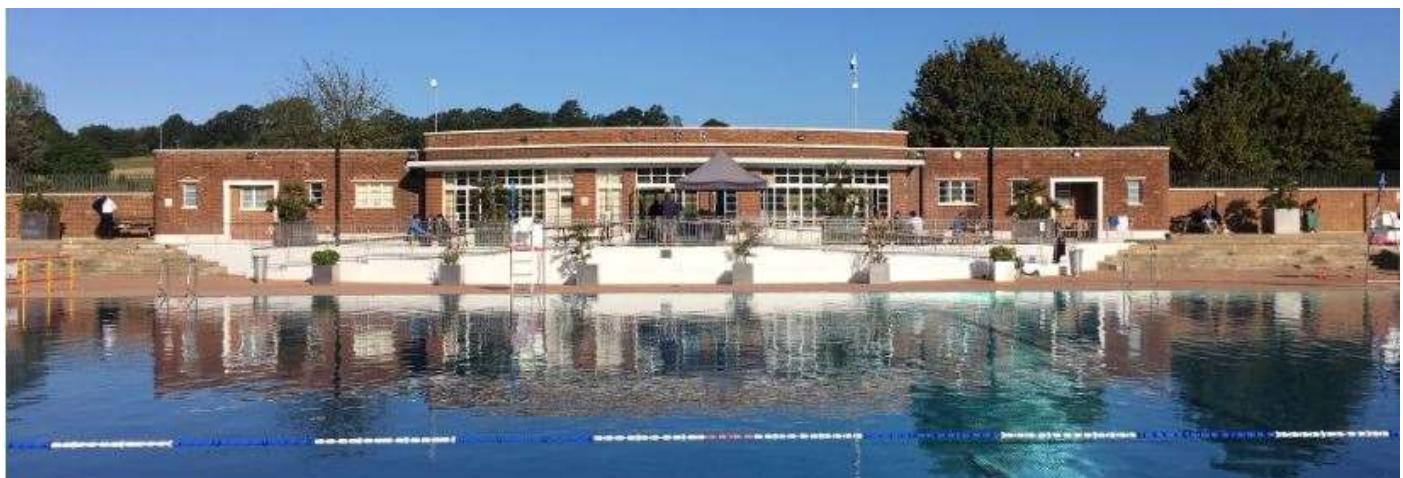
Taking account of the feedback from the Swimming Associations and the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum an updated report will be presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on the 19 April 2021. A further report will then be presented to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee on 26 May 2021.



Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

Appendix 1 - Hampstead Heath Swimming Questionnaire Results

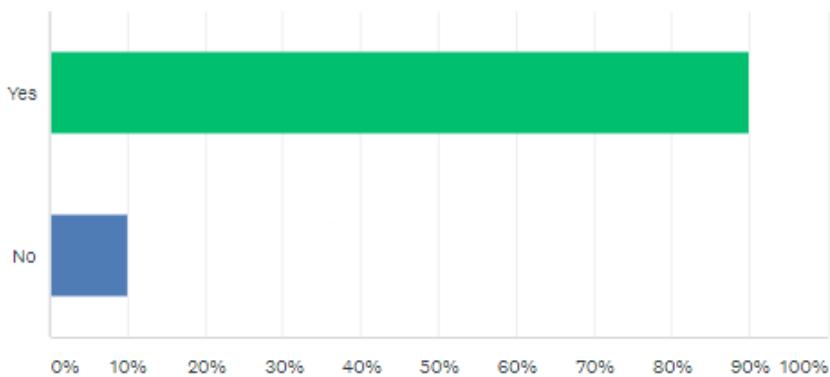


The summer swimming survey was released on 1 September to seek swimmers' feedback on their experiences over the summer, taking account of the adaptions that were necessary to comply with Government Guidance and to maintain social distancing. The survey closed on Friday 11 September and this report summarises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

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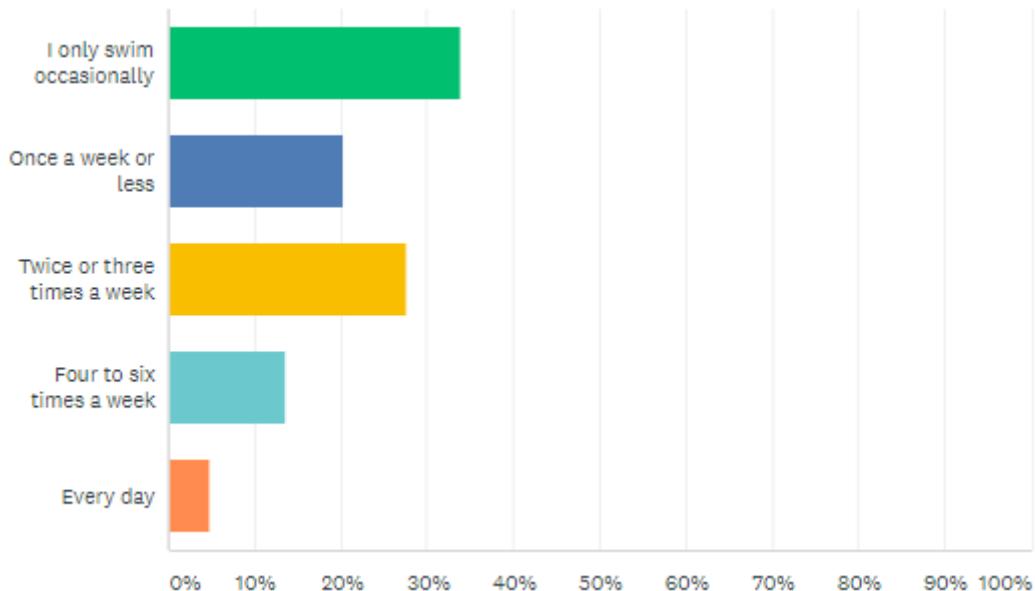
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Q1. Have you swum at the Heath's Bathing Ponds or the Parliament Hill Fields Lido prior to this summer?



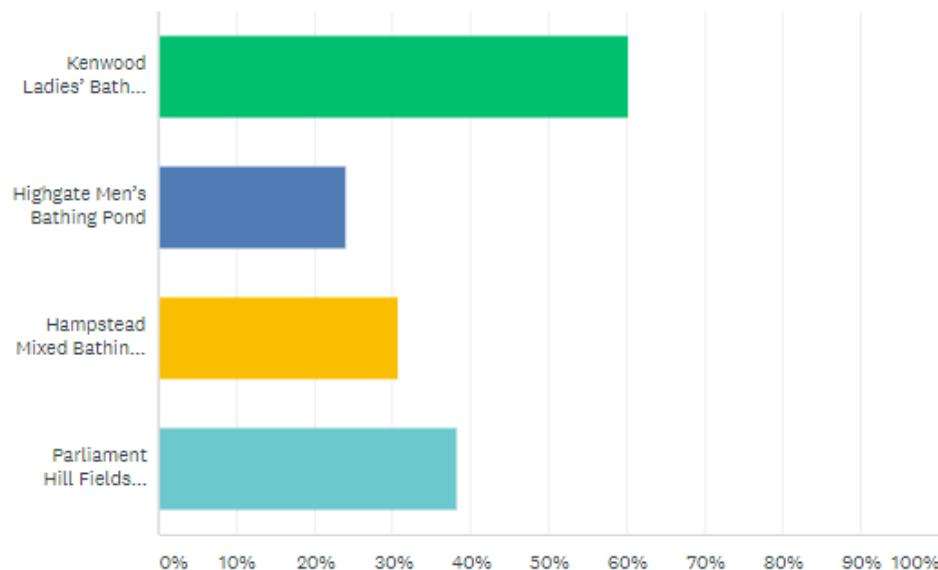
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	89.95%
No	10.05%
TOTAL	1,105

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



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

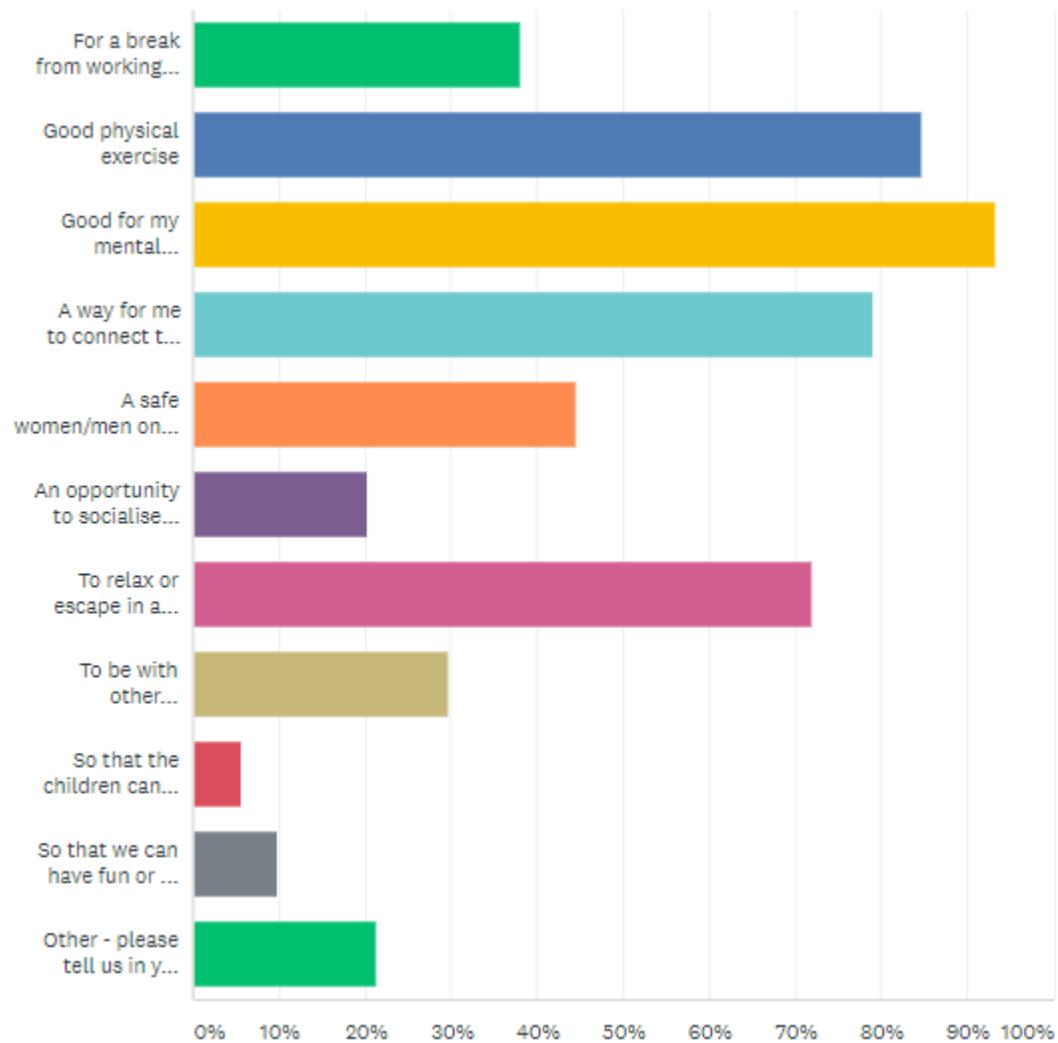
Q3. Which swimming facilities do you use?



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

Respondents were asked to tick all boxes which applied to them

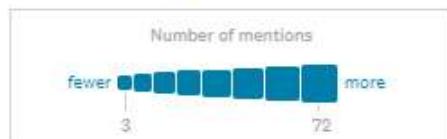
Q4. We have listed some reasons below why people might swim outdoors at the Ponds or Lido. Please tell us which apply to you.



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 swell 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."

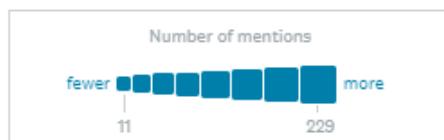
"The community of people and the shiny bottom of the Lido. And that it's open all year, even through the winter. Oh, and the amazing new sauna at the Lido."

"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."

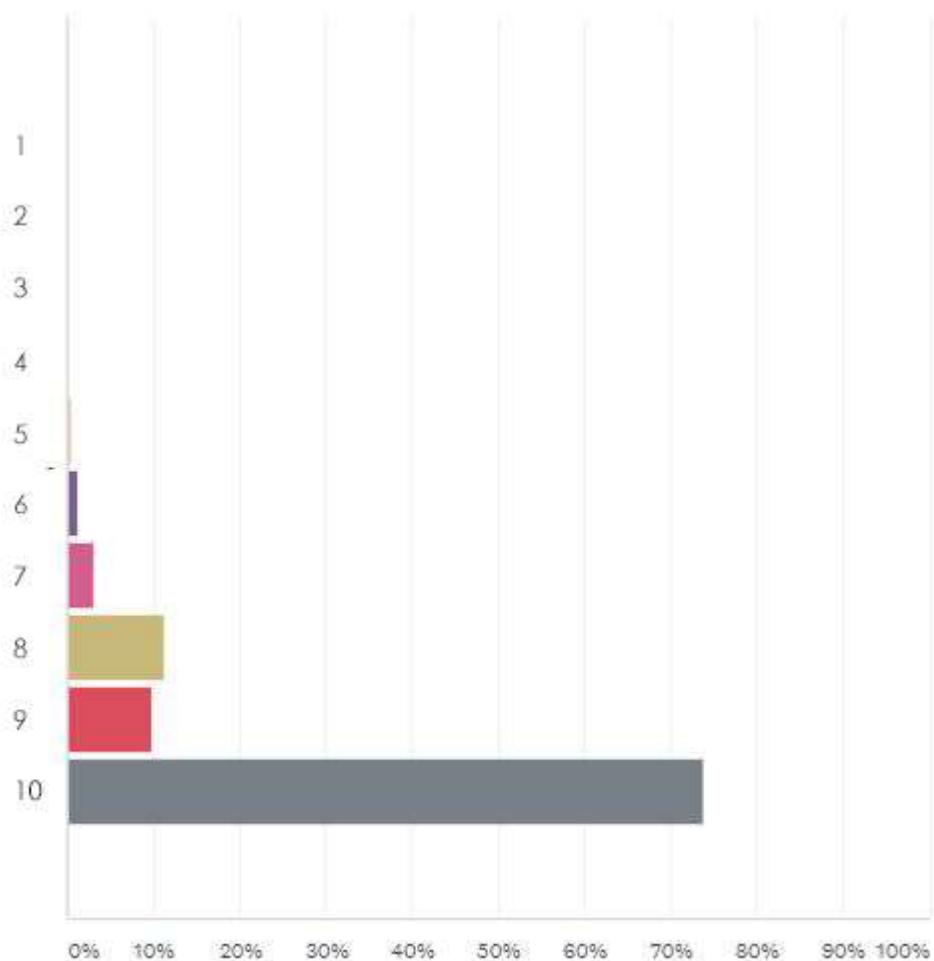
"As someone who grew up in the inner city, the option to try outdoor and winter swimming without needing to rely on support of a parent or income was an invaluable opportunity and improved and changed my life. The ponds have been a rock in my life, helping me through the tough times and have given me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

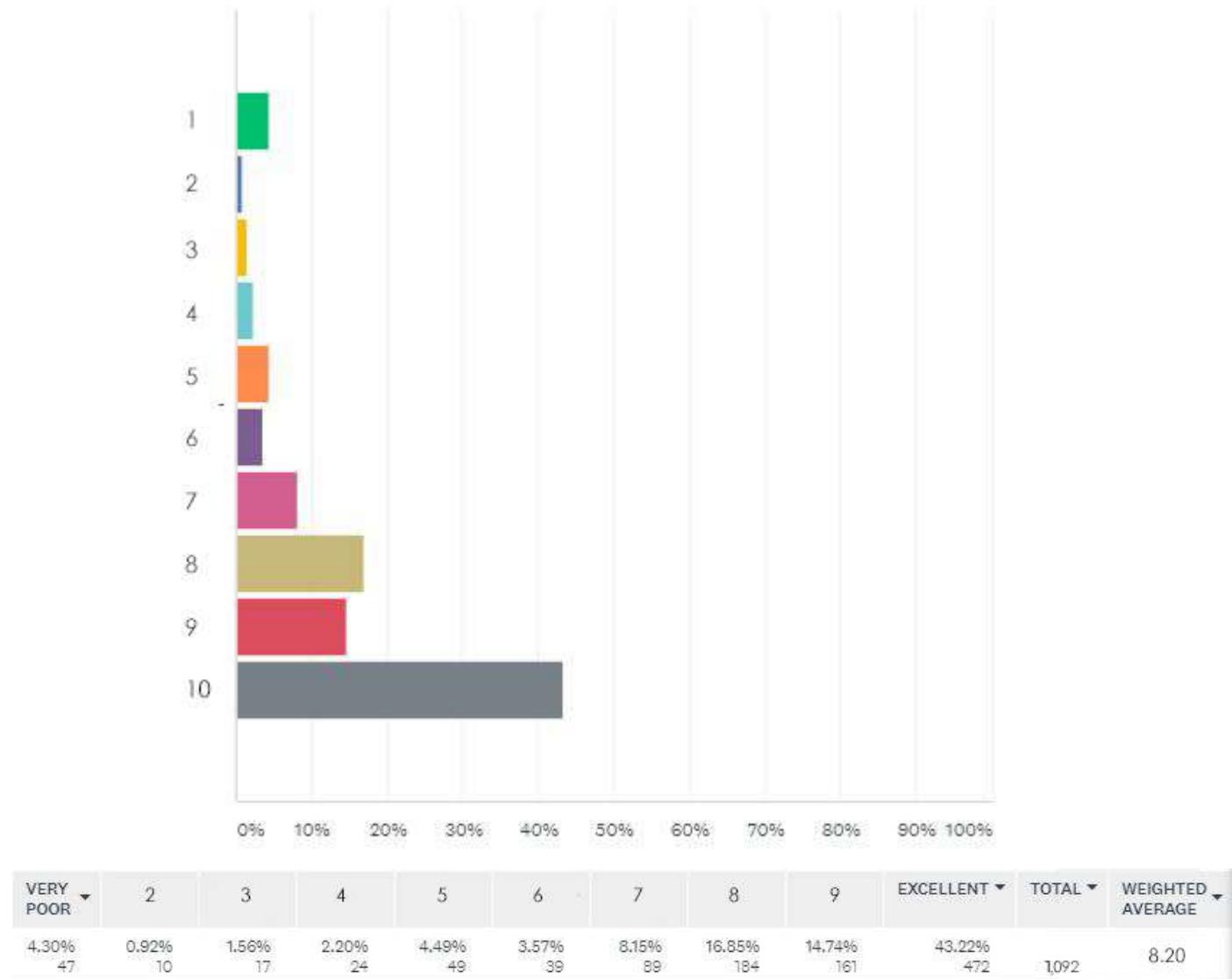


Q6. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is very much and 1 is not at all, how much do the Ponds and Lido benefit your physical and mental health?



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

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?



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.”

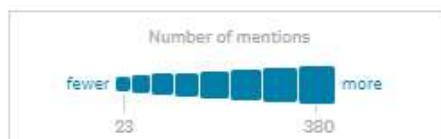
“The Lifeguards are all excellent, and the site is managed very well. I have felt safe and comfortable during the COVID restrictions. I actually prefer it this way. I like the booking system. This is something that could remain it ensures that there is always a comfortable space to swim in. I'm sure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

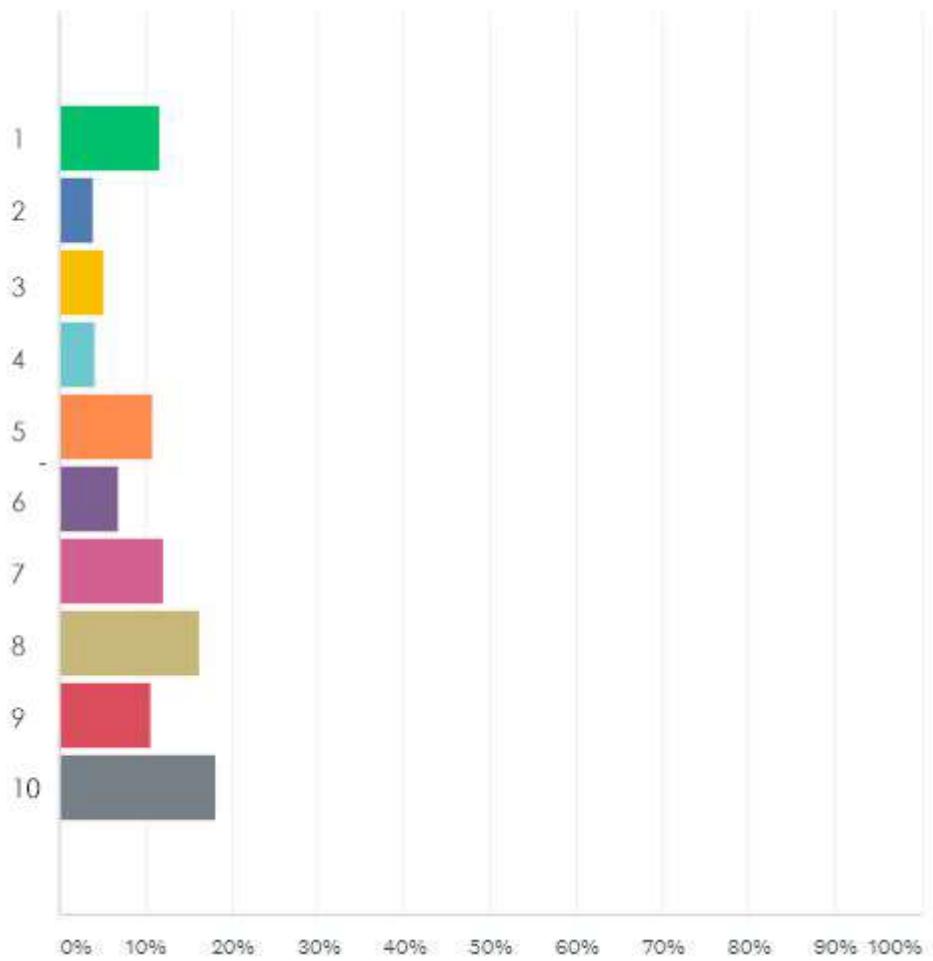
“I barely used the ponds over the Summer - initially the difficulties using the system and getting a slot made it impossible, and I gave up as I did not want to be constantly disappointed. I had a swim in September which was fine, and I appreciated the relatively low-key and relaxed atmosphere which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

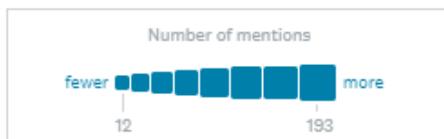
“It was so difficult to book slots and I’m a digital-savvy millennial. I wonder how many long time pond swimmers were excluded.

“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 allow understand access
book week advance

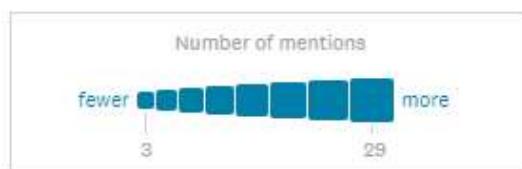


Q11. How do you find out/stay up to date on swimming on Hampstead Heath?

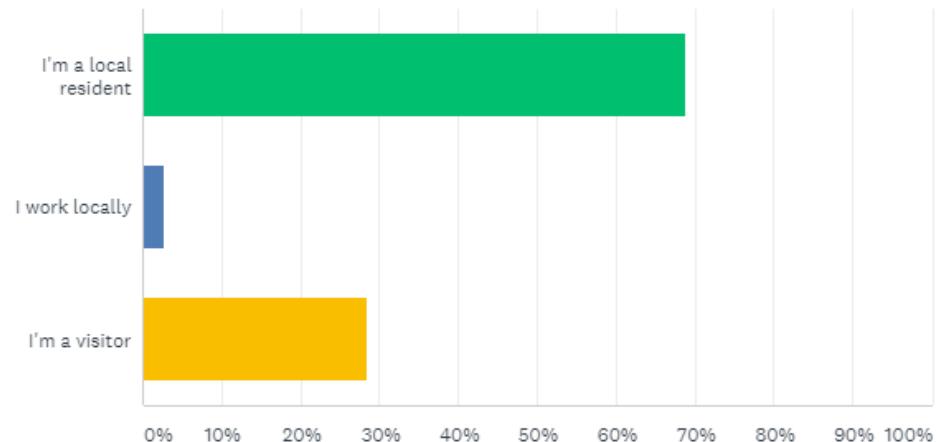
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	%
Word of mouth	472	42.91%
City of London staff	64	5.82%
National newspaper or magazine article / feature	26	2.36%
Local newspaper or article / feature	72	6.55%
TV programme / TV news item or feature	8	0.73%
Radio programme / radio news feature	6	0.55%
Signage / banners outside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

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

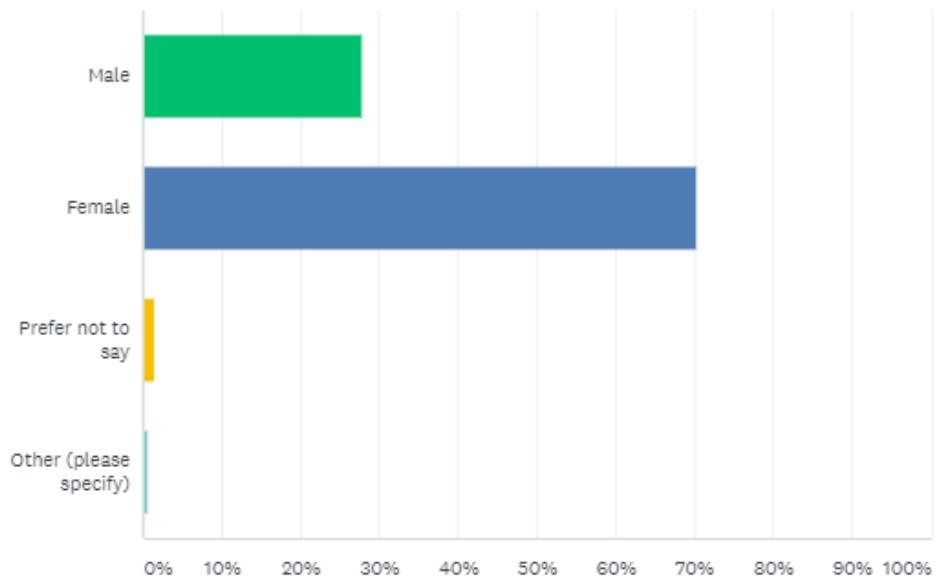


Q13. Do you live or work near the Heath or are you a visitor?



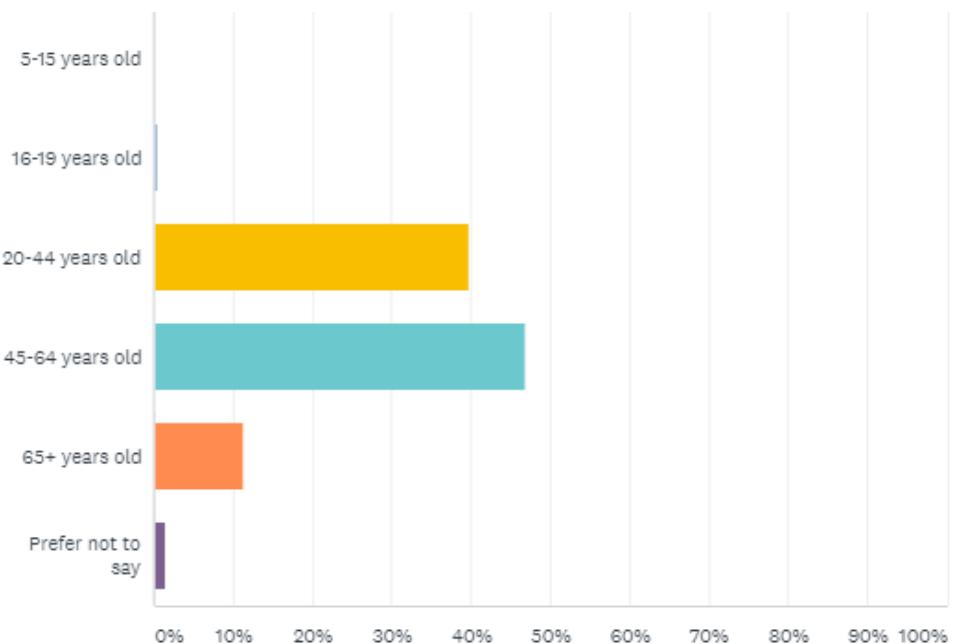
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I'm a local resident	68.84%
I work locally	2.76%
I'm a visitor	28.40%
TOTAL	1,088

Q14. What gender do you identify as?



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

Q15. What is your age?

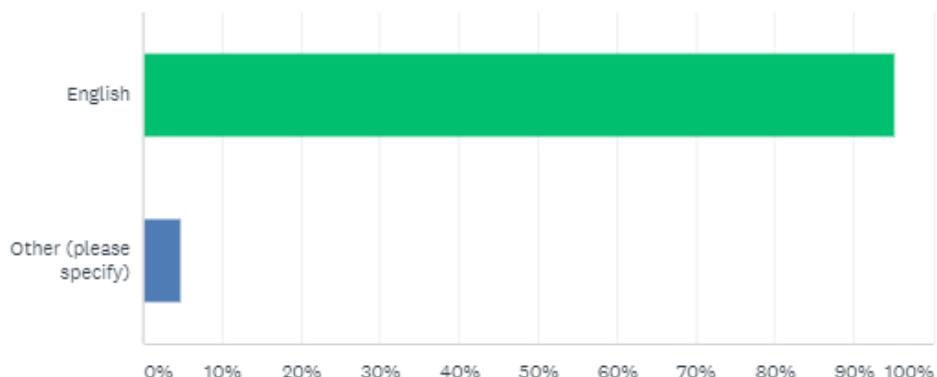


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
5-15 years old	0.09%
16-19 years old	0.37%
20-44 years old	39.80%
45-64 years old	46.88%
65+ years old	11.40%
Prefer not to say	1.47%
TOTAL	1,088

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

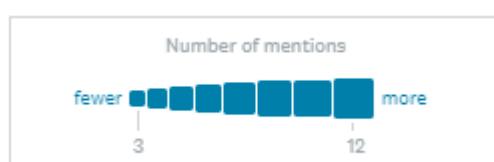
Q17. What is your main language?



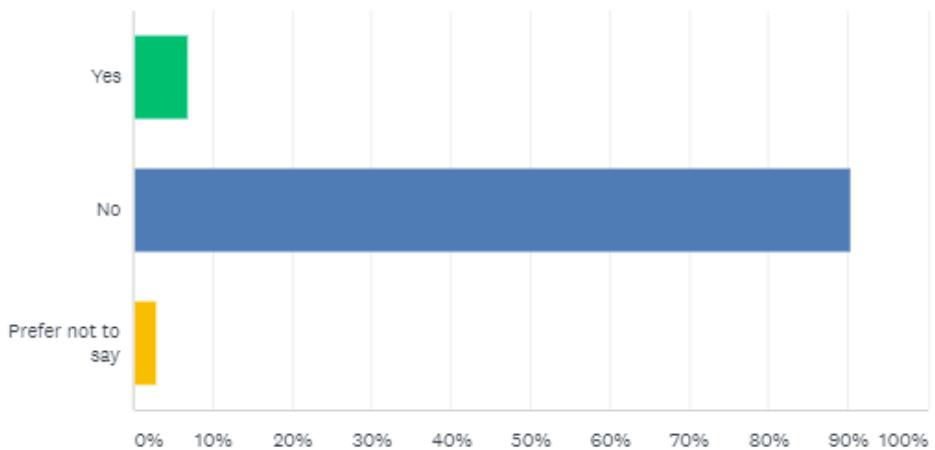
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ English	95.22%
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 4.78%
TOTAL	1,087

Word map of 'Other' answers

Portuguese Turkish French Polish German Spanish



Q18. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

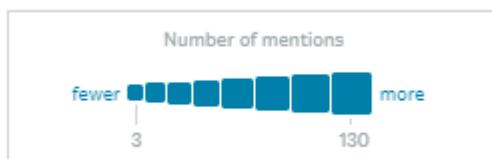


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	6.80%
▼ No	90.35%
▼ Prefer not to say	2.85%
TOTAL	1,088

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.

Agenda Item 7g

Feedback received from the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association

22/03/2021
By email

Dear Anne

We have received a copy of the Draft Swimming Annual Review 2020-21, and are disappointed by the timing. Prices for 2021/22 were increased before this could be considered. The City of London has also failed to acknowledge the detailed results of our recent survey of swimmers which revealed significant economic impacts of the 2020 price increases and their enforcement. This Review does nothing to address such concerns.

The document was due to be discussed at the Sports Forum on 15 March 2021, where we currently have no representation, and was only sent to us late on Friday 12 March 2021, which is the type of consultation we have become used to. Our comments are as follows:

1. The Review fails to convey quite how disastrous the first online booking platform (ATW) was or the cost incurred (£ [REDACTED]) for this abortive scheme which is the equivalent of over [REDACTED] concession day tickets.
2. You have not conveyed the continued difficulty and exclusion caused by the Eventbrite booking system, which required digital sharp elbows to benefit from. Nor have you conveyed the failure to publicise the telephone booking line number, despite our requests, and which we ended up doing for you. You will note that the highest number of telephone bookings were in respect of the Ladies' Pond (50.6%) which is, we believe, due to our publicising the number directly to our members. We will be doing so again. In 2021 this telephone line should be made available for longer hours, and adequately staffed for those hours.
3. The report states that it was too complicated to use season tickets with online booking for timed sessions in 2020, but this will be in place in 2021. Why was this therefore not possible in 2020?
4. Your online questionnaire in September 2020 was somewhat loaded by being online and directed at people who had engaged with your online booking system or social media feeds. By definition this would have excluded the views of many pond swimmers who had been excluded from your new online systems. The KLPA survey was posted to our non-email members.
5. Can you confirm that stewards will be removed from the gates when Covid-secure arrangements are no longer necessary, possibly from 21 June 2021? This will be an unnecessary cost if continued and some swimmers find their presence intrusive and intimidating. There have on occasion been male stewards at the Ladies' Pond which is generally unacceptable.
6. We continue to be concerned that season tickets can only be purchased in the form of intrusive wristbands and that personal data is shared with an overseas company, without any choice in the matter. Initially there was a form of segregation with the issue of colour coded wristbands for those eligible for concessions. We urge you to consider the option of the plastic cards for swimmers who object to this intrusiveness and no data passed to LoyLap. Data protection principles require you

to minimise what data you retain/process to that which is essential, and not to hold on to data or any longer than strictly necessary. It should be possible to purchase a season ticket via a paper form and with cash, providing no phone or email details if preferred and to receive a plastic card in return.

7. The odd amounts for day tickets in 2021/22, and no change given, appear designed to make cash payment as difficult as possible, in the hope that those who pay cash will cease to use the ponds.
8. Fortifying the ponds to prevent unauthorised access, including the non-bathing ponds will ultimately be futile, despite your indication of [season ticket revocation](#) for anyone found to have done so. The City's new charging regime will mean that swimmers will always find a way in and the Heath cannot be turned into an armed camp. Furthermore swimmers will continue to experiment with unsupervised open water elsewhere, with potential safety consequences. This could all have been avoided with a more constructive approach to charging being taken in March 2020.
9. You continue to refer to a Support Scheme as though it actually exists. The list of concessions (which we had to update for you) is [not a support scheme](#). Work to link up with organisations working with marginalised groups seems very little further forward. At most you appear to have held discussions with Pro-Active Camden but we cannot find out online what they actually do. This support scheme should have been in place in time for re-opening in 2020. It also needs to extend beyond Camden. What on earth does "*This group has an emerging vision of a river of connections flowing through Camden from Hampstead Heath to Kings Cross, much like the river Fleet*" actually mean? Two thirds of our survey respondents were from outside Camden, a significant proportion from Haringey and Islington.
10. You refer to "Updating the Swimming Regulations" during 2021/22, and this sounds significant. What is this about and who are you seeking to exclude now?
11. If Coronavirus restrictions can be ended this summer we expect to see online booking and capped numbers (other than the usual maximum bather loads) removed altogether, along with stewards at the gate. ***Please confirm that is what you will do.*** The ponds cannot be allowed to continue as an exclusive club once the public health restrictions are lifted.
12. You have indicated you are reverting to Eventbrite for bookings, and that the phone line number will be 020 7332 3779. Once we have sufficient detail including links our members will be notified.
13. We wish to see the detailed income and expenditure figures you refer to in order to check the maths.

29 March 2021
By email

Feedback received from the Highgate Lifebuoys

Applied Charges:

No. 51 - As you know I am against the compulsory charges at the Ponds, but I am glad that there are Season Ticket options now available, so please could these be made permanent.

No. 52 - I am not happy that the prices have already increased, but I am glad that the cash payment option has been retained, so please keep this as a permanent option.

Looking forward to the 2021 Summer Swimming Season:

No. 60 - I think that it is only fair that wristbands have been automatically extended by the number of days lost during the Third Lockdown. It says that Season Ticket sales are resumed on 10 March 2021, but I think that all Season Ticket options should be made available to buy throughout the year, so could this option please be made available?

No. 63 - I am glad that the dedicated telephone booking line is still in place, as I know that several of our Highgate Lifebuoys rely on this as their only booking option, so please could you keep this as a permanent fixture.

No.64 - As I mentioned in No.63, I know that several of our Highgate Lifebuoys rely on the telephone booking line as their only booking option, but also that they very often cannot get through, so it would be good if the telephone booking line opening hours could please be extended.

No. 68 - Free & Discounted Swimming: There are a lot of mental health problems that have arisen due to the current COVID-19 climate, so I think that it would be good to work with relevant mental health organisations, to facilitate free and discounted swims to help to improve the mental health and wellbeing of their patients.

No. 69 - Season Ticket: I think that it is a very good idea to have the option for Season Tickets to be realigned. I do also really like the idea of having a 5 month Winter Season Ticket and a 7 month Summer Season Ticket for those who do not wish to swim for the whole year and so would not need a full year Season Ticket. I think that the 12 month Season Ticket should definitely be retained, especially as there were a lot of very unhappy swimmers when the Season Ticket was suspended last year, so please please retain it and make it a permanent option. As I mentioned in No.60, I understand that the Season Tickets are only available to buy at certain times of the year, but I think that they should be available to buy throughout the year, so please could this option be made available?

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Agenda Item 7h

Committees: Corporate Projects Board – <i>for information</i> Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – <i>for discussion</i> Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee – <i>for decision</i> Resource Allocation Sub-Committee – <i>for decision</i> Projects Sub-Committee - <i>for decision</i>	Dates: 31 March 2021 19 April 2021 26 May 2021 26 May 2021 17 May 2021
Subject: Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities - Safety, Access and Security Improvements	Gateway 2: Project Proposal Regular
Unique Project Identifier: 12265	CS: 110-21
Report of: City Surveyor Report Author: Edwin Birch	For Decision
PUBLIC	

Recommendations

1. Next steps and requested decisions	<p>Project Description: Capital Project to implement safety, access and security works across the four Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities.</p> <p>Next Gateway: Gateway 3/4 - Options Appraisal (Regular)</p> <p>Funding: ‘In principle’ approval of up to £755k of central funding from City’s Cash resources was agreed as part of the 2021/22 annual capital bids. Further approval of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee is required to draw down the funds.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Procure consultants to form the Design Team, including Project Management, Cost Consultant and Architect who will undertake an outline options appraisal following on from the Project Brief.</p> <p>This will also further develop the project budget and costed risk register.</p> <p>Requested Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That budget of £54,000 (excluding risk) is approved to reach the next Gateway. 2. Note total estimate cost of £697,000 (excluding risk), £755,000 (including £58,000 of costed risk post-mitigation). 3. That a Costed Risk Provision of £10,000 is approved to reach the next gateway (to be drawn down via delegation to Chief Officer). 4. Note that some minor works have had to be delivered already regarding H&S and infrastructure, but these do not change the overall scope, budget or programme of this project as have been funded separately.
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2. Resource requirements to reach next Gateway	Item	Reason	Funds/ Source of Funding	Cost (£)
Project Manager	Specialist consultant Outline Appraisal	City Cash*	£10,000	
Cost Consultant	Outline cost plans and whole-life-cost analysis	City Cash*	£8,000	
Architect	Options development and technical feasibility	City Cash*	£11,000	
Surveys	Condition, landscape, etc	City Cash*	£20,000	
Staff costs	Client-side project management	City Cash*	£5,000	
Total				<u>£54,000</u>

*'In principle' approval of up to £755k of central funding from City's Cash resources was agreed as part of the 2021/22 annual capital bids.

Approval to draw down the above £54,000 to reach the next gateway (and £10k risk provision if required) is subject to the further approval of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

Appointments for these consultants will be made in consultation with City Procurement and in line with the City of London's procurement code.

Costed Risk Provision requested for this Gateway: £10,000. This is to cover the risk of the additional surveys or unforeseen appointments to help reach Gateway 3.

3. Governance arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Board • Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee • Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee • Senior Responsible Officer: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath • Project Management will pass to City Surveyors if Gateway 2 is approved.
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Project Summary

4. Context	<p>A full review of the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities has been undertaken, in conjunction with 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 and provided written advice in relation to Lifeguard breaks and alertness, maximum bather loading, minimum Lifeguards numbers and Lifeguard training. The outcomes of the Swimming Review were agreed by Members in March 2020, and the Review set out the improvements required to address the essential long-term Health and Safety issues, visitor access, rapidly increasing demand and to secure the long-term financial sustainability of the Swimming Facilities.</p> <p>The Swimming Review focused on:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking account of the Health and Safety Executive advice (8 October 2019); • Fulfilling our responsibilities in relation to our Duty of Care towards visitors, Lifeguards and wider Heath Staff; • Responding to the increased demand for cold water swimming on the Heath. Swimming visits at the Bathing Ponds are estimated to have increased by over 300,000 visits since 2010/11, to over 655,000 visits per year; • Ensuring the swimming facilities are inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors; • Applying clear and fair charging arrangements to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the swimming facilities; • Ensuring the City Corporation has effective communications and appropriate technology in place to promote and collect the swimming charges.
5. Brief description of project	<p>A full review of the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities has been undertaken, in conjunction with 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 and provided written advice in relation to Lifeguard breaks and alertness, maximum bather loading, minimum Lifeguards numbers and Lifeguard training. The outcomes of the Swimming Review were agreed by Members in March 2020, and the Review set out the improvements required to address the essential long-term Health and Safety issues, visitor access, rapidly increasing demand and to secure the long-term financial sustainability of the Swimming Facilities.</p> <p>Since March 2020, work has been completed to put together a detailed project brief, ready for submission into the City's 20-21 Annual Bid Process, which ran from September 20 – February 21. The Project Brief (GW1) was signed off by Colin Buttery (Director of Open Spaces) on 19th August 2020 and then submitted into the Annual Bid Process, putting the project on hold till further notice. In January 2021, it was announced that the project had been successful and received approval, in principle of up to £755k of central funding from City's Cash resource, allowing this Gateway 2 report to be submitted and upon approval, permitting the project to continue.</p> <p>The works already identified in the Gateway 1 (Project Brief) will be further developed through both architectural and engineering design support.</p> <p>Works are focused on improvements to Safety, access and security across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highgate Men's Bathing Pond • Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond • Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond • Parliament Hill Fields Lido
6. Consequences if project not approved	<p>6.1 Essential, long term Health & Safety issues would not be resolved;</p> <p>6.2 Providing access for all would not be resolved;</p> <p>6.3 Revenue would be lost.</p>

7. SMART project objectives	<p>7.1 Deliver the March 2020 Swimming Review Outcomes in relation to Health & Safety.</p> <p>7.2 Facilities DDA compliant.</p> <p>7.3 The design approach will be to retain the natural feel of the Bathing facilities and where possible incorporate environmental benefits which will complement the Heath's wider aspirations for sustainability and biodiversity.</p> <p>7.4 Cost recovery achieves target set by Committee.</p>
8. Key benefits	<p>8.1 The facilities being fit for purpose particularly during the summer months, taking account of the increase in visitor numbers, and the impact on Lifeguards managing the bathing load and the facilities.</p> <p>8.2 The perimeter security is of a standard to prevent unauthorised access.</p> <p>8.3 The facilitates configuration and layout is adapted to enable the bathing load to be managed more effectively.</p> <p>8.4 Ensuring the swimming facilities are welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.</p> <p>8.5 Utilising vacant space at the Lido will contribute to the running costs of the Charity through new income generation opportunities.</p> <p>8.6 The project contributes to objectives, set out in the Hampstead Heath High Level Asset Management Plan 2019-21.</p>
9 Project category	1. Health and safety
10 Project priority	A. Essential
11 Notable exclusions	N/A

Options Appraisal

12 Overview of options	12.1 GW3 will appraise and recommend a more detailed scope and develop options for both Architectural and Engineering concept requirements that are aligned to the cost plan, project strategies and the outlined project brief specification.
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Project Planning

13 Delivery period and key dates	<p>Overall project: approvals by: GW2 May-21, GW3/4 Jan-22, GW5 Nov-22, completion by May-23, GW6 August-23.</p> <p>Other works dates to coordinate:</p> <p><i>These items form part of the final delivery of this project and as such they will be factored into the main programme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing load monitoring system to developed (dates will be confirmed at GW3/4). • Three phase power cable (dates will be confirmed at GW3/4).
14 Risk implications	<p>Overall project risk: Low</p> <p>The project costed risk post-mitigation is £58,000.</p>

	<p>A Costed Risk Provision of £10,000 is requested to cover the management of any unforeseen extra surveys or appointments to support the project team reaching GW3.</p> <p>After mitigation actions it is anticipated the remaining major risks will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost increases; • Work sequence & Access Restriction Change • Stakeholder Engagement • Wildlife and protected species
15 Stakeholders and consultees	<p>Chamberlains, Town Clerks, Open Spaces, City Surveyor's Department and the Department of the Built Environment.</p> <p>Stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heath Swimming Community • Swimming Associations • Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum • Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Resource Implications

16 Total estimated cost	<p>Total estimate cost of the project (excluding risk) £697,000, (including risk), £755,000.</p> <p>Cost at RIBA stage 1 have been based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works £455,000 2. Fees, surveys and staff costs £242,000 3. Costed Risk £58,000 <p>Likely cost range (including risk): £730,000 - £755,000</p>							
17 Funding strategy	<p>All funding fully guaranteed</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Funds/Sources of Funding</th> <th>Cost (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>City Cash (Capital Bid)</td> <td>£755,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£755,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Funds/Sources of Funding	Cost (£)	City Cash (Capital Bid)	£755,000	Total	£755,000
Funds/Sources of Funding	Cost (£)							
City Cash (Capital Bid)	£755,000							
Total	£755,000							
18 Investment appraisal	<p>Whole-life-cost assessment will be undertaken and monitored to ensure the Charity will be able to fund ongoing and future costs. This will assess all the main capital and revenue costs over the anticipated life of the replaced assets.</p>							
19 Procurement strategy/route to market	<p>The Consultant appointments will be made in line with the City's Procurement Code and prior to the procurement of the Works.</p>							
20 Legal implications	<p>Various legal implications are not fully known at this stage but will be established as the design and project progresses with input from Legal, Planning and Open Spaces.</p> <p>As the bathing ponds are reservoirs, all work must comply with the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Designs will be developed in consultation with the DBE Engineering Team and supervision of works will be provided as required.</p>							

21 Corporate property implications	This project aligns with the Corporate Property Asset Management Strategy 2020-25 to ensure that operational assets are maintained in good, safe and statutory compliant condition. Any works will include the need to secure listed building consent, as required, in respect to Parliament Hill Fields Lido.
22 Traffic implications	None.
23 Sustainability and energy implications	Sustainability and energy implications will be considered in a mini impact assessment at RIBA stage 3.
24 IS implications	Bathing load monitoring system to be developed.
25 Equality Impact Assessment	A Test of Relevance has been completed in relation to this project. A full Equality Analysis is not required at this stage but will be reviewed at Gateway 3.
26 Data Protection Impact Assessment	The risk to personal data is less than high or non-applicable and a data protection impact assessment will not be undertaken.

Agenda Item 8

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	19 April 2021
Subject: Open Spaces - Update on planning related matters Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Public n/a
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? If so, how much?	No
What is the source of Funding? Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: The Remembrancer	For Information
Report author: Philip Saunders, Parliamentary Affairs Counsel	

Summary

This report provides a brief update in relation to raising awareness of the importance of open spaces, specifically linked to the government's planning proposals, following discussions concerning the Planning White Paper at your last meeting.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Current Position

Recent Activity

1. Activity on planning has comprised:

- Submission to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) regarding the Planning White Paper
- Formal response to the Planning White Paper Consultation
- Raising awareness of the importance of Metropolitan Open Land in the House of Commons through the City's member of Parliament
- Engaging with MHCLG officials regarding Metropolitan Open Land in the context of the Planning White Paper
- Liaison with pan-London bodies, specifically London Councils

White Paper – Engagement

2. Detailed submissions have been made to the departmental consultation and to the MHCLG select committee's inquiry.
3. A senior MHCLG official, who has responsibility for planning, has been engaged and provided with details of the City Corporation's concerns regarding protections for Metropolitan Open Land (MoL), SSSIs and SACs. Further updates will be reported to this committee.

4. The City's MP, Nickie Aiken, has submitted a Question to MHCLG ministers highlighting the importance of MoL and requesting clarification of its status within the Government's planning reforms.
5. A further opportunity for raising a parliamentary question on MoL has been secured, the precise nature of its deployment depending upon the ministerial response mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

White Paper - Timing

6. It is understood that 44,000 responses were made to the Planning White Paper and, at the time of writing, the Government's formal response is not available.
7. Nevertheless, The Queen's Speech in May 2021 is likely to refer to a Bill designed to contain some or all of the proposals contained in the White Paper. The timing of the introduction of such a Bill is impossible to predict but may be after the parliamentary summer holiday.

Conclusion

8. Close liaison with MPs and departmental officials will be developed in order to secure reassurance regarding continued protection for open spaces in the City's custodianship.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Planning White Paper report to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's park Committee on 25 November 2020 - found [here](#).

Contact

Philip Saunders

E: Philip.Saunders@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Item 9

Committee:	Date:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	19 April 2021
Subject:	Public
Open Spaces Department Business Plan for 2021/22	
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	For information
Colin Butterly, Director of Open Spaces	
Report author:	Gerry Kiefer, Directorate Business Manager

Summary

This report presents for information the high-level Business Plan for the Open Spaces Department for 2021/22. This plan identifies seven major workstream for the whole Department together with the actions within various Corporate strategies that the Department is helping to deliver, sets out the current Departmental risks, provides financial information and identifies our performance measures. This report also identifies next year's key areas of work for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. This high-level Departmental Business Plans for 2021/22 was agreed by Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee on 2 December 2020. The Plan is presented based on current departmental structures. These will be adjusted, alongside budgets, when any changes to these structures are implemented.

Current Position

2. Business Plans are aligned to Departments, so all financial information presented within the Business Plan reflects the Departmental budget rather than the Committee budget.

Proposal

3. The high-level summary Business Plan for the Open Spaces Department is presented at **Appendix 1**. This plan identifies the 7 major workstreams over the next year for the whole Department, some of which will be progressed by officers from Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park.
4. Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park have identified the following as their *additional key areas of work* over the next year:
 - COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme; responding to Government guidance and maintaining COVID secure workplaces and facilities. Implementing interventions to address erosion, compaction, path maintenance, waymarking and signage improvements.
 - Achieve financial savings as required with a continuing emphasis on appropriate income generation activities.
 - Develop and deliver a programme to celebrate the 150 anniversary of the founding 1871 legislation.
 - Compliance with ULEZ – In order to meet emission requirements, manage financial implication and implement the agreed vehicle replacement plan
 - Implementation of the East Heath car park resurfacing, drainage and cycle parking improvements.
 - Progress capital projects in relation to safety, access and security issues across the three Bathing Ponds and the Parliament Hill Fields Lido.
 - Tender four café leases and the additional offer at the Heath extension.
 - Obtain approval and implement new licensing schemes in line with the provision of the 2018 Open Spaces Act.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

5. Strategic implications – Strategic priorities and commitments are expressed in Appendix 1, sides 1 and 2.
6. Financial implications – The high-level summary Business Plan at Appendix 1 has been drawn up taking into consideration increasing employee costs as well as a 12% reduction in the departmental budget compared to 2020/21.
7. Risk implications – Key risks managed by the department are included in the high-level summary Business Plan. The COVID19 risks which are reported corporately but relate to this Department are also included in the Business Plan.
8. Resource implications – Any changes to resources will be identified and delivered through the move to the Target Operating Model and/or to meet budget savings. Requests for capital funding for projects will be made as part of the annual capital bidding process.

9. Equalities implications – Where we develop new policies, strategies, service provision and capital projects we will undertake ‘tests of relevance’ and where appropriate a full equalities analysis.
10. Climate Implications – Open Spaces already offset 40% CoL scope 1 and 2 co2 emissions. An annual capital bid has been made as part of the overall Climate Action Strategy funding request; to support the work to increase co2 sequestration through land management and innovative working, which will contribute to 100% reduction target of CoL scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2025.
11. The capital funding will enable this project to build on the initial works that have mapped the carbon sequestration benefits from City Corporation Open Spaces and accelerate this function through re-introduction of best land management practices. The second area is to create a commercially sustainable future use of the sustainably produced timber and other agricultural products. The majority of this early work will focus on Epping Forest.
12. Security implications – there are no security implications arising from this report

Conclusion

13. This report presents the Open Spaces Department high-level Business Plan for 2021/22 and key areas of work at a local level for the services that report to this Committee.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Open Spaces Department High-level Business Plan 2021/22

Gerry Kiefer

Business Manager – Open Spaces Department

T: 020 7332 3517

E: Gerry.kiefer@cityoflondon.gov.uk:

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THE DEPARTMENT'S VISION IS:

We enrich people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.

Our overarching objectives are:

- A. Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.
- B. Spaces enrich people's lives.
- C. Business practices are responsible and sustainable.

Our major workstreams this year will be...

1. Implement the required savings to deliver a balanced budget within the reduced core funding envelope through a combination of reducing expenditure, increasing income.
2. Implement actions arising from the new Target Operating Model and provide open and early communication to all employees.
3. Progress the landscaping of Finsbury Circus, the replacement playground at West Ham Park and all other RASC approved capital projects including the Climate Action Strategy.
4. Work with other CoL Depts to commence the entire overhaul of Tower Bridge's High Voltage system, hydraulic pipework replacement and implementation of permanent solutions following the extensive Working at Heights review.
5. Working with City Surveyors, progress future use of the nursery site at West Ham Park.
6. Assess impact of expanded ULEZ on existing fleet, procurement and supplier capacity and available financial resources.
7. Continue to cultivate the Burnham Beeches Gateway and biodiversity net gain project partnership with local landowners and make ready for grant/funding applications.

The Corporate Plan outcomes we have a direct impact on are...

Outcome 2 - People enjoy good health and wellbeing

Outcome 3 - People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential

Outcome 5 - Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible

Outcome 10 - We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration

Outcome 11 - We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.

Outcome 12 - Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.

What's changed during 2020

- More staff working from home / remotely.
- New ways of working for non office staff to comply with Government guidance
- Increased use of online services for payment and bookings.
- Increased use of cashless payment.
- 'Took our services on-line', increasing the provision of digital content so 'digitally open while physically closed'.
- The massive increase in visitor to the open spaces, due the pandemic, is having a negative long-term impact on the sites' biodiversity and infrastructure.
- Greater focus on generating additional income e.g. through new lease arrangements, licencing, donations, car park charging.

Plans under consideration	Time Scale
Offices unlikely to return to full capacity—long term use of office accommodation to be considered	2022/23
COVID19 operating models will inform future service operations.	2021/23
Approach to cycling to be reviewed across a number of properties	2022/23
Visitor attractions, may require re-setting of business models	2021/23
Prioritising high priority select bids for Capital that meet the precise capital funding criteria	2021 onwards

Open Spaces 2021/22 Business Plan



Our Strategic Commitments

Below are some of the Corporate Strategy Actions we will help deliver

Apprenticeship Strategy

- Deliver apprenticeships within the organisation from levels 2 to 7, in terms of placements and training, which generate positive feedback from those involved in completing and delivering them and achieve target retention rates

Climate Action Strategy

- Introduce new land management practices across our open spaces aiming to maximise their ability to remove carbon, and optimise their biodiversity and resilience value
- Advocate the importance of green spaces and urban greening as natural carbon sinks, and their contribution to biodiversity and overall wellbeing

Cultural Strategy

Support cultural excellence in a range of fields and champion an ethos of innovation, creative risk-taking and artistic citizenship

- Support the delivery of the City of London's Education Strategy by nurturing an exemplary Cultural Education Partnership

Responsible Business Strategy

- Contribute to delivering the various strategy actions, particularly under the strategy outcome: *The planet is healthier*

Social Mobility Strategy

- Remove barriers, overcome gaps and improve access and participation in order to improve attainment.

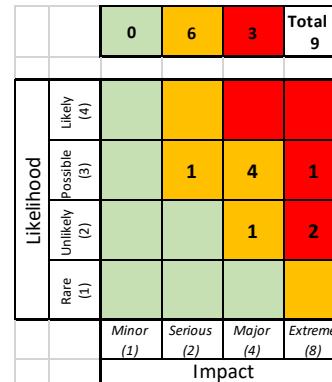
Sport & Physical Activity Strategy

- Contribute to delivering the various strategy actions, particularly under the strategy outcome: *People enjoy good health and wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced*

Volunteering Strategy

- Promote volunteering opportunities and benefits to drive more and better volunteering.

Key Departmental Risks



Departmental Risk Title	Score
Wanstead Park reservoirs	24
Repair and maintenance of buildings and structural assets	16
Maintaining the City's water bodies	16
Impact of development	12
Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) fleet purchase risk	12
The effect of a major event in central London on the tourism business at Tower Bridge and Monument	12
Pests and diseases	12
Health and safety	8
Extreme weather and climate change	6

These are reported Departmentally apart from Wanstead Park Reservoirs which is a Corporate risk

Open Spaces risks related to COVID-19

COVID-19 Risk Title	Score
Failure of Cemetery & Crematorium services	16
Income generation and financial management	16
Health and Safety of visitors and staff	12
Bridge lifts at Tower Bridge	6
Reopening services	4

Two additional risks are being considered for inclusion. The risks are:

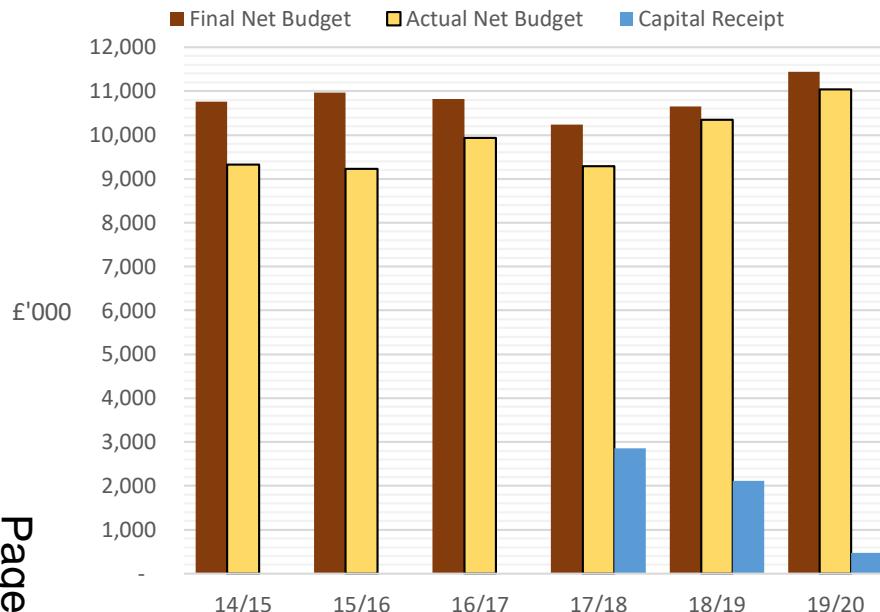
- Accelerated long-term damage to sites
- Open Spaces workforce wellbeing

These risks are reported Corporately

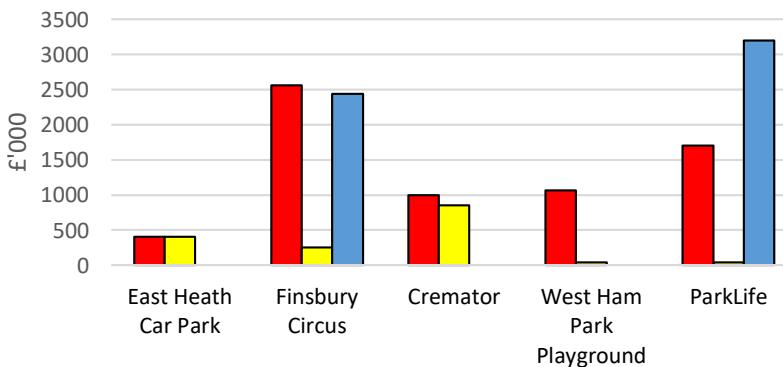
Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Self Assessment	Score
Monitoring and use of data & information	4
Completing Equality Analysis and tackling discrimination and barriers to inclusion	3
Target setting and mainstreaming equalities into performance systems	N/A
Using procurement and commissioning to achieve equality and cohesion targets	N/A
Engagement and partnership	3
Employment and training	2

Where 4 is excellent and 2 is average

Directors local risk Net Budget vs Actual Net Budget and Capital Receipts



OSD Capital projects - showing anticipated COL and other funding plus spend to date



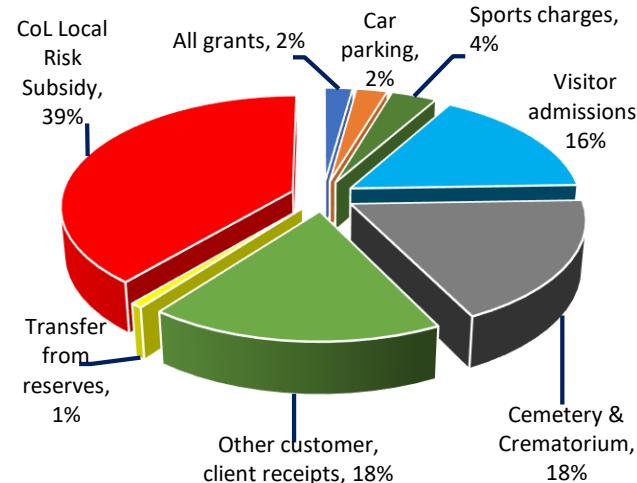
■ Funding to be provided by COL ■ Actual & Committed spend

■ Funding from other sources

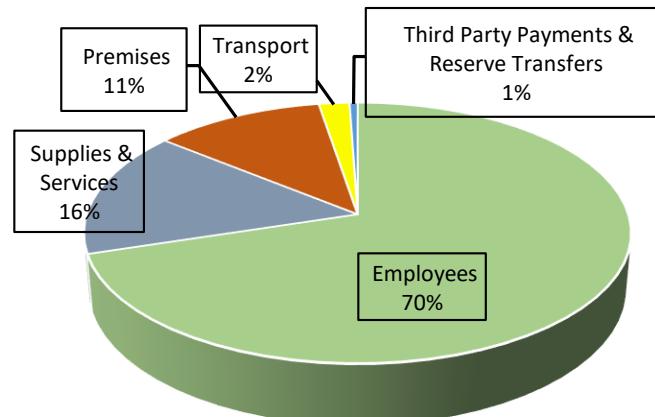
Actual Local Risk 2019/20



Where our 2019/20 income came from



How we spent our local risk budget in 2019/20





THE DEPARTMENT'S VISION IS:

We enrich people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.

The Open Spaces Department's three top line objectives and twelve outcomes are:

- A. Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible**
 - ✓ Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced (12)
 - ✓ London has clean air and mitigates flood risk and climate change (11)
 - ✓ Our spaces are accessible, inclusive and safe (1)
 - ✓ Our habitats are flourishing, biodiverse and resilient to change (11)
- B. Spaces enrich people's lives**
 - ✓ People enjoy good health and wellbeing (2)
 - ✓ Nature, heritage and place are valued and understood (3)
 - ✓ People feel welcome and included (4)
 - ✓ People discover, learn and develop (3)
- C. Business practices are responsible and sustainable**
 - ✓ Our practices are financially, socially and environmentally sustainable (5)
 - ✓ London's natural capital and heritage assets are enhanced through our leadership, influence, investment, collaboration and innovation (10)
 - ✓ Our staff and volunteers are motivated, empowered, engaged and supported (8)
 - ✓ Everyone has the relevant skills to reach their full potential (8)

KEY: The numbers in brackets show how the Open Spaces Outcomes link to the twelve Corporate Plan Outcomes 2018-2023.

Performance Measures	2020/21 Performance	2021/22 Direction of travel / target
Green Heritage Accreditation	13 Awards	13 Awards
Green Flag Awards	15 Awards	15 Awards
Active ancient tree management as part of the Stewardship Schemes at Epping Forest & Burnham Beeches.	As per Stewardship agreement - annual data not yet available	As per Stewardship agreement
The condition of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest	No new assessments in 2020 to enable any change to have been recorded	All re-assessed SSSI's are rated 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering'.
Number of visits to Open Spaces Departments webpages	647,457 to date	Increase
Tennis court usage	26,953 to date	Maintain
Customer satisfaction at Tower Bridge	New COVID19 related measure - annual	Maintain
Our environmental footprint	Annual data not yet available	Link to Climate Action Strategy
Net expenditure (OS local risk only)	Achieve readjusted budget	Achieve budget
Income generated (OS local risk)	Achieve budget	Achieve budget
Learning & volunteer programme - various measures	Annual data not yet available	Increase
Apprentice performance – various measures	Annual data not yet available	Maintain
Short term sickness	1.21 to date	Maintain
H&S accident investigations	88% to date	Corporate target