



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 23 MAY 2022
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: HYBRID – VIRTUAL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: William Upton QC (Chairman)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Merlin Fox (Heath Hands)
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)
Sharlene McGee (Leonard Cheshire Disability)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
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)
Prof. Jeff Waage (Heath and Hampstead Society)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emq6azgSHoY>

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John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 12)

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

To receive the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 9 February and 4 May 2022.

For Information
(Pages 13 - 24)

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

The Assistant Director to be heard.

For Discussion
(Pages 25 - 30)

- a) Draft Divisional Plan 2022-25 (Pages 31 - 40)
- b) HomeRun App data (Pages 41 - 46)
- c) Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project) (Pages 47 - 48)
- d) Draft Swimming Annual Review 2021/22 (Pages 49 - 56)
- e) Murphy's Yard Representation letter (February 2022) (Pages 57 - 68)
- f) Biodiversity Interpretation Boards (Pages 69 - 72)

6. **PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE GOLDSMITH'S HILL PARK ZOO**

Report of the Executive Director, Environment

For Discussion
(Pages 73 - 102)

7. **WEDDINGS AND CIVIL CEREMONIES - ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**
Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 103 - 106)

8. **HEATH HANDS UPDATE**
Heath Hands Representative to be heard.

For Information
(Pages 107 - 108)

9. **QUESTIONS**

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

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
5 September 2022
7 November 2022

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE **Monday, 24 January 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at
HYBRID – VIRTUAL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING,
GUILDHALL on Monday, 24 January 2022 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Matthew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Merlin Fox (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Prof. Jeff Waage (Heath and Hampstead Society)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Stefania Horne	- Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Service Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Katherine Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
James Bailey	- Patrick Parsons representative

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Steven Ripley, Sharlene McGee, Cindy Galvin and the Deputy Chairman William Upton QC.

The Chair welcomed Stefania Horne, the new Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, to her first meeting of the Committee. The Superintendent thanked the

Chair for her welcome and commented on her excitement in joining the City of London Corporation and the chance to contribute to the management of Hampstead Heath particularly noting its important role within London's green infrastructure.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of previous meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 1 November 2021.

A member of the Committee thanked the previous clerk of the committee for her work in supporting the Committee.

Responding to a Member's query in relation to gift aid the Chair explained that fund raising across all of the City of London Corporation managed open spaces was to be considered in the second phase of the Target Operating Model (TOM) which would include a review of the charities and their funding raising framework.

Replying to the Member's question regarding a finger point sign at the Savernake Road entrance to Hampstead Heath, it was explained that Officers from the London Borough of Camden had been contacted regarding the installation of a sign, but no response had yet been received. It was added that once there was further information on this the Committee will be updated.

RECEIVED- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be approved as an accurate record.

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

Members noted the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 1 December 2021.

5. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS & WELLBEING FORUM ACTION POINTS**

Members noted the draft action points of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum meeting held on 11 January 2022.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Environment concerning the Superintendent's Update.

RESOLVED:- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee:

- Provide feedback on the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park proposals set out in appendix 2
- Provide feedback on the draft Annual Work Programme Projects for 2022-23 (appendix 4)

- Provide feedback on the Mosaic Proposal, as outlined in paragraph 15-20 and appendix 5
- Provide feedback on the draft spring-autumn 2022 swimming proposals (appendix 6)
- Provide feedback on the Greater London Authority proposal to install a drinking fountain at South End Green, as set out in paragraphs 26-30 and appendix 7 and 8

6.1 **Appendix 1 - Divisional Plan 2021-24**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Divisional Plan 2021-24 .

The Superintendent provided an update to the Committee on planning matters relevant to Hampstead Heath focusing on the Murphy's Yard site. It was added that there were upcoming meetings to be held with the developers of the site and Camden to raise the City of London Corporation's concerns regarding the proposed development. A Committee Member highlighted the impact on views, ecology and footfall to the Heath and asked if the developers had made any estimation of this impact. The Superintendent confirmed that no discussions on this matter had been undertaken, however this would be included in the next stage of the consultation with the developer and would be included in the City of London Corporation's draft letter of representation. The Chair highlighted that the demographic of those living in the development was a factor to be considered in the mitigation for this development.

A Committee Member noted that the impact of footfall on the Heath was a matter which, in part due to the COVID19 pandemic, was an issue broader than the development. Responding to a Committee Member's query regarding developer's contributions, the Superintendent explained that there could be opportunities via CIL or S106 and that there will be a wider discussion with the Council on planning matters and contributions. It was added that due to the scale of the proposed development the Greater London Authority would also be involved in the planning approval process.

The Superintendent, replying to concerns raised by the Committee Member, confirmed that the impact to the wildlife corridors was a factor being considered as part of the City's representation regarding the development. The Chair and Superintendent confirmed that the response to Camden Council regarding the development would be received by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in due course.

Responding to a Committee Member's query regarding the Target Operating model, the Superintendent provided an update noting that the consultation with staff was due to start on the 27th of January and added further that an update would be provided to the Committee once the process was at an appropriate stage.

The Superintendent updated on the on the Hampstead Heath Extension Playground project noting that a further update with agreed designs would be available after a meeting which was due to take place in early February.

In relation to the Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan a Committee Member suggested that a communications initiative to inform the public of the effect of the increased footfall during COVID19 on Hampstead Heath adding that a permanent display on the history of the Heath would also be helpful. In addition, it was commented that the corporate aims relating to planning and archaeology needed to be more specific to properly achieve the effective management of Hampstead Heath.

The Superintendent provided an update on the 2021 events noting the relative success of these events and the reasons behind these factors. In addition, an update on the discussions with Showman's Guild was also provided.

7. APPENDIX 2 - GOLDERS HILL ACCESSIBLE CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS OPTIONS REPORT

The Committee received a report and presentation from the City of London's Consultants Patrick Parsons on the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park Improvements Options Report (Appendix 2).

Replying to a point highlighted by a Committee Member the Chair noted that there was clearly a balance required with signage between being clearly visible and not adversely affecting the aesthetics of the site.

The Committee discussed their concerns regarding enforcement at the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park noting that this would be vital in the successful implementation of report's recommendations. The Superintendent agreed that enforcement would be key explaining that compliance Officers and the Hampstead Heath Constabulary are in position to issue Fixed Penalty Notices with Hampstead Heath Keepers also provided training on enforcement measures.

The Superintendent responded to a Committee Member's question by explaining that options one and two would be implemented as a first phase, after which a review would be undertaken to ascertain the success of the measures and whether any modifications are required. A Committee Member suggested that a fixed period for review be determined.

8. APPENDIX 3 - ZONED MAP

The Committee received a Zoned Map and oral update from the Executive Director Environment on the Commercial Dog Walkers Code of Conduct. It was explained that the Terms of Reference for the appeals committee, required under the 2018 act, were being finalised.

Responding to a Committee Member's query the Superintendent explained the process for Professional dog walkers to differentiate between the different zones as outlined on the map, and the measures to be undertaken by Staff to assist this differentiation. The Chair confirmed that this would kept under review. In addition, it was added that the Hampstead Heath Constabulary would carry out enforcement if required.

Following a comment by a Member of the Committee the Chair agreed that the start of the Professional Dog Walkers Licencing Scheme would be a timely opportunity to engage with all dog walkers using the Heath in relation to the dog walking Code of Conduct.

9. **APPENDIX 4 - DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROJECTS 2022-23**

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the letting of Golders Hill Café noting that a long-standing tenant had retired, and that interim arrangements were in place. A tendering exercise is being considered for a more permanent let. A Committee Member highlighted that community involvement in this process was vital.

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment which provided the Draft Annual Work Programme Projects 2022-23 (Appendix 4).

The Superintendent replied to a Committee Member's query by confirming it was her understanding that the budget would not affect the Annual Work Programme 2022-23 but that a review was to be completed on this. The Chair added that budget reductions had been managed as to not adversely affect services which was partly why there had not been a substantive update to the Committee on the budgetary position for a while. Following a suggestion from a committee member the Chair agreed that an update on the TOM and final budget be provided to the Committee once finalised.

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the Parliament Hill Fields Athletics Track noting that the requested funds had been approved by the Policy and Resources Committee. A Committee member requested that this project be proceeded at as fast pace as is possible to ensure further deterioration of the track doesn't take place. The Committee noted their thanks for the investment in the facilities of the Heath.

10. **APPENDIX 5 - CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION GREEN SPACES FUNDING BID FOR MOSAIC MAP**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director City of London Corporation on the Green Spaces Funding Bid for Mosaic Map (Appendix 5).

The Committee suggested that the proposed Mosaic Map would be more appropriately situated on a wall rather than the ground as it would be easier to maintain and would be better viewed. A Committee Member commented that the design needed to consider and include the diversity of Heath users.

11. **APPENDIX 6 - DRAFT 2022 SWIMMING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Draft 2022 Swimming Arrangements (Appendix 6).

The Chair highlighted that the proposals for the swimming had been produced to balance between pre-booking and elements of free flowing as appropriate.

The Superintendent noted the lessons learnt from previous busy swimming seasons to establish flexible and effective arrangements for swimming.

It was added that, whilst it was planned to only have the pre-booking system in place for the busy summer months, pre-booking would be introduced at other times if required.

Responding to a Committee Member's query the Superintendent confirmed that a bid had been made to create reedbeds at the Boating Pond with works hoped to be ready by the end of the year.

12. APPENDIX 7 - WATER FOUNTAIN SUGGESTED LOCATION (SOUTH END GREEN)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Water Fountain Suggested Location – South End Green (Appendix 7).

The Superintendent explained that the Greater London Authority had requested that the City of London Corporation consider a proposal to install a water fountain at the South End Green entrance to Hampstead Heath. The Committee noted that they were in support of the aim to limit single use plastics however felt that the proposed design of the bottle filler was not in keeping with the Heath and should be sited on the Heath.

13. APPENDIX 8 - WATER FOUNTAIN DESIGN

The Committee received the Water Fountain Design (Appendix 8).

14. FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23 & 2023-24

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment regarding Fees and Charges 2022-23 & 2023-24.

It was noted that the majority of the fees and charges are in line with inflation and that the increases have been subject to benchmarking.

A Committee Member highlighted that the prices for pitch hire were comparatively high and could affect the continued use of these pitches by sports clubs, and the Hampstead Rugby Club. A response was provided that charges have been benchmarked, however they will look at this issue and a response will be provided.

RESOLVED-That the report be noted.

15. HEATH HANDS UPDATE

Members noted a verbal update from Heath Hands representative.

A Committee Member observed the increasing importance of Heath Hands to the management of the Heath and the contribution to the wellbeing of the community. The Chair extended her thanks to the Heath Hands to their contribution to the Heath partially noting the importance of diversity to their outreach work.

RESOLVED- That the update be received.

16. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no items of urgent business.

The Committee noted that this was the final meeting of the Committee which the Chair would be attending and thanked the Chair for her contribution to the Heath.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the dates of the 2022 meetings:

- 23 May 2022
- 5 September 2022
- 7 November 2022

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Richard Holt
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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 9 February 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held in a Hybrid format via Teams and Committee Room 3, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
William Upton QC (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy David Bradshaw
Michael Hudson
Wendy Mead
Jason Pritchard
Deputy John Tomlinson
John Beyer
Councillor Marcus Boyland
Emily Hills
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Juliemma McLoughlin	- Executive Director of Environment
Beth West	- Interim Director of Open Spaces
Stefania Horne	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Service Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
David Cobb	- Sergeant Hampstead Heath Constabulary
Katherine Radusin	- Personal Assistant to the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Prem Goyal, Pam Hampshire, Councillor Richard Cornelius and Yianni Andrews.

The Committee welcomed the new Superintendent to her first meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1 of December 2021.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes previous meeting held on the 1st of December 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **UPDATE FROM FRONT LINE STAFF MEMBER**

The Committee received an update from the Sergeant working at Hampstead Heath who provided an update from the point of view of front-line staff working at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. Responding to a Member's question the Sergeant noted that the work undertaken by staff at the Heath to find lost children had been amongst the most rewarding he had been involved in.

Following a request from a committee member the Executive Director Environment confirmed that an update on Fixed Penalty Notices would be circulated to the committee member accordingly.

RESOLVED- That the update noted.

5. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2022/23**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan for 2022/23.

Replying to a Member's concern on the Red Risk for the Open Spaces the Executive Director Environment explained that the risks were across the whole Division and, therefore, provided more information on the risk relating to Wanstead Park reservoirs. The Member instructed Officers to do everything possible to resolve these issues promptly.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE: APRIL TO SEPT 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021/22 Six month performance update April to September 2021.

Members commented that it was not helpful to receive a report finalised in December at committee in February. Further to this the Chair requested that the governance relationship with between the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Committee with the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee be assessed to resolve this reporting issue.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. TOM UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from the Executive Director Environment on the Target Operating Model (TOM) and its relation to the management of Hampstead Heath. The Executive Director Environment explained the phased process for advancing the TOM programme for the Environment Department, the opportunities for realignment and approve processes, review of assets and charities and highlighted the ambitious five-year plan which would be brought to the Committee for consideration.

The Chair highlighted the need to keep committee members external to the Court of Common Council informed on the progress of the TOM as it related to Hampstead Heath. The Deputy Chairman clarified that the proposed rationalisation of north London open spaces would only effect staff working patterns and not the governance of Hampstead Heath.

Responding to a query from the Deputy Chairman the Executive Director Environment confirmed that the consultation would begin in the Spring.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment which provided updates from the Superintendent since December 2021.

The Executive Director Environment explained that the water fountain requested by the Greater London Authority was not supported by Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee as it was not considered to be in-keeping with the character of the Heath.

A Member noted that an effective communications campaign was needed to ensure the public are aware of the rules regarding dog walking and fixed penalty notices at Hampstead Heath. The Superintendent confirmed that Officers would work with the Corporate Affairs Team and the Communication Officer working locally to establish an effective communications policy, adding that there was clearly going to be a bedding in period.

Followingly a request from a member of the committee the Superintendent confirmed that the feasibility study for the proposed mosaic would be sent to the member in question.

The Committee discussed their concern regarding the possible impact of the proposed development at Murphy's Yard to Hampstead Heath. The Chair noted that effective mitigation of this impact will be vital for the future of the Heath. The Superintendent noted that there was clearly a lot to consider regarding this development and explained that City of London Corporation would be engaging with the appropriate planning frameworks. It was added that the Committee would be consulted on the correct policy for the City of London Corporation to take regarding this. The Deputy Chairman that now was the chance to make proper recommendations but ensure there was further room for discussion, he

added that he was keen to see the draft letter listing the City of London Corporation's concerns on the Murphy's Yard development before it was finalised.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

9. **2022 SWIMMING SEASON**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the 2022 Swimming Season. The Superintendent introduced the report and explained the recommendation to continue with the balanced approach between free flow and pre-booked sessions. The Chair highlighted that this policy would continue to be reviewed regularly with the increased data collected via the pre-booking system with a formal review report to be brought to the Committee May.

RESOLVED- That the proposed 2022 swimming arrangements, as set out in para 10 and appendix 1 be approved.

10. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SWIMMING FACILITIES - SAFETY, ACCESS AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities Safety, Access and Security Improvements. The Superintendent informed the Committee that the improvement works were due to begin in the December 2022 with an aimed finish date of May 2023 however it was added that every attempt would be made to finish before this date. The Chair explained that these improvements were part of the agreement when swimming charges were approved and highlighted the need to improve disability access.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. It was approved that the Gateway 3/4 (Options Appraisal) report to be pushed back to June 2022; and
- II. That further fee drawdown of £79,000 to support RIBA stage 3 design in facilitating the Gateway 3/4 report be approved; and
- III. That it was noted at if the additional fee request be approved the total fee drawdown to date would be £133,000 (excluding Risk) and £143,000, (including Risk); and
- IV. That the projected completion within the Gateway 2 report of May 2023 is unchanged by this delay be noted.

11. **GOLDERS HILL PARK ACCESSIBLE CAR PARK OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park Options Appraisal.

A Member commented that it would be helpful to arrange a visit to Hampstead Heath for any new members appointed to the Committee after the election as an introduction to the work of the Committee and to better understand the site. The Deputy Chairman agreed but suggested that Highgate Wood and Queen's Park also be included. The Director of Open Spaces agreed to establish a Member's visits schedule which would cover all the open spaces appropriately.

RESOLVED- That Members agree to implement recommendations 1 & 2, as set out within the report (appendix 1) and in para 3.

12. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROJECTS 2022-23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Annual Work Programme Projects 2022-23.

RESOLVED- That Members agreed the draft Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme Projects for 2022-2023 (appendix 1).

13. FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23 & 2023-24

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Fees and Charges 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The Chair clarified to the Committee that the only charge to be agreed within the report for 2023-24 referred to weddings and civil ceremonies and was included as a reflection of the longer pre-booking period for these events.

RESOLVED- That Members agreed the proposed fees and charges for 2022-23 and 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

14. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on the 24 of January 2022.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

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

There were no questions received in the public session.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Deputy John Tomlinson informed the Committee that, as he was not intending to stand in the upcoming elections, this would be his last meeting of the Committee. Deputy Tomlinson stated that it had been a real pleasure serving on the Committee and thanked Officers and Members for their brilliant work supporting the Heath which, he added, was a highly valued public asset. Similarly, the Chair noted that this was her last meeting of the Committee thanking Officers and Members for their support and commenting that she had enjoyed serving as Chair of a Committee with the responsibility for such a highly valued open space. Following a suggestion from the Deputy Chairman the Committee formally recorded their thanks to the Chair noting the difficult period which her tenure covered with the effect of the COVID pandemic on the Heath.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on

the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

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

There were no questions received in the non-public session.

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

There was no urgent business considered in the non-public session.

20. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on confidential action taken.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.07 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Richard Holt
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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 4 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park
Committee held at Hybrid - Virtual and Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing,
Guildhall on Wednesday, 4 May 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Timothy Butcher
John Foley
Alderman Gregory Jones QC (Deputy Chairman)
Alethea Silk
William Upton QC (Chair)
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
John Beyer
Emily Hills
Andrew McMurtrie

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Sally Agass	- Interim Director, Natural Environment
Joseph Anstee	- Town Clerk's Department
Edwin James Birch	- City Surveyor's Department
Laura Botelho	- Natural Environment Division
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Declan Gallagher	- Natural Environment Division
Richard Gentry	- Natural Environment Division
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Division
Paul Maskell	- Natural Environment Division
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Division
Juliemma McLoughlin	- Executive Director, Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Cornelius, Alderman Prem Goyal, Pam Hampshire and Jason Pritchard.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 20 April 2022 for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. William Upton, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year and took the Chair.

RESOLVED – That William Upton be elected Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30.

Alderman Gregory Jones, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – That Alderman Gregory Jones be elected Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the ensuing year.

Andrew McMurtrie moved a vote of thanks to Anne Fairweather, the immediate past Chair.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee express their sincere thanks to

ANNE FAIRWEATHER

FOR her outstanding service during the last two years as Chair of this Committee, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group.

DURING her tenure as Chair, Anne has demonstrated strong leadership facing the most unprecedented period of the COVID 19 Pandemic, a difficult and challenging time for us all. With her strength and pragmatic approach, she was an inspiration to staff and Members, keeping sites open as only the respite for communities, supporting staff and highlighting the importance of the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park for physical and mental health for many thousands of Londoners and visitors.

ANNE has been a tremendous champion for Hampstead Heath, Queen's Park and Highgate Wood and their value for nature conservation.

PUBLIC open spaces are incredibly important for the health and well-being of communities, providing a number of opportunities for physical exercise, sport and recreation. Anne has been instrumental in initiating and supporting a real transformation of our open spaces' sport facilities and provision. A substantial investment of over £2.7m was secured for the improvements of our bathing ponds and the athletics track. By securing this funding, Anne left a legacy that will be recognised for generations to come.

WITH the talent of an innovative leader, Anne has been efficient and a real motivator focusing on getting things done and modernising services. Under her leadership, a new booking system has been introduced for swimming, with contactless payments, which have been essential during COVID at the bathing ponds and online donations to the Heath charity went live.

AS well as being important for health and well-being and recreation, open spaces play a significant role in preserving biodiversity and contributes to our pledges against climate change. With that in mind, the Committee wishes to place on record its particular thanks for the way in which Anne has championed nature conservation and supported environmental projects. Anne has supported restoration projects in response to the impact caused by the overuse of our open spaces during the pandemic, championed the implementation work planned in the Ponds and Wetland Conservation Plan and supported the installation of new biodiversity interpretation boards in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society.

THE role of Chair is particularly important in forging partnerships and strengthen the role of our green spaces as green infrastructure and cultural hubs for Londoners and local communities. Despite the restrictions imposed by the Pandemic, Anne has worked tirelessly, supporting events such as the Heath 150 Anniversary celebrations, the launch of the first Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre and the re-instatement of large events such as the English National Cross Country Championship.

THROUGHOUT her term of office, Anne has managed the Committee's deliberations in a decisive and professional way, ensuring that the Committee executed its duties effectively and efficiently. In taking leave of their Chair, Members wish to highlight the fantastic achievements Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park have achieved, which is due to the leadership Anne has demonstrated as Chair.

FINALLY, in congratulating their former Chair upon a most successful term of office, her colleagues on the Committee wish to convey their thanks for her extremely dedicated service to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and wish continued good health and happiness in her future ventures.

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

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding appointments to Committees and Groups for 2021/22.

RESOLVED, that –

- The terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be noted;

- The terms of reference and composition of both the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be approved;
- The Chair and Deputy Chairman to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- John Foley be appointed to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee, with the Chair to also attend in an ex-officio capacity
- The Chair be appointed to attend to observe Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meetings in an ex officio capacity.

The remaining vacancies on the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment

7. **MINUTES**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 were approved as a correct record.

8. **FRONT LINE WORK UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on Golders Hill Park Zoo.

RESOLVED, that – the update be received and its contents noted.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

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

The following points were made:

- A letter of representation had been submitted to the London Borough of Camden highlighting areas of concern with a proposed development at Murphy's Yard. Members heard from Officers that while it would be reasonable and necessary to ask for mitigation measures to be included in a S.106 agreement, the timing of the consideration of the planning application by the London Borough of Camden's planning committee meant that there might not be time to bring these measures before the Committee to be finalised. The Superintendent therefore requested that the Committee grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, to commence and finalise suitable mitigation measures for the Murphy's Yard re-development in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission (if any).
- It was planned to create an events calendar across all open spaces and charities
- The Heath had been recognised as the fourth most valuable open space in the UK through research by the University of Exeter.
- The members of the Committee were invited to join the planned walk across the Heath with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Members.

- Fundraising target for the Hampstead Heath Extension Playground (£40,000) and the bird and mammal shelters (£5,000) had almost been reached. In response to a question from the Chair on whether gift aid was being applied to donations, officers replied that the Chamberlain's and the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Departments were being consulted, and a report on the subject would be brought to the next Committee meeting.
- At a Members request, officers agreed to bring a report on the financial position to the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED, that –

- Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair to finalise suitable mitigation measures for the Murphy's Yard re-development in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission.
- The update be received and its contents noted.

10. PARLIAMENT HILL ATHLETICS TRACK RESURFACING

Members received a report of the Executive Director Environment relative to the resurfacing of the Parliament Hill Athletics Track.

RESOLVED, that –

- The budget of £81,000 is approved to reach the next Gateway.
- That a costed risk provision of £30,000 is approved (to be drawn down via delegation to the Chief Officer).

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

The Chair, the Chair of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee and Officers provided Members with an explanation of the TOM, how it affected the Committee's relationship with Open Spaces and the proposed strategic timeline.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

There were none.

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

The Superintendent updated Members on plans to formalise arrangements for weddings at the Hill Garden and Pergola. Preliminary work was being undertaken in preparation for a procurement brief.

16. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Ben Dunleavy
ben.dunleavy@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consulative Committee	Date(s): 23 May 2022
Subject: Assistant Directors 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?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since January 2022.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.
- Provide feedback on the draft Divisional Plan 2022-25 (appendix 1).
- Provide feedback on the draft Swimming Annual Review 2021/22 (appendix 4).

Main Report

Management Framework

1. The draft Divisional Plan 2022-25 (appendix 1) is presented for Members feedback.
2. Members feedback on the overarching projects (1-18) and Hampstead Heath Charity specific projects (HH1-HH8) as set out in appendix 1.

Biodiversity and Climate Action Strategy

3. The work the Tree Team have completed on veteran tree protection over the last 12 months has been a great success, with the stock fence enclosures now verdant with new ground cover. This new growth demonstrates that the soil is recovering from the effects of intense visitor pressure over the pandemic, and in turn allows the rooting zones of the veteran trees to regenerate. The new enclosures also provide excellent habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife.

4. As part of the work supporting the objectives of the City of London's Climate Action Strategy the Conservation and Trees Manager and Ecologist are preparing a plan for the conversion of areas of amenity grassland into meadows, where grassland will be allowed to revert back to a more floristically diverse state and cut annually. The change of management will mean less compaction from regular cutting machinery, significant fuel and emissions reductions, and improved soil condition. These new meadow areas will provide important new habitat for wildlife species and add biodiversity value to ponds and wetland habitats nearby. As part of this, a small scale pilot will be undertaken in summer 2022 and a report will be prepared for member's discussion in Autumn 2022.

Cycling

5. Officers from London Borough of Camden have consulted with 'Green School Runs', a Camden based group promoting cycling to and from local schools. Green School Runs' have collated data to support future proposals for possible new cycle routes for school children on Hampstead Heath (appendix 2). The data was captured by the HomeRun App from the schools listed below and captured journeys within 3 miles of Hampstead Heath:
 - UCS junior branch
 - South Hampstead High School
 - Hampstead Hill school
 - UCS Pre-prep
 - The Mulberry House School
 - St Christopher's school
 - Fitzjohn's Primary School
 - St Anthony's preparatory school
6. Heath Officers will continue to engage with Officers from Camden. Proposals put forward by Camden will be discussed with the Stakeholders and Members.

Capital Projects

7. A "project on a page" summary (appendix 3) has been prepared in relation to the Swimming – Safety, Access and Security Capital Project. An online surveys seeking feedback from swimmers on the proposals ran between 1-25 April 2022. Feedback from the survey is included in the Swimming Annual Review 2021-22 (appendix 5).
8. Key project milestones:
 - Planning submission - 27 May 2022 (outcome of planning expected end of August 2022)
 - RIBA Stage 3 development - June 2022
 - Works commence on site - October/November 2022
9. A Gateway 2 report for the resurfacing of the Parliament Hill Athletics Track has been agreed by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee. A copy of the report has been shared with the Hampstead Heath

Sports & Wellbeing Forum and the Track Forum, and is available online at: [Agenda for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee on Wednesday, 4th May, 2022, 4.00 pm - Modern Council \(cityoflondon.gov.uk\)](#).

10. The procurement to appoint the project Team is planned for summer 2022. Development of the design will be undertaken in 2023, with works expected to commence on site from December 2023.

Murphy's Yard

11. A letter of representation (appendix 5) has been submitted to the London Borough of Camden in relation to the Murphy's Yard development. As set out in the summary:

The principle of the Proposed Development could be considered acceptable to the City Corporation but the scale of development proposed raises a number of concerns that will need to be discussed and mitigated.

The application submission on the whole does not consider in sufficient detail the various impacts of the development on the Heath as a result of the proposed development.

We have however highlighted areas where further study or mitigation could be proposed to address these concerns.

- *A more detailed consideration of the impact of development at the scale proposed in views to and from the Heath in line with LP policy A2.*
- *Receive reassurances on the overshadowing of the Parliament Hill Fields Lido.*
- *Work with the applicant to define impact on the Heath and prepare a mitigation plan that can account for intensification, particularly looking at facilities and the ecological impact*
- *Review access for cyclists and work with the City of London to design suitable access and provide parking*

The City Corporation consider that the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission would be reasonable and necessary in this instance.

12. We understand that the application will be considered by the London Borough of Camden planning committee in the near future. As this is likely to be before the next meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, a delegated authority has been granted to allow the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, to finalise what suitable mitigation measures for the Murphy's Yard re-development we would ask to be included in a S.106 agreement if it is resolved to grant planning permission.

Storm Eunice

13. The total tree damage or lost due to the storm were 87, with 68 trees failures on Hampstead Heath. Staff worked tirelessly to clear fallen trees and ensure paths were accessible following the storm.

Events

14. Recent events include:

- The National Cross Country Championships (Hampstead Heath, 26 February 2022).
- The Showman's Guild Easter Fair (Hampstead Heath, 9-18 April).
- Affordable Art Fair (Hampstead Heath, 4-8 May 2022)
- Night of 10,000m Personal Bests (Hampstead Heath, 14 May 2022)
- Jubilee Fun Day (Golders Hill Park, 2 June 2022)

15. The City of London Corporation in partnership with Barnet Council will be hosting a Jubilee Fun Day in Golders Hill Park on Thursday 2 June from 2pm to 10pm, to celebrate her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event, which is free for all to attend, will feature live music, entertainment, a traditional children's fair, food and arts and crafts stalls. There will also be a chance to witness the historic event of a Jubilee beacon being lit at 9.30pm – part of a whole series of beacons across the country being lit to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of service to the nation. This event, suitable for all ages, will culminate in a spectacular fireworks display over Golders Hill Park.

16. Upcoming events:

- Race for Life (Hampstead Heath, 18 June 2022)
- Give it a Go (Hampstead Heath, 16 July 2022)

Constabulary Update

17. During the COVID Pandemic there has been an increase in visits and the use of green spaces, this has brought with it challenging behaviours and anti-social behaviour, with instances of criminal damage and increased litter. A series of workshops with staff took place to discuss strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in line with this change of use and useful discussions took place with constables to develop ideas for an improved service which will continue to meet the needs of our users and the aims and objectives of the Charity.
18. Moving forward there will be an emphasis on engagement and education as a preventative tool, use of data for proactive and targeted interventions and a consistent uniformed presence that will continue to provide reassurance for the visitors of the Heath.

Good News

19. A Gardening Apprentice has recently passed their Level 2 assessment, and will be progressing to a Level 3 horticultural apprenticeship. The Apprentice has been supported by Staff from Hampstead Heath and Queen's Park.

20. Shire Horses from Operation Centaur undertook ground restoration works at the beginning of March, to aid restoration of the National Cross Country Championships route across the Heath.
21. A new series of biodiversity board interpretation inserts (appendix 6) have been produced. The Spring interpretations insets were installed in March.
22. East Heath playground reopened in March after improvement works which took place over the winter. The new playground incorporates some new equipment alongside some of the existing equipment. The project was funded by City of London Corporation, North Camden Community Infrastructure Levy and the Pilgrims to Willoughby Residents Association.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

23. 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.
24. 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

25. Donations are currently being sought for the following projects:
 - Hampstead Heath Extension Playground (£40,000).
 - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000). The Trees and Conservation Officer and Heath Ecologist are also drafting an application to the London Wildlife Trust's Rewilding London Fund for works to install additional reed beds and protect the island at the Model Boating Pond.
 - Bird and mammal shelters (£5,000).
26. Donations can be made via the City of London website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>

Resource Implications

27. Staff resources are being prioritised to keep the sites open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

28. Included within the Divisional Plan 2021-24 is series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions.

Legal Implications

29. We are awaiting the result of the High Court hearing (Efthimiou v Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London) which took place on 23-24 February 2022.

30. There are no other impacts to raise at the moment.

Risk Implications

31. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity and Queen's Park and Highgate Wood Charity Risk Registers, and will form part of the next Committee meeting agenda pack.

Equality Implications

32. No impact.

Security Implications

33. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity and Queen's Park and Highgate Wood Charity Risk Registers.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Divisional Plan 2022-25
- Appendix 2 – HomeRun App data
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 4 – Draft Swimming Annual Review 2021/22
- Appendix 5 – Murphy's Yard Representation letter (February 2022)
- Appendix 6 – Biodiversity Interpretation Boards

Stefania Horne

Assistant Director, Environment Department.

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK SUB-DIVISIONAL PLAN 2022-2025

Introduction

This Sub-Divisional Plan is part of the Management Framework for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and Queen's Park Sub-Division, which sits within the City of London Corporation's Natural Environment Division.

The Division is comprised of three individual charities, each with their own Charitable Objectives:

Hampstead Heath (803392)	The preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.
Highgate Wood & Queen's Park (232986)	The preservation in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation of the open spaces known as Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, Kilburn for the use by the public for exercise and recreation.
Keats House (1053381)	To preserve, maintain and restore for the education and benefit of the public the house and grounds known as Keats House as a museum and memorial to John Keats.

The Sub- Divisional Plan is part of a hierarchy of strategies and plans which form a 'golden thread', translating City Corporation Strategic Outcomes into operational delivery, as follows:

- Corporate Plan, 2018-23.
- The Natural environment strategic framework
- Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-28
- Conservation Management Plans
- Three-year Sub-Divisional Plan that guides implementation.
- An Annual Works Programme and Project Plans, supported by detailed specifications and guidance

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

- Performance Development Approach (PDA), detailing individual's targets to achieve the outcomes and objectives above.

The Sub-Divisional Plan is written for a three-year rolling period and is reviewed and updated annually to identify milestones achieved and inform the projects and priorities for future periods. A version of the Sub-Divisional Plan has been developed for each Charity.

Criteria for Divisional Plan Projects:

The definition and criteria of projects to be included in the Plan are as follows:

- Projects requiring formative community engagement and consultation.
- Capital Projects over £50k.
- Projects spanning more than one financial year.
- Complex and high-risk projects.
- Projects with involvement of other Divisions, for example the City Surveyors.

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House & Queen's Park Projects				
Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	RAG	Notes on progress
1	Deliver Efficiencies, Savings and Income Generation Projects Implement the approved Budget for 2022/23. Investigate opportunities for gift aid to support donations.	On-going.		
2	Support Implementation of the Target Operating Model (TOM) Review operational arrangements to align with the TOM.	Phase 2 Implementation 2022/23.		TOM phase 1 completed, and implemented from 4 April 2022. TOM phase 2 to be launched in X.
3	Develop our Workforce Deliver a range of initiatives to ensure the health, well-being, learning and development of our workforce.	On-going.		
4	Compliance with the ULEZ In order to meet the emission requirements and manage the financial implications of the ULEZ, implement the agreed vehicle replacement plan to minimise the impact upon the environment.	On-going.		Hand held equipment (strimmers, mowers and utility vehicles) are being converted to electric as and when items are replaced.
5	Divisional Radio System Procure an alternative Radio system.	On-going.		
6	Promote Health Connections	On-going.		

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House & Queen's Park Projects				
Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	RAG	Notes on progress
	Work together with Partners, including Heath Hands and the NHS, to promote health & wellbeing.			
7	Licencing schemes Undertake consultation and engagement to inform the develop a licencing scheme for Fitness training, and Professional Dog Walking. Implement a Licencing for Forest Schools.	On-going.		
8	Develop Heritage Outcomes Engage with Historic England and local historians to: Develop a Heritage Conservation Management Plan for the Heath. Incorporate preservation and interpretation actions to preserve and interpret archaeological and heritage into the existing Compartment Management Plans.	2023/24.		
9	Bio-Security Management Proactive management of threats, including pest and diseases which impact upon the condition of trees, plants and wildlife.	On-going.		
10	Planning Regular monitoring of development and planning applications to ensure that the Heath is protected.	On-going.		

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House & Queen's Park Projects				
Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	RAG	Notes on progress
11	Climate Action Strategy Open Spaces seek opportunities to enhance carbon capture while enhancing biodiversity and resilience. These actions will contribute towards the City Corporation achieving Net 0 by 2027 in scope 1 & 2 emissions.	2027 Net 0 scope 1 & 2. 2040 Net 0 Scope 1, 2 and 3.		External Consultancy finalising report (due end of April) in relation to baseline carbon removals and opportunities for Natural Environment Division to increase carbon capture levels over lifetime of Strategy 2027 to 2040.
12	Litter, Waste & Recycling Reduce reliance on external contracts. Undertaken public engagement in relation to recycling.	On-going.		
13	Review of Systems Undertake a review of current arrangements in relation to online booking, FPN's and CRM to identify efficiencies and improve the customer experience.			
14	Visitor Engagement Undertake surveys and capture data to understand visitor trends and satisfaction.			
15	Asset Management Review and implement site specific Asset Management Plans.			
16	Interventions to mitigate impacts from increasing visitor pressures			

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House & Queen's Park Projects				
Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	RAG	Notes on progress
17	Café Tendering Undertake a tender procurement for the Golders Hill Park Café, Parliament Hill Café, Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café, Heath Extension Kiosk, Queen's Park Café and Highgate Wood Pavilion Café.	2023		
18	Volunteering Opportunities Maximise volunteering opportunities by offering a range of activities and working in partnership with Heath Hands and other key partners.	On-going.		

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Hampstead Heath Charity Projects

Ref	Project Detail	Key Dates	RAG	Notes on progress
HH1	Swimming Capital Project Progress through the Capital Project Gateway Procedures a programme of safety, access and security improvements across the Bathing Ponds and Lido.	Implement 2022/23.		RIBA stage 2 completed. RIBA stage 3 will be presented to Members in June 2022, along with the Gateway 3/4 Report.
HH2	Parliament Hill Athletics Track Reconstruction Capital Project To reconstruct the Athletics Track Surface in order to maintain U.K. Athletics (UKA) TrackMark Standard Level 1.	2022/23.		
HH3	Playgrounds Implement improvements at the Hampstead Heath Extension.	2022/23		
HH4	Cycling Install additional cycle parking at entrances and facilities. Improve cycle signage, waymarking and maps. Where appropriate, work with Partners to implement cycle bursts for children using the Heath to travel to and from school.	On-going.		Link to review of Management Strategy.
HH5	Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Undertake a tendering process to appoint a Consultant to develop options which facilitate safe weekend and Bank Holiday opening of the Car Park.	2022/23		Works commenced on site in April 2022. Next steps: -Installation of signage & comms. -Enforcement.

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Page 38	HH6	Golders Hill Park Zoo & Butterfly House Undertake an options appraisal to inform discussions with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee regarding the long-term sustainability of the Zoo and Butterfly House.	September 2021 (options appraisal) Spring 2022 (present options to HHCC)		An options appraisal has been undertaken, and will be presented to Member of the HHCC for consideration in May and Members of the HHMC in June 2022.
	HH7	Master Plan for optimising facilities at Parliament Hill Undertake a review of facilities and buildings at Parliament Hill to inform provision of a visitor centre, maintain suitable accommodation for staff and volunteers, as well as improved sports facilities and improved learning facilities.	September 2022.		Due to capacity within City Surveyors Department a review will commence until autumn 2022.
	HH8	Mid-Term Review – Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028	2023-24		

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Charity Projects

Ref	Project Detail	Key Dates	RAG	Notes on progress
HWQP1	Sandpit Refurbishment of the Sandpit and improve provision of equipment in the Children's Play Area.			
HWQP2	Woodland Walk Consult on, finalise and implement the Queen's Park Woodland Walk Management Plan.			
HWQP3	Conservation Management Plan Develop a draft Conservation Management Plans for Highgate Wood & Queen's Park			
HWQP4	Roman Kiln Working with the Friends of Highgate Wood Roman Kiln (FOHRK), return the Roman Kiln artefact to Highgate Wood and rehouse in the repurposed Highgate Wood Office/visitor centre.			
HWQP5	Signage & Interpretation Complete the noticeboard replacement programme.			

Green – Project is on track (timescale/budget)

Red – Project is behind schedule/over budget

Amber – Mitigations are required (timescale/budget)

Blue – Project has not started

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Heath Cycle Route Analysis

25 April 2022



THE GREEN SCHOOL TRAVEL PLATFORM

Hampstead HomeRun data:

- Launched in May 2018
- **7 schools** in Camden are working with HomeRun.
- Comprising of **1523 pupils**
- With **over 65%** of their parents signed up and active on the platform
- Most recent data available: January 2022

TOTAL CARS
USED



410 cars

% CARS
HYBRID/ELECTRIC



31%

NO. OF PUPILS



1523 pupils

AVG. JOURNEY
DISTANCE

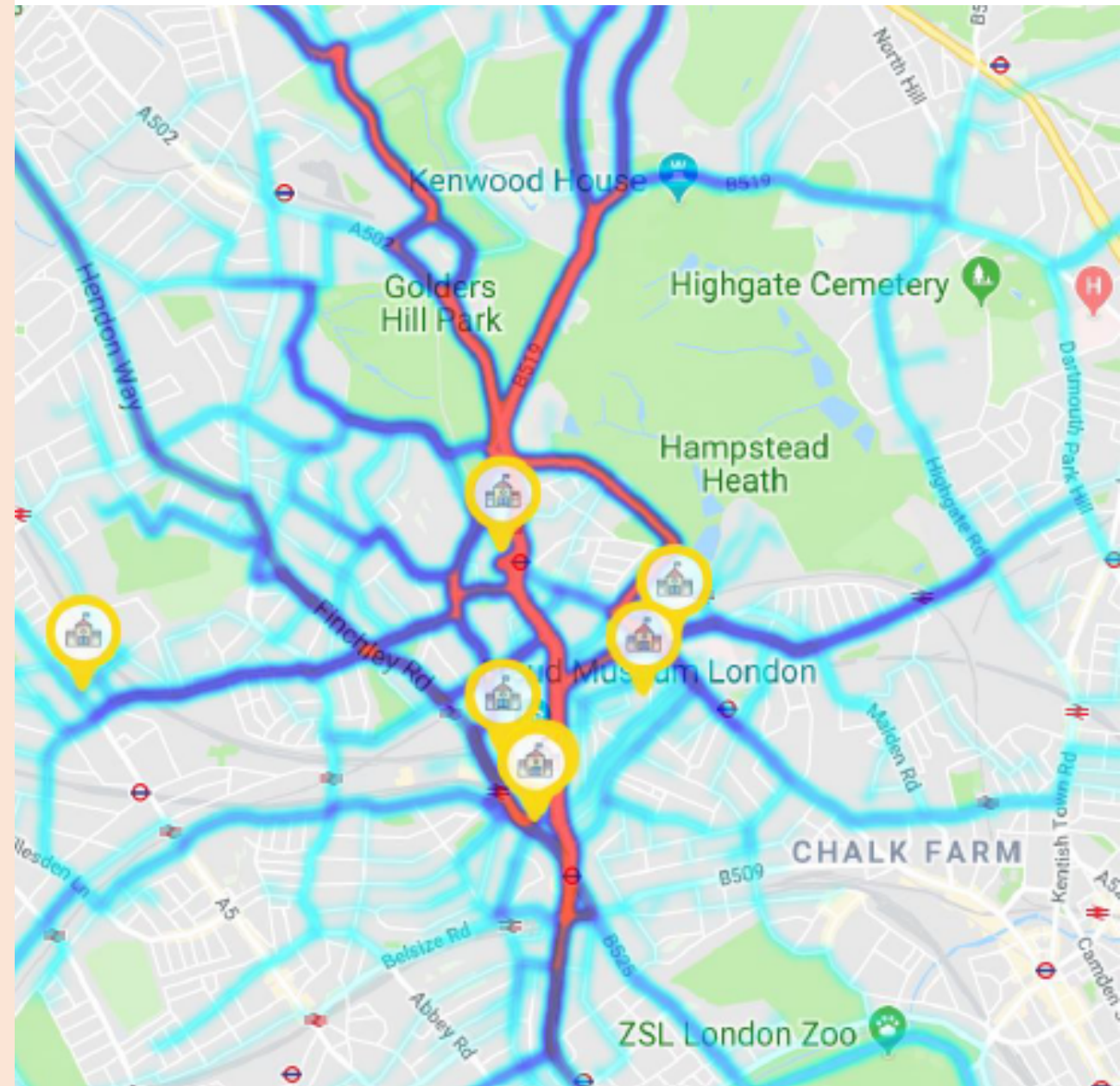


2.2 miles

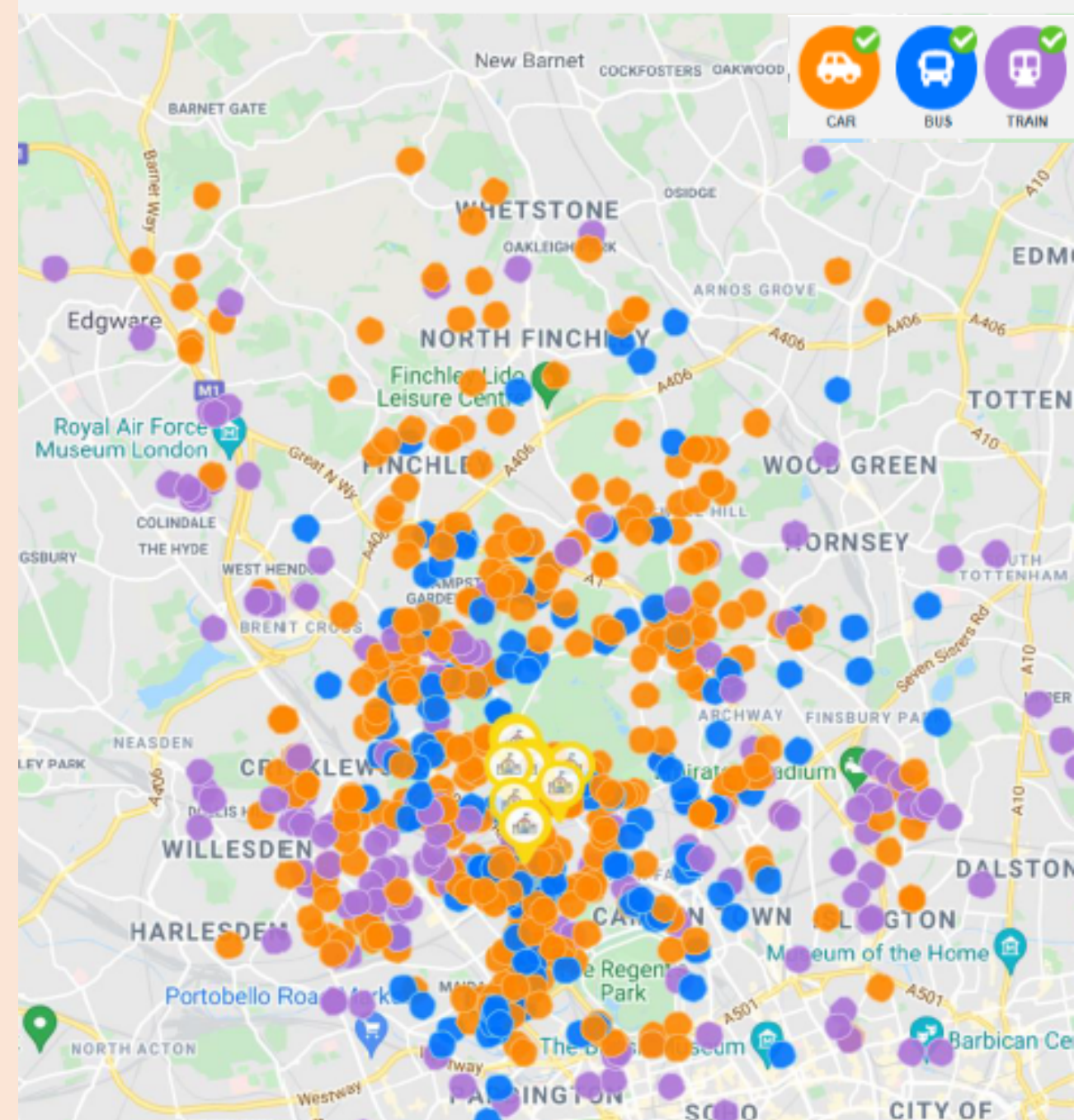
→ There are 4 frequently used routes around the Heath that would be made more direct if using cycle routes through the park:

North-South axis: New End way and Spaniards road

East-West axis: Gordon house rd – connecting Highgate rd to the West of Hampstead Heath

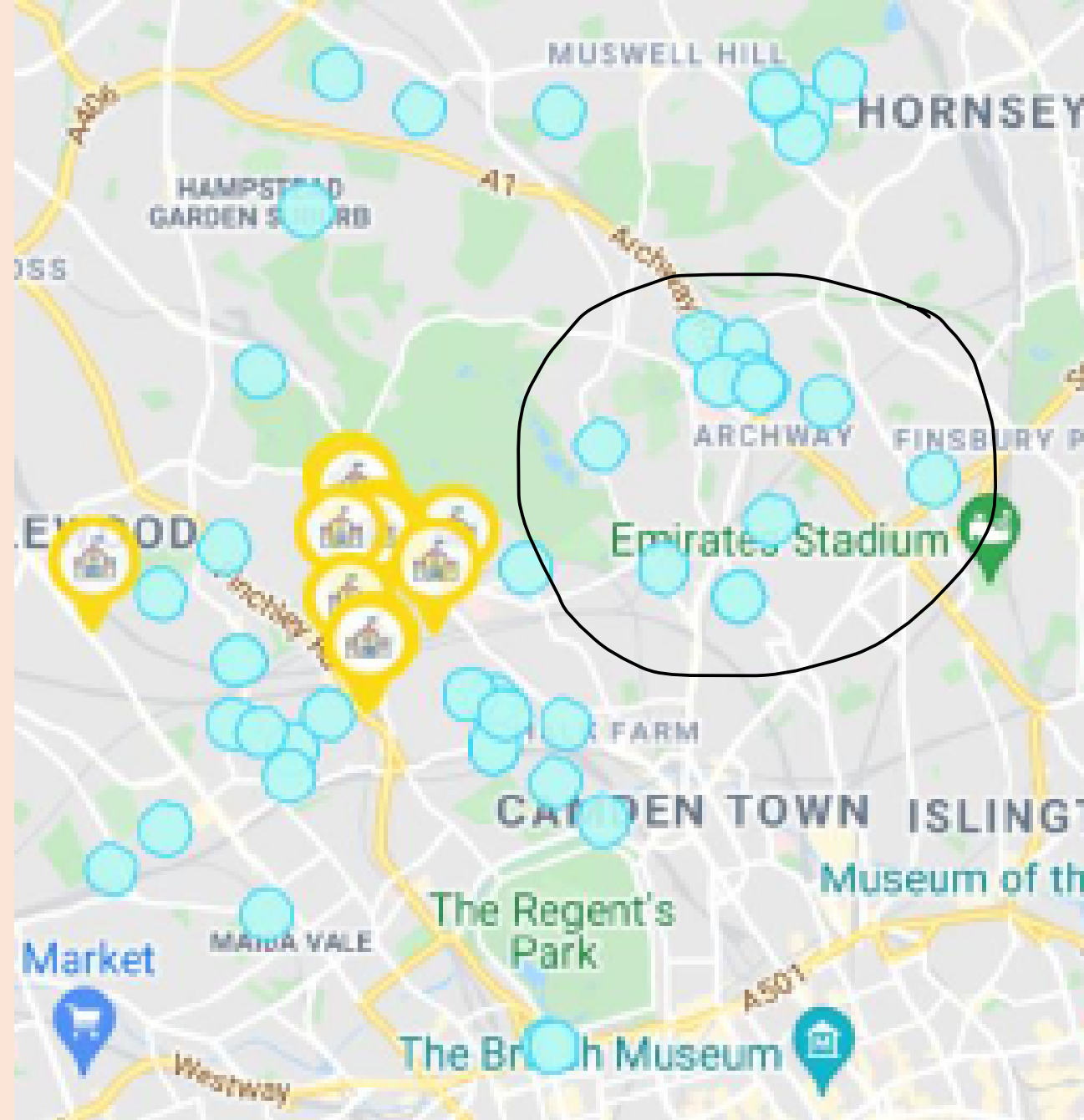


- Current HomeRun data shows potential for modal shift from people traveling by car or public transport across and around Hampstead Heath during their school runs
- **192 pupils** made their journeys to Hampstead using a public bus.
- **249 pupils** made their journeys to Hampstead using a train.
- **410 pupils** made their journeys to Hampstead in low occupancy cars.




School journeys into NW3 by car and public transport

- Current HomeRun data shows potential for current cycle journeys into NW3 to be made more direct by cycling through Hampstead Heath
- **29 pupils** made their journeys cycling to school.
- **18 pupils** made their journeys cycling East to West.
- **10 pupils existing** cycling journeys could be made more easily by going across Hampstead Heath.
- More journeys made by car or public transport, from just East of the Heath, could be made across the Heath by cycling.






School journeys into NW3 by cycling

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SWIMMING - Access, Safety & Security	Outcome	Lead	Overall status
	Improved safety, access and security across the three Bathing Ponds.	Edwin Birch/Richard Chamberlain (C. Surveyors) Stefania Horne/ Paul Maskell (HH)	

Date of Report: 19 May 2022	Phase: Detailed Design
-----------------------------	------------------------

Highlights	Next Steps	Metrics	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept design stage (RIBA 2) is now complete with the detailed design (RIBA 3) underway. The RIBA 2 Cost Plan has the forecasted estimated Construction Cost at £470,000 which is £15,000 over the initial feasibility study cost of £455,000. The forecasted estimated Construction Cost with an inflation allowance to the mid point of construction of Q1 2023 and a 10% client contingency is £540,000 excluding VAT. A detailed engagement has taken place with the swimming associations and their members both on online and during a site workshop at Hampstead Heath. The feedback is being reviewed and factored into the detailed designs. 	<p>Planning submission 27 May RIBA Stage 3 - June.</p> <p>Gateway 3/4 Report - June. RIBA Stage 4 - August.</p> <p>Procurement/Tender - July /September.</p> <p>Gateway 5 Report - October/November.</p>	Budget	
		Schedule	
		Risk	

Risks and Issues	Reasons for RAG Status
<p>Key Risks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work sequence & access restriction changes Cost increases due to market conditions and inflation Stakeholder buy-in 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project is within planned timescales and budget. Plans are in place to mitigate the current risks.

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Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds and Lido Annual Review 2021/22

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 2021/22 Swimming Season including the results of a survey
- Improvements in access and security planned at the bathing ponds
- Planning for the summer 2022 season

2021/22 Swimming Season

The 2021/2022 Swimming Season followed a year of disrupted swimming following closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The swimming facilities reopened to the public on 29 March 2021 and have remained open for the year.

Swimming season tickets were placed back on sale on the 11 March 2021 and were extremely popular in the lead-up to the facilities reopening. From 29 March to 30 April, there was no advance booking required at the Bathing Ponds and Lido. From 1 May, there was a mixture of free-flow where no advance booking was required and sessions which did require an advance booking. This operating model was devised following lessons learnt during the 2020/21 summer season including feedback from swimmers.

The result was a hybrid system where swimmers could swim in the early and later part of the day with no advance booking. Queuing was necessary if the Pond or Lido reached capacity. During the middle part of the day, swimmers booked in advance, either using Eventbrite or on a designated booking phone line, for either one hour sessions at the Ponds or three hour sessions at the Lido. This operational model prevented large queues building up outside the facilities, reduced incidents of anti-social behavior inside the facilities, and created a safer environment for swimmers and staff.

From 20 September 2021 - the start of the winter season - the Ponds and Lido returned to a free-flow system. This free flow system has been in place throughout the winter period and has continued into Spring 2022. It has worked very well due to the reduced number of swimmers at this time of year. However, on warmer days, particularly at the weekend, the facilities have become very busy with more cold water swimmers than previous years. This has led to Stewards operating a one in one out system to maintain maximum bather loads in the water.

The Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond season was extended in 2021 until 31 October and reopened a month early on 2 April 2022. The Winter Swimming Club were very supportive of this initiative and were given access after the facility had closed to the general public.

Season Tickets

Season tickets have again proven to be extremely popular. The table below details the number and type of season tickets issued.

Season Ticket Type	12 Month	6 Month	1 Month	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
All Facilities - Adult	389	193	-	582	407
All Facilities - Concession	112	40	-	152	125
All Facilities - Free Early Morning Swim for U16's & 60+	546	77	-	623	472
All Facilities – Free Carer	25	-	-	25	6
Lido - Adult	174	134	170	478	283
Lido - Concession	38	32	54	124	86
Bathing Ponds - Adult	756	1,489	-	2,245	1307
Bathing Ponds - Concession	259	409	-	668	563

Season tickets issued 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

Swimming participation

The following table shows the number of swims during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Facility	Number of swims
Lido	160,749
Bathing Ponds	335,005
Total	495,754 *

*Participation in 2020/21 was 160,172 across the 3 bathing ponds and Lido, but this was during the pandemic and lockdown restrictions.

Free swim sessions were made available to several groups, schools and play-schemes throughout the summer at the Lido. This included:

- 30 young refugees from DOST visited the Lido on 4 occasions.
- A local Somalian group were introduced by Heath Hands to the Lido-most swimming in an open-air pool for the first time.
- Talacre Playcentre who visited on four occasions.
- Brookfield and Gospel Oak primary school participated in a 2 week water safety awareness programme for years 5&6.
- NHS key workers, many from the BAME community, were given an introduction to open water coaching on Tuesday evenings.
- Mental Health Swim sessions at the Lido and Mixed Pond

Triathlon training started again on Tuesday evenings at the Lido from June 2021.

Summer Swimming Survey Results

In November 2021, swimmers were asked to participate in an online survey about their experiences of swimming during the summer months. The results of this survey have informed the operational model of the summer 2022 swimming season.

2,079 people responded to the survey which was distributed via email and advertised on social media from 5 November 2021.

The survey focused on the 2021 summer season and asked swimmers to rate the pre-booked session which had been used in summer 2021 and also to give their views on advance booking.

The booking system was rated as 4.01 out of 5 and there was a balance between positive and negative views on booking in advance. Positive comments included the ability to swim when desired and the lack of queuing. Swimmers also said the atmosphere inside the facility was much less crowded and more relaxed than a busy summers day before a booking system was introduced. The alternative view was that advance booking removed the ability to be spontaneous and that sessions sold out very quickly particularly when the weather was warm.

The survey also asked people to rate their experiences of the free-flow session, where no advance booking was required. Free flow sessions were rated 4.35 out of 5. Positive comments were focused on the swimmers ability to go along without any forward planning and that it was a return to how the

ponds had been before the Pandemic and a booking system was introduced. Negative comments centered on large queues and being turned away due to the pond being at capacity. Swimmers also noted that it was very busy in the facilities when the weather was warm during the free flow-sessions.

Following the survey, and in response to user feedback, we reduced the break between sessions to 15 mins at the Bathing Ponds and increased the free flow before and after the sessions. We also increased our maximum bather load at the Lido for each session to increase capacity.

Capital Project

Following the 2019 Swimming Review and advice from the Health and Safety Executive, funding was secured to implement safety, access and security works across the three Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds.

Proposals include:

- Improving visibility from the lifeguard huts at Men's and Mixed Pond
- Addition of accessible changing, shower, WC and waterside hoist at the Men's and Mixed Pond
- Provision of accessible changing, shower and accessible WC within the existing accessible toilet space at the Ladies' Pond

From 1 April to 25 April, swimmers were asked to give their views on the initial proposals via an online survey.

Ladies' Pond Survey Results

- 1154 responses were received
- 887 (77%) were positive or happy with the proposals
- 105 (9%) were against linking the toilets and the changing rooms. This was due to hygiene and the fact that the changing room would potentially become very busy
- 82 (7%) did not have strong view either way.
- 25 (2%) were against making any changes – preferring the facility as it is.

Men's Pond Survey Results

- 495 responses were received
- 435 (87%) were positive about the proposals to make the pond more accessible.
- 24 (5%) were against making any changes- preferring the facility as it is.
- 11 (2%) stated they would like an area for nude sunbathing.
- 8 (1.6%) had no strong opinion on the plans.

Mixed Pond Survey Results

- 339 responses were received
- 310 (91%) were positive about the proposals to make the pond more accessible
- 25 (7%) said they would prefer no alterations to the changing facilities
- 13 (4%) were against making any changes – preferring the facilities to stay the same.
- 6 (2%) had no strong opinions on the plans.

Overall, survey feedback indicated strong support for the proposals. Further engagement with the Swimming Associations took place on 5 May 2022 prior to submission of the planning application. Swimmers will also be included in discussions about the construction phase of the project which is expected to be in Winter 2022/23.

Health and Safety

Rescues

Number of rescues or first aid incidents carried out by lifeguards from April 2021 to March 2022.

Site	In water rescue	First aid	Other
Lido	26	22	
Men's pond	14	6*	
Mixed pond	21	4	
Ladies pond	14	20	2

* On 20 Aug 2021 a man was resuscitated at the Men's bathing pond by lifeguards on duty. The casualty had suffered a cardiac arrest and the defibrillator was used to restart his heart. This was on a busy day and the three lifeguards and steward were able to manage the emergency whilst making sure the other swimmers remained safe.

Staffing arrangements

Lifeguard numbers and maximum bather loads play an important role in keeping swimmers safe. At each bathing pond we continue to have a minimum of three lifeguards on duty at any one time during the summer months from May to September. This allows for adequate breaks to be taken whilst maintaining suitable supervision of swimmers. The maximum bather load for each pond has been capped at 100 in the water and this is managed by the Stewards during free flow sessions. The Stewards are also controlling bather numbers during pre-book sessions.

Income and Expenditure

	Bathing Ponds	Parliament Hill Fields Lido	Totals
Employee Costs	758,649	720,651	1,479,299
Operational Expenditure	34,814	135,867	170,681
Total Expenditure	793,463	856,518	1,649,981
Income (Online booking fees and VAT have been deducted)	676,912	454,913	1,131,825
Funding allocated from the Heath's 2020/21 Local Risk Budget	116,551	401,605	518,156
% of Heath's 2021/22 Local Risk Budget			13.5%
% of Heath's 2020/21 Local risk budget			18.8%

Income and expenditure at the Bathing Ponds and Lido for the period of April 2021 - March 2022.

Looking forward to the 2022 Summer Swimming Season

The 2022 summer season started on the 30 April 2022 when the Lido and three bathing ponds opening hours were extended. The Mixed Pond has already opened for public swimming a month earlier than previous years with the Winter Swimming Club given access once the lifeguards have locked up for the day. The extended season trial at the Mixed Pond will be reviewed and a decision made on whether there will be a continuation of this arrangement in 2022/23.

The Lido and Pond opening times for the 2022 summer swimming season are as follows:

Lido – Swimming sessions (30 April – 30 September 2022)

Session	Open
1 - Lane Swimming – capped free flow	07.00-10.00
2 - Open Swimming – pre-booking only	10.30-13.30
3 - Open Swimming – pre-booking only	14.30-17.30
4* - Lane Swimming – capped free flow, adults only	18.00-20.30**

Last entry for each session is 30 minutes before closing.

Session 4* No session on Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday evenings.

Session 4** Opening time from 12-30 September will be 18.00-19.30.

From 1 October the Lido will be open for capped free flow lane swimming only between 07.00-13.00 (last entry 12.30).

Session 1 – Lane Swimming

- Up to 250 swimmers will be permitted to use the Lido at any one time.
- Lane swimming only.

Sessions 2 and 3 – Open Swimming

- Family orientated swimming sessions.
- Up to 700 swimmers per Session. Session tickets must be pre-booked to guarantee entry.
- An adult can bring up to 2 children aged 4-7yrs. Under 4s must be accompanied by an adult on a 1:1 basis.
- Sauna closed.

Sessions 4 – Lane Swimming

- Up to 250 swimmers will be permitted to use the Lido at any one time.
- Adult lane swimming only.

Highgate Men's, Kenwood Ladies' and Hampstead Mixed Bathing Ponds

Time Changes	Open/vacate
Sunday 27 Mar – Saturday 9 Apr 2022*	07.00 - 16.30
Sunday 10 Apr – Saturday 30 Apr 2022	07.00 - 18.30
Sunday 1 May – Saturday 13 Aug 2022	07.00 - 20.30
Sunday 14 Aug – Monday 29 Aug 2022	07.00 - 20.00
Tuesday 30 Aug – Saturday 17 Sept 2022	07.00 - 19.00
Sunday 18 Sept – Saturday 15 Oct 2022	07.00 - 17.30
Sunday 16 Oct – Saturday 29 Oct 2022	07.30 - 16.30
Sunday 30 Oct – Saturday 27 Nov 2022*	07.00 - 14.15
Sunday 28 Nov 2022 – Saturday 4 Feb 2023	07.30 - 14.45
Sunday 5 Feb – 25 Mar 2023	07.00 - 14.15

*The Mixed pond will open on 2 April 2022 and close on 30 October 2022

Bathing Pond opening times June – August

Session	Open	Type
1	07.00-11.30	Capped Free Flow (no booking available)
2	12.00-13.00	pre-book only
3	13.15-14.15	pre-book only
4	14.30-15.30	pre-book only

5	15.45-16.45	pre-book only
6	17.00-20.30*	Capped Free Flow (no booking available)

Capped free flow sessions - last entry 30 mins before closing
 Session 6* Opening time from 14 to 29 Aug 17.00-20.00 due to light

Sufficient time has been allocated between sessions to facilitate cleaning and preparation for the next session.

Conclusion

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 495,000 swims have been facilitated across the Bathing Ponds and Lido and 4,897 season tickets issued.

We have increased lifeguard numbers during the summer months to allow staff to take adequate breaks away from the water and during winter months the introduction of a roving lifeguard who travels between sites.

Stewards have played an important role at the Bathing Ponds, providing information to customers and working in tandem with the lifeguards who need to be focused on supervising swimmers in the water.

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 on their morale and wellbeing. Continuous review of the operating arrangements remains critical for the sustainability of the Bathing Ponds and Lido.

3275/08-2202PO02ldl

2 February 2022



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Dear Sir/Madam

REDEVELOPMENT OF MURPHY'S YARD
APPLICATION REF: 2021/3225/P

1. Metropolis has prepared these representations on behalf of the City of London Corporation ('the City Corporation'), in respect of the outline planning application for the redevelopment of the Murphy's Yard site (ref: 2021/3225/P) ('the Proposed Development').
2. The site extends to 6.23 Hectares and includes land between Kentish Town Road and Gordon House Road in proximity to Gospel Oak Station and the southern boundary of Hampstead Heath, in the vicinity of Parliament Hill Lido ('the Site'). This response is primarily concerned with the impact of the Proposed Development on Hampstead Heath.
3. It is understood that this application is in OUTLINE only with all matters reserved; however, it is of substantial scale, and certainly one of the largest development proposals advanced in proximity to Hampstead Heath in recent years.
4. As such, the scale of development raises issues directly related to the intensification of land use, build form and future activity that are of concern to the City Corporation in their role as custodians of Hampstead Heath. While acknowledging the extensive benefits that the regeneration of this site will bring, The City Corporation are of the view that impacts of the development beyond the boundary of the application site, should be fully quantified, assessed and understood so that appropriate mitigation can be incorporated into the scheme at Outline Application stage and delivered during the reserved matters process.
5. The City Corporation consider that the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission would be reasonable and necessary in this instance.
6. In accordance with the tests set out in para 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 such mitigation is considered:

- necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- directly related to the development for the reasons set out in subsequent sections of this letter; and

The City Corporation would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposals further with both the Council and the Applicant to ensure that such measures are 'fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development'.

The Role of the City Corporation

7. The City Corporation owns and manages over 10,700 acres (4,330 hectares) of Open Space in and around London, which are enjoyed by more than 23 million visitors each year. The open spaces owned and managed by the City Corporation include Hampstead Heath ('the Heath'), Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, Epping Forest, and West Ham Park.
8. The open spaces managed by the City Corporation are important wildlife habitats but also provide many services and facilities, including outdoor swimming, sports pitches, tennis courts, play areas, fishing and much more.
9. The City Corporation took over title ownership and the responsibility for the management and protection of Hampstead Heath in 1989, as set out in the Local Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.
10. The City Corporation is statutorily obliged, by virtue of various Acts of Parliament, and specifically by the provisions of the Hampstead Heath Act, 1871, to:
 - for ever to keep the Heath open, unenclosed, unbuilt upon and by all lawful means prevent, resist and abate all encroachment on the Heath and attempted encroachment and protect the Heath and preserve it as an open space;
 - at all times preserve as far as maybe the natural aspect of the Heath and to that end protect the turf, gorse, heather, timber and other trees, shrubs and brushwood thereon;
 - not to sell, lease, grant or in any manner dispose of any part of the Heath; and
 - to provide active and passive recreational facilities and information for members of the public.
11. Hampstead Heath is a charity, whose purpose is the protection of the Heath for recreation and enjoyment by the public. The City Corporation is the sole trustee, whose trustee duties require it to act in the best interests of the charity.
12. The City Corporation has adopted a Management Strategy for Hampstead Heath for the period 2018-2028.
13. This strategy clearly sets out the City Corporation's objectives for managing the Heath, including making representations to planning applications on the boundary which are considered to adversely impact upon the Heath, its character, openness and environmental and ecological value.
14. The current application raises a number of concerns in this regard.

Site Context

15. The Site is located immediately to the South of the Heath, and the boundary of the MOL, which affords the Heath protection from development. The scale and proximity of the development site are such that the City Corporation wishes to ensure that any planning permission granted is done so on the basis of a full and proper consideration of the impact of the development on the Heath and its facilities and that the development provides suitable mitigation for any impact that results.
16. This southern part of the Heath includes Parliament Hill Fields which, in addition to providing recreational open space, is one of the key areas on the Heath where organised leisure facilities are accommodated. These include:
 - The Grade II Listed Parliament Hill Fields Lido;
 - Athletics Track,
 - pitches for organised sport including cricket, football/rugby and tennis and
 - two large children's play areas providing facilities for varying age groups.
17. All of these facilities are intensively used and funded by the City Corporation.
18. The viewpoint at the summit of Parliament Hill is one of the busiest locations on the Heath throughout the year. The view from this location towards both St Paul's and The Palace of Westminster are afforded statutory protection. As is the view from Kenwood House.
19. It is acknowledged that the Site does not lie directly within these protected viewing corridors; however, the wider panorama and the immediate visual setting of the Heath are a consideration for the City Corporation in their role as custodians of the Heath's intrinsic character.
20. The number of visitors to the Heath has been rising year on year and a rapid escalation in visitors has been attributed to the impact of the Covid Pandemic. It is estimated that the number of visitors to the Heath has increased by approximately 50% in the last 18 months. This has placed a significant burden on maintenance of existing infrastructure and resulted in a significant rise in damage to ecological assets as a result of inadvertent footpath widening directly attributable to the increased footfall.
21. This application is therefore submitted at a time when the ecology and environment on the Heath are under significant pressure.

The Application Proposals

22. It is note that this application is submitted in Outline with **ALL** matters reserved.
23. The application will however set parameters for development based on the following description:

"Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the demolition of existing buildings and structures and redevelopment to be carried out in phases (with each phase being an independent act of development) comprising the following mix of uses: residential (Use Class C3), residential institution (Use Class C2), industrial (Use Class B2 and/or B8), commercial floorspace (Class E), flexible commercial and Sui Generis floorspace (Use Class E and/or Sui Generis Use), Community (F1 and/or F2), Sui Generis, and cycle and vehicle

parking, refuse and recycling storage, plant, highway and access improvements, amenity space, landscape and public realm improvements, and all associated works.”

24. In summary, this will include a scale of development which is unusual in such close proximity to the Heath.
- New Residential 750 - 825 dwellings
 - Total non-residential floorspace 42,761 - 85,200sqm
- as follows:*
- Residential institution (C2) - 8,000 sq m
 - Employment – 40,000 sq m
 - Healthcare - 16,000 sq m
 - Retail - 3,650 sq m
 - Flexible Mixed-Use 1,500 sq m
 - Community 1,300 sq m
25. By reference to the Applicant’s submission this equates to 3610 jobs and potentially 1500 new residents.
26. Although the application in outline currently, the illustrative proposal is indicatively arranged as 18 buildings ranging in height. The majority of buildings are 5-8 storeys with a group of towers in the western corner of the site between 13 and 19 storeys in height.
27. The site does not lie within the strategic viewing corridor from Parliament Hill. However, it is noted that the variation in height takes account of a locally designated view from Kentish Town Station back towards the Heath.
28. The scheme proposes 21,430sq m of open space including landscaped setting for the buildings and the ‘Heath Line’ which is an elevated landscaped link to encourage pedestrian and cycling from Kentish Town Station to Gospel Oak Station on Gordon House Road in close proximity to the Parliament Hill Fields Lido entrance to the Heath.
29. The ‘commercial offer’ which the scheme provides is greatly enhanced by its proximity to the Heath itself and the promotion of the ‘Heath Line’ as a substantial public benefit is explicit in the submitted application material.
30. The City Corporation is however concerned that the assessment of the impact of the proposals has not fully considered the increased visitor numbers that the scheme will bring through the Site to an entrance to the Heath that is relatively less used compared to other entrances
31. The impact of the scale and intensity of development is also a concern in terms of the effects on existing infrastructure and recreational facilities; the ecology; and the intrinsic character of this part of the Heath, as a result of the increased mass of development immediately to the South.
32. The City Corporation do however consider that it may be possible to address these concerns through additional studies and mitigation and would welcome positive engagement with the Council and Applicant.

Development Plan and other material considerations

33. We consider the policies of the following Development Plan documents to be of relevance to this application:
- The London Plan 2021;
 - Camden Local Plan 2017;
34. We note that there are numerous Supplementary Planning Documents that are considered material to the determination of this application.
35. In addition, we would draw the Council's attention to the Heath Management Plan, The London Living Landscapes Initiative promoted by the Wildlife Trust and the All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance prepared by the GLA in 2011 which is referred to in adopted London Plan policy.
36. LB Camden's core commitment to protection of the Heath
37. LB Camden commits to protection of Hampstead Heath in Local Plan Policy A2 ('Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces and encouraging biodiversity'), which states that the Council will:
- "j) preserve and enhance Hampstead Heath through working with partners and by taking into account the impact on the Heath when considering relevant planning applications, including any impacts on views to and from the Heath;"*
38. In addition, this policy also confirms that the Council will resist development which would be detrimental to the setting of designated open spaces; and provides the strongest possible protection to designated Metropolitan Open Land (MOL).
39. This MOL designation recognises the strategic importance of the Heath. It is an asset of for the whole of London. This is made explicit in Policy G3 of the London Plan and supported by the All London Green Grid SPG. One of the stated objectives of this SPG is to:
- "Promote Hampstead Heath together with Kenwood House as a major destination, enhancing access and connections for pedestrians and cyclists and maintain and enhance the environmental, ecological and flood management capacity of the designed water bodies."*
40. The application proposal provides a significant opportunity to deliver on this strategic objective if suitable mitigation for resultant impacts on environment and ecology can be delivered.
41. Hampstead Heath is designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). There is a network of SINC's within 1km of the application site each playing a role in the provision of flora and habitat for various species of birds and wildlife. The City Corporation actively monitors the impact of development on this network of sites including those beyond the boundary of the Heath where it is considered that proposals may adversely affect birds or wildlife which uses the Heath.

Specific Areas of Concern

42. The City Corporation's concerns are set out below. Firstly, comments on the scheme itself, as presented, within the application site boundary.

43. Secondly, the impact of the proposals beyond the boundaries of the application site itself

The Application Scheme

44. Comments on the scheme itself are limited. The mix of uses is broadly supported and the development will deliver significant regeneration benefits to the area.

Landscape and Biodiversity

45. The Site has a significant number of mature trees, principally on the perimeter of the site.
46. They are mainly a mix of Poplar and Leyland Cypress but it appears that the intention is to remove many of these trees and replant. It does however appear that the majority of the trees in question are located away from the main construction areas and potentially could be protected during the construction phase.
47. It is the view of the City Corporation's Ecologist that these trees provide an important existing refuge habitat for wildlife – principally birds.
48. From an ecological perspective, it is considered that there would be a benefit to the retention of these trees to form the core of a wildlife corridor running the length of the site on the western perimeter.
49. The City Corporation has arranged to meet the landscape architect team with a view to discussing these points in the hope that the landscape strategy could be reviewed with the objective of providing habitat to facilitate linkages between neighbouring SINCS and through the development site.
50. Given that matters of siting are currently reserved it is hoped that such an option could be considered as part of the development of the scheme to enhance the ecological offer that the Site will deliver.

Play and Recreation

51. It is noted that reference is made to the provision of play space in scheme.
52. Notwithstanding the inclusion of an element of play space within the proposals it is anticipated that the significant increase in residents and visitors arriving via the Heath Line will result in a significant intensification of use of the two children's play areas located in Parliament Hill Fields, the swimming facilities at the Lido, the use of formal sports pitches and tennis courts.
53. In the current proposal, there is a lack of leisure and recreational offer for older children and generally for all the residents that will inevitably reflect in a heavier usage of the City Corporation facilities on the Heath
54. The impact of this intensification on the existing facilities should be assessed and suitable mitigation measures proposed if required.

The Setting of the Heath - Visual Amenity

55. Given the scale of development proposed, it is inevitable that the scheme will be highly visible from within the boundary of the Heath.
56. The Heath is not an urban park. It is cherished for the natural facets of its landscape and ecology. Views of the cityscape beyond the boundary of the site are a part of the

attraction of this southern part of the Heath; however, such townscape views are valued for the breadth and depth of the London panorama. There is a concern that the scale of development proposed in such close proximity to the boundary of the Heath will bring with it a sense of enclosure that will change the experience of Parliament Hill Fields for users of the Heath.

57. The Council and the Applicant are requested to ensure that when considering the final massing and design of the proposals, every option is considered – including potentially rebalancing the heights of the buildings across the site where possible – to minimise the visual impact on the Heath.

Views

58. It is disappointing that the Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment submitted as part of the EIA does not mention the provisions of Policy A2 of the Camden Local Plan when establishing the policy context for assessment. This policy is explicit in stating that development proposals should consider views to and from the Heath.
59. There are a limited number of viewpoints selected on the Heath, particularly Parliament Hill Fields, which is perhaps reflective of the omission of this policy from the TVIA assessment. It is however noted that numerous viewpoints have been selected at the summit of Parliament Hill.
60. It is understood that the massing currently assessed is illustrative to a degree, albeit the extent of the building volumes is indicated in the submitted parameter plans. There is a concern that the north-south axis of the site will inevitably lead to a coalescence of the mass of the buildings in many views from the Heath.
61. The City Corporation would welcome proposals which seek to ensure that gaps between buildings can be easily understood in views from the Heath, particularly when considering the siting of taller elements of the scheme on the western side of the Site.
62. It is anticipated that this massing will be most evident in close proximity to the Grade II listed Parliament Hill Fields Lido.

Impact of Intensification

63. The submitted documentation envisages the finished development employing in the region of 3600 people. In addition, the number flats proposed could be considered to create a resident population in the region of 1500-2000.
64. Further to this significantly increased population on the boundary of the Heath, the development will be a destination in itself. The Heath Line will create a dedicated pedestrian and cycle link from Kentish Town, combined with extensive retail and hospitality offerings and is sure to become a popular venue for Londoners and Tourists who can combine the experience of the development with the open spaces of the Heath.
65. It is difficult to ascertain from the submitted material if the number of visitors has been quantified in order to allow a full assessment of the impact of the development beyond the application boundaries.
66. Historically, the entrance to the Heath from Gospel Oak has been one of the lesser used entrances with approximately 1300 visitors per day during weekends in the height of summer. This survey information predates the Covid pandemic and is now expected to be in the region of 30% higher. For comparison, on the same days, the

Hampstead No.2 Causeway Entrance had approximately 4000 visitors when the survey was undertaken.

67. Given the nature of the application proposals there is a very real likelihood that visitor numbers at the Gospel Oak entrance will increase exponentially when the development is completed. Such an intensification of activity will have the following impacts:
- Facilities
Increased usage of play equipment, sports pitches and refuse facilities
 - Erosion of footpaths and pavements
There has already been a noticeable increase in the erosion of footpaths. Given the natural environment of the Heath the preference is always for the use of loose material for the composition of footpaths wherever possible and the avoidance of the use of hard surfaces. As a result, footpaths are susceptible to erosion when footfall increases significantly, particularly when this coincides with bad weather.
 - Ecology
The resultant widening of footpaths has a direct impact on the ecology of the Heath. Areas where footpaths are in poor condition are avoided and grassland areas are impacted as a result. In addition, a general uplift in usage across the Heath will put the ecology of larger areas under stress. It is noted that the Ecological Assessment submitted with the application classified the impact of the development on the Heath as 'Negligible' based on the assumption that the Heath is already a well-used public asset.
68. The effects of additional visitors as a result of the recent Covid pandemic have clearly demonstrated that there is a direct correlation between a significant increase in visitor numbers and the effects on the infrastructure and Environment of the Heath.
69. It is not unreasonable to expect that the development could result in a doubling of the numbers of visitors using the Gospel Oak Entrance upon completion of the Heath Line.
70. In order to allow for such an increase to be planned for and appropriate mitigation measures put in place it would be extremely helpful if the Applicant could quantify this anticipated impact in terms of additional visitors to the Heath through this entrance via the Heath Line.
71. The City Corporation would welcome the opportunity to assist the Applicant in the assessment of the implications for existing facilities, infrastructure and ecology on the Heath and develop a suitable mitigation plan.
- Parliament Hill Fields Lido*
72. Parliament Hill Fields Lido is grade II listed and has provided recreational swimming and relaxation facilities since its construction in 1937-38. The entry for the Lido on the Statutory List acknowledges that it listed:
- "as the most sophisticated of the thirteen lidos constructed by the LCC between 1909 and 1939"*
73. A key element of the buildings design is:

“walls shielding sun-bathing terraces to north, set either side of single-storey cafe with curved moderne-style front. In the centre is the pool”

74. The site for the Lido was selected, on the southern slope of Parliament Hill to maximise the direct sunlight received by both the swimming pool and the sunbathing terraces and café space. This is an intrinsic part of the buildings design and function.
75. It is noted that the application submission has considered the potential for overshadowing in accordance with the BRE prescribed methodology. Page 17 of the Appendix: Daylight, Sunlight, Overshadowing and Solar Glare Annex 3-6 in the Environmental Statement Vol 3 Technical Appendices indicates that there is overshadowing of the Lido at 9am on 21 December. The Lido is open 365 days of the year from 7am and the prospect of the swimming area and terraces being in shadow from opening until after 9am is a significant cause for concern. . Notwithstanding the BRE guidance, the City Corporation would request assurances that the scale of development proposed would not overshadow the Swimming Pool or Sun terraces of this listed building. Permanent shadow during morning swimming hours would adversely and irrevocably affect the character of this listed building and potentially its viability. The enjoyment of the facilities provided is largely contingent upon the direct sunlight received during opening hours throughout the year, particularly for morning swimming.
76. From the assessment provided, it is a concern to the City Corporation that the scale of development proposed may adversely affect both the character and setting of this listed building.
77. The submitted Built Heritage Statement currently only considered the visual impact of the proposed scheme on the setting of the Lido. The concerns set out above are however considered material to an assessment of the setting of this listed building.
78. It would therefore be beneficial if the Council could request that the Applicant undertakes a suitable assessment of any potential overshadowing impact from the Proposed Development prior to determination of the application.
79. The City Corporation would wish to be consulted on the scoping of such an assessment given the use of the Lido throughout the year.

Cycling

80. The 'Heath Line' is an integral part of the scheme and a key element of the public realm strategy set out in the proposals. Improving links to the Heath is welcomed in principle, particularly from Kentish Town Station.
81. The stated intention in the application submission is that this link will be shared by pedestrians and cyclists. As referred to above, the nearest entrance to the Heath will be 20m from the exit of the 'Heath Line' on the northern boundary of the site. The applicant is proposing to relocate and amend the existing pedestrian crossing to facilitate cycle access across Gordon house Road to the Heath.
82. However, this entrance, immediately to the South of Parliament Hill Lido, serves as the vehicular access to the Lido and beyond the Lido to the North is currently pedestrian only and cycling is prohibited.
83. The City Corporation is concerned that provision has not been made as part of the development of the scheme to anticipate the dispersion of cyclists upon arriving at the

Heath, particularly if visitors arrive with an expectation that they can continue the journey north onto the Heath by bicycle as that is not currently permitted.

84. The City Corporation limits the number of cycle routes across the Heath in accordance with the Heath Management Plan 2018. This is to ensure that the quiet enjoyment of the Heath can be maintained, conflict with existing footpath and pedestrian routes can be carefully managed and wildlife habitats protected.
85. The principal route across the Heath where cycling is currently permitted is an East-West Route accessed from Nassington Road/Savernake Road at its eastern end running north of Parliament Hill Athletics Track and joining Highgate Road adjacent to the Tennis Courts (see attached Plan). There is currently no cycle path link from the Gordon House Road entrance to this main east-west route across the Heath.
86. It is the intention of the City Corporation that cycling on the Heath will continue to be actively managed and controlled, and any changes to existing arrangements would be subject to stakeholder consultation and approval by Committee
87. . Impact of cycling on the Heath Line route should be properly considered as part of the determination of this application given the resultant off-site impacts that are anticipated and described above. There is no reference in the Healthy Streets Transport Assessment submitted with the application or within the full Environmental Impact Assessment which considers the impact of the Heath Line route on the Heath itself.
88. The City Corporation are amenable to a discussion regarding the best way to mitigate these impacts including:
 - Facilitating a cycle link from the Gospel Oak entrance to the principal east-west cycle path across the Heath, subject to suitable design, speed limitation and mitigation of potential congestion or conflict with pedestrians, or,
 - the provision of adequate cycle parking provision within the application boundary, or
 - a combination of both of the above

Biodiversity Trees and Landscape

89. As described above, the Ecological Assessment provided with the application assesses the impact of future use and activity on the ecology and environmental quality of the Parliament Hill area as 'negligible'. As a result, the assessment concludes that taking into consideration the embedded mitigation proposed within the scheme, no significant impacts are expected on any features of importance for nature conservation as a result of the Development at either the construction or operational stage.
90. There is however an expectation that the Heath Line may change the character of the southern end of the heath to one more consistent with an urban park contrary to the rewilding objectives for this area in the Heath Management Plan.
91. For the reasons set out above, the proposals will create a high-density urban edge to the Parliament Hill Fields area of the Heath. The presence of additional built development and associated light spill from the development would further exaggerate this new 'hard edge' to the Heath.

92. It may be possible to mitigate this impact through the introduction of suitable landscape and ecological measures which reinforce the intrinsic natural character of the Heath to provide a buffer between the landscaped character of the Heath Line and the Heath itself.
93. The City Corporation's Ecologist would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the Applicant and the Council.

Summary

94. The principle of the Proposed Development could be considered acceptable to the City Corporation but the scale of development proposed raises a number of concerns that will need to be discussed and mitigated.
95. The application submission on the whole does not consider in sufficient detail the various impacts of the development on the Heath as a result of the proposed development.
96. We have however highlighted areas where further study or mitigation could be proposed to address these concerns.
- A more detailed consideration of the impact of development at the scale proposed in views to and from the Heath in line with LP policy A2
 - Receive reassurances on the overshadowing of the Parliament Hill Fields Lido
 - Work with the applicant to define impact on the Heath and prepare a mitigation plan that can account for intensification, particularly looking at facilities and the ecological impact
 - Review access for cyclists and work with the City of London to design suitable access and provide parking

The City Corporation consider that the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission would be reasonable and necessary in this instance.

The City Corporation would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposals further with both the Council and the Applicant to ensure that such measures can be delivered through appropriate inclusion in a S.106 agreement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

Yours faithfully



Paul O'Neill
Director

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Discover Hampstead Heath's changing habitats and wildlife

The Heath, managed by the City of London and English Heritage, comprises 800 acres of historic countryside. Season by season, we introduce you to the Heath's special habitats and species, and explain how you can help keep the Heath a valued refuge for nature and people.

A changing landscape

A hundred years ago, the Heath was largely open, grazed meadow, with little woodland. The Heath's sandy soils supported gorse, heather and acid grassland, which can still be found in places. Rain falling through Heath sands emerged onto hillsides as springs, which fed chains of ponds, forming the headwaters of the lost rivers Fleet and Westbourne. As grazing declined on the Heath, woodlands spread.



FIELD NOTES:

Spring songsters

Spring is a time to enjoy dawn and evening choruses. Wrens, robins and warblers dominate the singing, but the loudest song is that of the Song Thrush, a species in national decline with the Heath an important London refuge.

Rare trees in ancient woods

The rare Wild Service Tree can be identified by its irregularly pointed leaves and distinctive May flowers. It is characteristic of ancient woodlands, such as Ken Wood, and can be found in the ancient hedgerows across the Heath.

Nesting birds on Heath ponds

In Spring, coots, moorhen, ducks, geese and swans make nests around the Heath's ponds. Watch also for nesting Great Crested Grebe, with their spectacular courtship display and their striking zebra-striped chicks riding on their parent's back.

Mining bees on sandy paths

Heath soils are used by over seven species of solitary mining bees (*Andrena* spp), which make their nests underground. Look for them provisioning their burrows on sandy sections of footpaths across the Heath.

MAKE ROOM FOR NATURE!

In Spring, the Heath has over 30 species of birds nesting in its woodlands and meadow edges. Help to protect them by staying to main paths. Don't let dogs run free in dense undergrowth where they may disturb nests and nestlings.



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Managing natural habitats

While the Heath looks wild, it is in fact extensively managed for nature and people. Reedbeds are being extended on the edges of ponds to improve water quality and biodiversity. Mowing of meadows is timed to maintain species diversity and new wildflower meadows are seeded. Veteran trees are managed and native saplings planted to replace them. Invasive plants are removed before they overgrow our native flora.

Reedbed with Reed Warbler

Speckled Wood

Peacock

Photo by Adrian Brooker

Photo by Adrian Brooker

Whitethroat on bramble

Noctule bat

Common Spotted Orchid

Photo by Adrian Brooker

FIELD NOTES:

Rise of the Reed Warblers

As reedbeds have been extended, the shy Reed Warbler has colonized more Heath ponds. Listen for its chattering song from deep inside the reedbed.

A reserve for Whitethroats

Whitethroats nest in only a few scrubby habitats on the East Heath. A reserve has been created for them by roping off an area of bramble and wild rose to reduce disturbance by walkers and dogs.

Butterflies in different habitats

Most of the Heath's butterflies, like the Peacock, can be seen on wildflowers in meadows during Summer, but the Speckled Wood prefers the dappled shade of woodland paths.

Bats on summer nights

Just after sunset, watch for bats foraging for flying insects along woodland edges or over ponds. The Noctule is the largest of the nine species found on the Heath.

The Heath's changing flora

A millennial survey of plants on the Heath recorded over 650 species. You can even find orchids on the Heath! This year a new survey will assess changes to this flora twenty years on.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grazing livestock, once common on the Heath, is being trialled again to improve biodiversity. These Longhorn Cattle, part of the Kenwood dairy herd, were painted by Julius Caesar Ibbettson in 1797. The painting is on display at Kenwood



©Historic England Archive

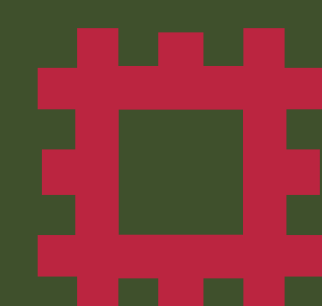


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Protecting biodiversity

There is an urgent need to reverse the decline of biodiversity nationwide. The Heath is no exception. It has lost about 30 % of its breeding bird species in the last 70 years. Today it is a refuge for threatened London species like the Hedgehog. Protecting uncommon habitats like sphagnum bogs and acid grasslands will save many Heath species from local extinction.



FIELD NOTES:

A diversity of spiders

Autumn mornings reveal vegetation covered with glistening spider webs. Over one third of the British spider fauna has been recorded on the Heath, including the striking Wasp Spider and the rare Purse Web Spider, a tiny relative of the tarantula.

A London refuge for Hedgehogs

Recent surveys suggest that the Heath may support over a hundred Hedgehogs. A nocturnal species, they rest in dense undergrowth by day where they can be disturbed and injured by poorly controlled dogs. They hibernate over winter months between November and March.

Moths on the Heath

The Heath supports over 300 species of moths. With moth numbers declining nationally, a large and diverse moth population is essential to maintaining the Heath's bat and bird populations. The Red Lined Quaker moth is active in Autumn, laying eggs on willow.

New species for the Heath

After centuries of nature study, new species are still being found. Last year, LNHS found five new mosses, including the Compact Bog Moss, which grows in the Kenwood sphagnum bog with other uncommon mosses, horsetails and ferns.

MAKE ROOM FOR NATURE!

Dog swimming areas are provided to prevent dog attacks on waterfowl and limit poisoning of pondlife from dog flea powders. Please use only these areas.

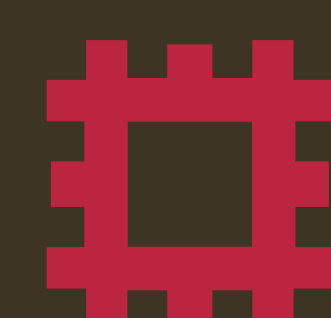


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Adapting to change

The increase in extreme weather events is adding to pressure on the Heath's biodiversity, for instance by increasing treefalls and flooding. Heath habitats play an important role in addressing our climate emergency. Woodlands and rough meadows store carbon well. Ancient woodlands are particularly good at this. Protective fencing around veteran trees reduces root compaction and helps these woodlands to survive.



FIELD NOTES:

Woodpeckers drum for mates

The Heath's woods in winter are quiet, but still full of birdlife. Great Spotted Woodpeckers will start drumming on hollow branches to attract mates for the Spring.

Rare fungi on veteran trees

More than 480 veteran trees, some over 300 years old, can be found in Ken Wood, North Wood, and along ancient field margins on the Heath. They support a fauna and flora of uncommon species, including the Bearded Tooth Fungus.

Catkins on winter trees

Alder trees growing by ponds will be putting out their cones and catkins as Spring approaches.

Ducks on ponds

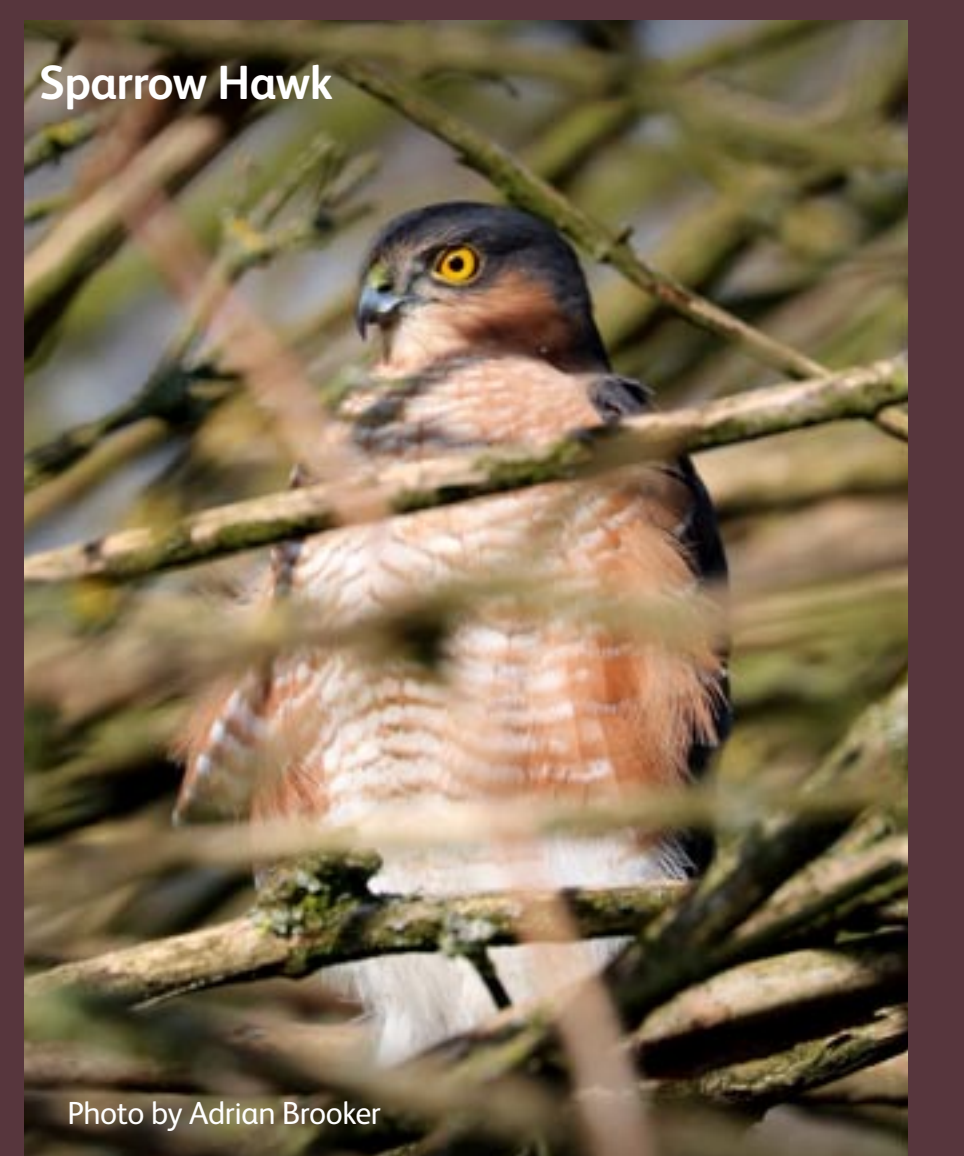
Colourful ducks gather on Heath ponds in winter, including Mandarin, Shoveller, Pochard and Teal.

Harbingers of Spring

As the winter ends, early spring wildflowers appear in Heath woodlands and wetlands, including Wood Anemone and Lesser Celandine.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Heath supports a number of birds of prey. Tawny owls can be heard on winter evenings. Kestrels hunt voles in meadows, while Sparrow Hawks mount surprise attacks on small birds, like siskins feeding in alders. Buzzards can be seen and heard overhead.



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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Dates: 23 May 2022
Subject: Proposed sustainable management of the Golder's Hill Park Zoo	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2,11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	No
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the proposed sustainable management of the Golders Hill Park Zoo and Butterfly House as stated in the Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-2024.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee provide feedback on the preferred option and ancillary plans to include the change of use of the Butterfly House and the income generation options

Main Report

Background

- There have been animal enclosures in Golders Hill Park since 1905 and in 2007 the Butterfly House was opened. Additionally, in the same year the Zoo became a member of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA). This professional body represents zoos and aquariums across Britain and Ireland. Members of BIAZA pride themselves on their excellent animal welfare, education, and conservation work.
- In 2017 the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee agreed the Golders Hill Park Zoo Vision and Collection Plan which can be summarised as below:

*"The Zoos mission statement is **"inspiring engagement with our living world"** and it is hoped to achieve this by moving towards a collection that represents wildlife in Britain (Past,*

Present and Future). Changing the collection would allow the Zoo to participate in valuable conservation projects, increase educational opportunities and become a more valuable visitor attraction enabling the Zoo to generate an increased income. The new collection aims to include where possible species such as Scottish Wildcats / Red squirrels / Polecats / Reindeer / Hazel Dormice.”

3. It is essential to note that the development/collection plan is a live, fluid document that will keep evolving with the collection. Addition of new stock will depend on availability and ease of animal acquisitions and market conditions.
4. An outcome of the Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-2024, HH13 was to:

“Undertake an options appraisal to inform discussions with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee regarding the long-term sustainability of the Zoo and Butterfly House.”
5. The zoo is currently heavily subsidised and not sustainable in the long term. This report sets out options for managing the zoo in a more sustainable manner through income generation and visitor engagement.

Current Position

Public Engagement

6. A consultation exercise was carried out as part of the development of a Zoo options appraisal report during the summer of 2021. The following key stakeholders were engaged with:
 - Zoo staff and volunteers.
 - The Opening Spaces Learning Team.
 - Members of the Zoo Ethnic Committee.
 - Local stakeholders including park visitors and the Heath and Hampstead Society etc.

Findings from the Public Engagement

7. The main findings in the engagement exercise were :
 - The Zoo is well loved and a great resource for the local community.
 - People are in support of the new vision and having a greater emphasis on conservation.
 - Provides a great platform for aspiring keepers to gain valuable experience and knowledge within the Zoo sector.

Proposed Options

8. The following three options have been considered for how the Zoo moves forward. “Do the same,” “Do less” or “Do more.” The table below sets out the strengths and weaknesses of the three options.

Option	Strengths	Weaknesses
Do less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to deliver current and future savings • Possibility of re-purposing the land to deliver more valuable ecosystem services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on staff moral • Possible loss of volunteer contribution • Likely to lead to closure in medium term • Medium term impact on City of London’s reputation • Animal welfare issues for remaining stock • Ten phase plan not honoured
Do the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service continues to be provided • Can possibly provide further savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff moral • Lack of strategic direction • On-going deterioration of physical assets • Opportunities to address new thinking on animal welfare/habitation trends
Do more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Zoo offer • Enhanced park-wide offer • Enhanced learning and volunteering programme • Supports other businesses (e.g., café) • Reputational benefit of re-defined offer • Incorporation current thinking on animal welfare/habitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires investment • Requires charging regime – possible short term reputational impact • Possible staff resourcing issues • Risk of catastrophic loss of income (e.g., Covid)

9. Our preferred option is to “Do more” to create efficiencies and look at alternative opportunities to generate income that will provide resources to enhance the Zoo offer, visitor experience that also align with the 2017 Zoo Mission Statement.
10. The Butterfly House is currently closed and has been since the start of the COVID Pandemic. This created an opportunity to review its use for a new purpose that can decrease running costs and increase education value. , It is proposed to now use this footprint area to display smaller native mammals, insects, and reptiles that can be used by schools as well as visitors. A small charge might be considered for its use (appendix 1). This option follows the new collection plan and vision for the Zoo whilst also being the more sustainable and environmentally responsibly option as less heating will be required.

Development of the Preferred Option

11. The Zoo and Farm Team Leader in discussion with the Assistant Director of Hampstead Heath and the Operations Manager consulted with the chair of the BIAZA commercial & guest services working group, who is also the commercial director of another BIAZA collection. The discussion focused on ways the Zoo can generate an income stream that can be used to re-invest in the facility and make the zoo more sustainable. .
12. Income generation options have been explored, and it is proposed to trial the following activities for an eighteen-month period:
 - Updating the current adoption scheme which has generated on average £2,000.00 per year. The aim is to increase this scheme to £4,000.00 annually. The current offer for adoptees will be evaluated and modified. This will include updating signage to inform visitors on how their donation can help the Zoo with its running costs.
 - The introduction of contactless donation posts to increase the opportunity to collect income. This will be dependent on being able to secure a Wi-Fi connection at the Zoo and collaboration with colleagues in other departments within the City of London Corporation will be needed to achieve this outcome.
 - It is intended to offer for the first time two chargeable behind the scenes experiences as stated below:
 - a) Zookeeper Experience

Four-hour experience working with the keepers on a range of tasks within the Zoo. Sessions would be charged at £160 for one participant with a discounted rate of £250 for a two-person booking on the same session.
 - b) Animal Feeding Experience

Twenty minutes with a keeper feeding chosen animal. Sessions charged at £45 for one participant and a discounted rate of £80 for a two-person booking on the same session.
13. To begin with these sessions will only be open to adults over the age of eighteen, however once the sessions are established, we will look to create sessions suitable for children.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. The preferred option in this report contributes 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.

15. The preferred option outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021-22 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
16. The preferred option 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

17. The budget for maintaining the Zoo is £120,000.00 per annum and this is met via the Assistant Director's Hampstead Heath local risk budget.
18. An income generation target range of £10,000.00 - £15,000.00 is being set, for the Zookeeper Experiences, the Animal Adoption Scheme, and additional donations. This would reduce the current yearly subsidy by around 10%.
19. There will be cost implications involved in setting up the contactless donations posts these include administration and rental charges. Further costs will lie in the installation of Wi-Fi to allow the contactless posts to work.
20. There will be some need for capital investment to convert the Butterfly House in its current form into the small native's centre. It is hoped that most of the work can be completed in house and can be done in phases.

Resource Implications

21. Staff resources for the proposal are minimal. The Zookeeper and animal feeding experiences will include daily work activities and only being schedule on days with additional volunteers and work experience students.
22. There will be a small financial outlay to purchase personal protective equipment to be used in the Zookeeper sessions than can be met through existing budgets.

Climate Implications

23. N/A.

Legal Implications

24. Participants will be asked to sign a compact before undertaking their activity. The compact will be drawn up with advice from the controller and city solicitor.

Risk Implications

25. The preferred options will be managed under the City of London Corporate Health and Safety policies and procedures.

Equality Implications

26. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

Security Implications

27. N/A.

Conclusion

28. It is proposed to implement the 2017 Golders Hill Park Zoo Vision and Collection Plan, to introduce the two new behind the scenes experiences and change the Butterfly House to a small native's centre. The proposed changes will allow the Zoo the opportunity to generate additional income, reducing the level of subsidy and improve its education and conservation value. The collection will become more focused and create a more inclusive visitor experience.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Future collection at Golders Hill Park Zoo, Development plan.

Stefania Horne

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Future collection at GHP Zoo

Development plan

Updated: 15.05.2022

Author: Tom Lowry

Updated by: Laura Botelho



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Our Mission Statement:

“Inspiring engagement with our living world”

Vision

Our vision is to inspire learning and engagement with wildlife through:

Welfare	Welcoming	Engagement	Collection
Ensuring the health and wellbeing of the collection.	Providing a welcoming, safe and accessible zoo that visitors feel confident to explore.	<p>Inspiring people to develop their knowledge and understanding of wildlife in Britain, and its conservation.</p> <p>Encouraging people to engage and participate in the conservation, management and the development of the zoo.</p>	Ensuring the collection reflects wildlife in Britain and encourages understanding of their relationship with the Heath.

Outcomes Framework

	Outcome	Indicators / Measures
1	Welfare	
1.1	The collection is healthy and well cared for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with the husbandry guidelines from the British & Irish Association of Zoo and Aquariums (BIAZA) / European Association of Zoo and Aquariums (EAZA) / American Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) Maintain Zoo License Complete quarterly Veterinary Inspections Organise and lead the biannual Zoo and Farm Ethical Committee Maintain membership of BIAZA
1.2	The most suitable and appropriate habitat is provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Zoo Licence Complete quarterly Veterinary Inspections Organise and lead the biannual Zoo and Farm Ethical Committee Maintain membership of BIAZA Utilise natural materials from the Heath to enhance enclosure habitats
2	Welcoming	
2.1	The Zoo provides a welcoming, safe and accessible environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual visitor satisfaction survey
3	Engagement	
3.1	People have a greater understanding of wildlife in Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage around the enclosures is up to date, informative and reviewed annually.
3.2	The Open Spaces Department Learning Programme is delivered to children from Early Years Foundation Stage to key stage 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School visits are recorded and reported annually Feedback is sought from Teachers and/or Parents / Carers Evaluation findings from our Learning Programme are shared.
3.3	People are inspired to visit the facility again and/or volunteer in the conservation, management and development of the Zoo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual visitor satisfaction survey Increase volunteer participation. Establish baseline data for 2017/18 Increase Animal Adoption Scheme uptake by 5%
4	Collection	
4.1	The collection is comprised of species associated with wildlife in Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each species will fall into one of the following three categories: current / historic / introduced or invasive and meets the collection plan.
4.2	Visitors understand how the species in the collection relate to the Heath past and present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake annual visitor satisfaction survey

INTRODUCTION:

The redevelopment of Golders Hill Park Zoo is planned as an open-ended rolling project. The **mission, vision, values** and **ethos** which are to be used to guide the project are laid out here along with specific development proposals for each area of the site. While the mission, vision, values and ethos (MVVE) will provide unswerving guidance, the proposed developments described here are intended to be fully open and flexible as future circumstances may require. The ideas for redeveloping each area set out in this document represent the current most appropriate plans which are practically achievable within the MVVE framework, species welfare/husbandry needs and budgetary considerations.

The ethos behind this plan is the creation of a cohesive narrative within the collection. The narrative itself is to be anchored to the concept of 'Wildlife in Britain'. It is important here to distinguish between 'Wildlife in Britain' and 'British Wildlife', as the collection will not be aimed at becoming purely native species. It will rather become a diverse collection encapsulating the fluid nature of British natural history in recent millennia.

This 'Past, Present & Future' narrative gives the collection the scope to house a more diverse selection of species and, in doing so, to engage the public with the story of the natural history of Britain in general and the surrounding Heath habitats in particular. Every species exhibited within the collection must fall within one or more of the following categories:

- **Current Native British Species** – current natural inhabitants.
- **Historic Native British Species** – previous inhabitants now extinct on our shores.
- **Invasive or Introduced Species** – current or historical, intentional or accidental.
- **Importance to the Narrative** – providing a significant support to the narrative.

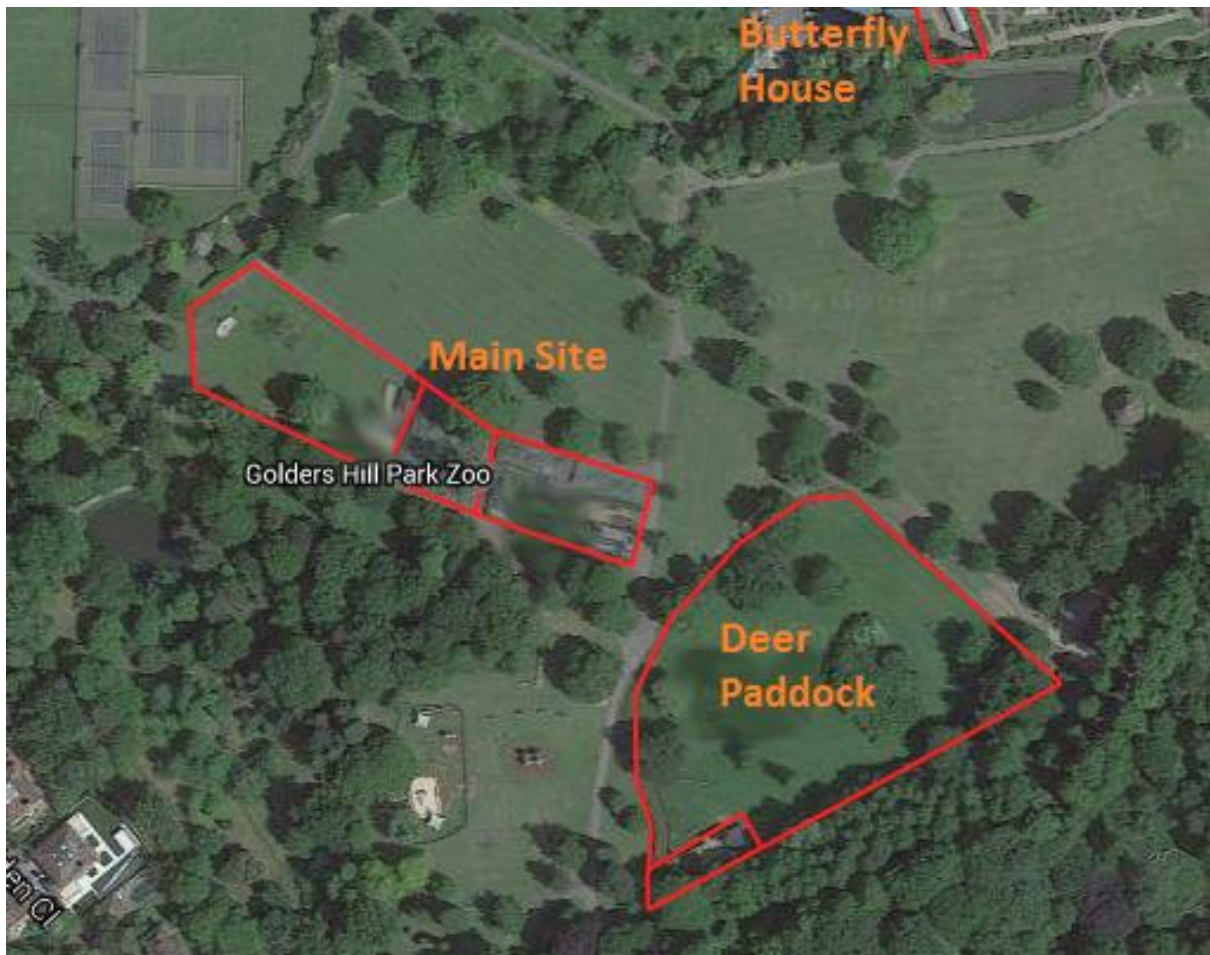


Figure 1 - General site overview.

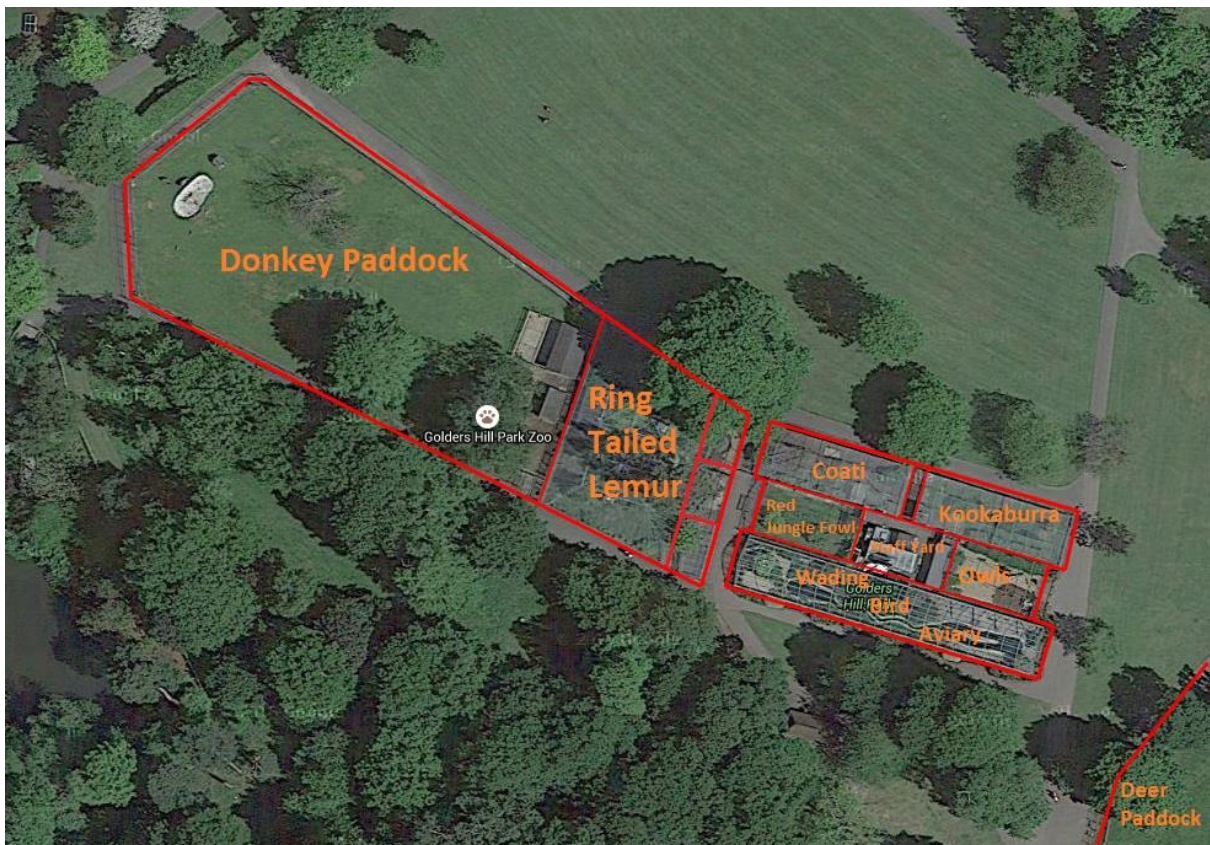


Figure 2 – Annotated overview of GHPZ enclosures (Butterfly House excluded due to scale)

DEER Paddock

The Deer Paddock represents the earliest period in the history of the zoo and is also probably our most viewed exhibit. Despite this it is currently massively under-utilized, containing only a herd of female Fallow Deer. This paddock constitutes the vast majority of the footprint of the zoo as well as being the area most open to and viewed by the casual visiting public.

The prominence of the enclosure, combined with its history, large size and current species make it an ideal enclosure to showcase the diversity of deer. There is sufficient space within the current footprint of the Deer Paddock to comfortably house not only an increased herd of Fallow Deer but also other species. This is subject to the suitability of selected species and would require the provision of extra shelters for separate species and fencing to physically split the paddock into sections to prevent any possible issues with aggression, especially between antlered and non-antlered species.

Whilst we are prevented from housing males of the species due to their category one status, we are able to house all female groups, this will allow us to create an exhibit including types of deer that represent differing threads of the story of the animal species living in Britain. Such an exhibit will provide not only a fuller, more engaging public viewing experience, but also would tie in well with the “Nature in Britain” narrative structure of the collection.

While there is some flexibility in the species which we might acquire to share this space, it is preferable to present species that display strong physical differences as well as differing natural histories, whilst maintaining the enclosures history as a Deer Paddock.

Some discussions took place in looking at introducing sheep as part of the zoo and as a reminder of the grazing history on the Heath and options are still being looked at with a possible partial use of the deer paddock. This will need to be fully evaluated as part of the zoo development taking advice from veterinary professional.

Species to be considered as part of the development of this area

1. **Fallow Deer** - Representing the species as a whole (which is variously described as Native, Introduced or Naturalised, dependant on source). There is a long history of Fallow Deer being kept in Golders Hill Park Zoo.
2. **Reindeer** – Surprisingly to most people, the species does qualify as Native, although all of the animals present in Britain in modern times are of

Scandinavian domestic origin. While we could not accommodate any males, we could hold an entirely female group to compliment the fallow deer. The addition of these beautiful and strikingly antlered animals would doubtless stimulate huge public interest year-round.

- 3. Red Deer/Roe Deer** – As the only two native species of Deer still found in the UK a small herd of either could be introduced to live with the Fallow Deer (more research required).

ADJUSTMENTS AND NEW FACILITIES REQUIRED:

The enclosure has been split into two sections running either side of the copse (north to south). The split has been made using 1.8m high stock fencing, with a set of double gates which allows vehicle and keeper access to both sides. The work to this enclosure has also included the addition of a standoff barrier that runs around the perimeter of the enclosure, the purpose of this is to keep the deer further away from the fence line to help reduce incidence of public feeding. It will also help to keep the antlered Reindeer away from the public. With the creation of the new reindeer enclosure the provision of shelter must be given in the form of a wooden stable block, this will be big enough to house a small herd of reindeer with an extra stable that can be used for storage and should the need arise to separate one or more of them. The stable block will sit on a concrete hardstand area that will have a perimeter fence surrounding it (same set up as currently seen in the donkey enclosure) this infrastructure will allow us to provide more hands-on care and will allow for less stressful vet visits. As part of the initial works carried out on the enclosure in 2019 a suitable stable has been sourced and the ground works have been costed. Planning permission for the stable block has also been granted by Barnet council.

One area that still requires additional thought and investigation is providing a water source to the reindeer side of the paddock.

DONKEY PADDOCK

The Donkey paddock was another area of the Zoo that was massively underutilised with only two Donkeys resident in the enclosure. The decision was made to introduce a mob of Bennett's Wallaby to share the space.

Donkeys - This species is much loved by our regular visiting public and also has a historical connection to the Heath, having been used as working animals for transporting building materials taken from the Heath prior to it becoming a public park.

The two individuals we currently hold should remain both as Heath history exemplars and a solid anchor for the considerable public attachment to our current inhabitants.

Bennett's Wallaby (also known as Red-necked Wallaby) - The space within the enclosure is such that we should also be able to easily accommodate a significant group of this species, preferably as a non-breeding group. The species has established populations in Scotland, the Isle of Man, the Peak District, Sussex and Hampshire making it a successful invader without causing any significant damage to native local fauna. Their naturalised status combined with their unusual appearance and mode of locomotion make them an excellent educational species, a notable part of non-native British Wildlife and a very engaging experience for the general public.

ADJUSTMENTS AND NEW FACILITIES REQUIRED:

The works to this enclosure have been completed; additional fencing was installed creating a larger standoff area for the donkeys at the top of the Paddock and a new stable was put in for the Wallabies.

The new fencing will allow keepers to more easily keep the Donkeys in or exclude them from a certain area but will still allow the wallabies to access the entire paddock.

The Wallaby shed was installed on the existing concrete plinth and consists of two rooms which can be split if needed. Some new fencing was added to create a small corral area at the back of the stable which allows them to be kept in should we need to catch them. This area has been created to exclude the Donkeys so also offers an area for the wallabies to go should they want to get away from them. In September 2019 we were joined by six female Bennett's Wallabies from Woburn Safari Park, some of which had joeys in pouch. Our Mob has doubled in size and as of 2021 we have 13 Wallabies living in the enclosure.

RING TAILED LEMUR & PHEASANT ENCLOSURES:

Ring-Tailed Lemur Enclosure

The current Ring-tailed Lemur exhibit represents the single largest fully enclosed exhibit in the collection by a considerable margin. Properly populating this extensive space within the constraints of our 'wildlife in Britain' aims is potentially difficult, but the enclosure structure lends itself to three main options.

NOTE: The lemurs currently in residence are of advanced years and have a stable social dynamic. Redevelopment of this enclosure would be delayed until the natural end of their lives unless suitable alternative space can be arranged for them.

OPTION 1: Mixed aviary exhibit. There are several species already within the collection which can be used as a suitable nucleus for building this mixed population, with other specimens able to be selected and introduced as and when they become available. As with the deer and donkey enclosure proposals the aim would be to present not only a mix of species but also of diverse natural histories. It is important to note that the development of bird enclosures will be aimed at species that have limited and no flying ability to mitigate the impact of birds being in an enclosure and have their wellbeing at heart.

CURRENT STOCK

Little Egret: The collection currently houses a group of three of these small white herons. The species began as a visitor to our shores in the late 1980's and began breeding in Britain naturally in 1996. This natural expansion of range without human intervention is a good example of the normal spread of a species into suitable environments, showing how a new species can become native to Britain even without human intervention.

Cattle Egret: As with the Little Egret we also hold three individuals of this species. Although not yet resident in Britain they are visiting in increasing numbers and may eventually form colony populations in the same way as the Little Egret has already.

Sacred Ibis: Although not currently known to breed in this country the species is popular in captivity around the world and has had numerous escapes both in Britain and continental Europe where it has established a number of colonies in France and Germany. The species is now classed as an invasive pest under European law and as such highlights how human actions can cause the spread of non-native species. (NOTE: While this is a less direct connection to wildlife in Britain, the European Invasive Species Act means that we must most likely keep these animals within the collection for the rest of their natural lives. While transfer of the species may be possible, it is unlikely that any other collection would wish to take them on under these circumstances.)

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

Common Pheasant: Although common around the British Isles these birds are actually an introduced species. Brought here potentially as early as the Roman occupation of Britain, the species became well established by the 15th century and most visitors would be surprised to find that they are not truly a native species. If the species can be integrated into the mixed aviary, they would provide an important historical perspective as well as adding interest to the lower spaces of the enclosure.

Grouse: Both Red and Black grouse are native species in Britain, and both are also suffering declining populations in the wild at this time. As with the Common Pheasant they would add further diversity to the natural history of the aviaries residents and interest to its ground level.

It is likely that only one of these species could be accommodated due to space and potential behavioural conflict. Choice as to which species to select can be made at a later date as the aviary population is developed.

OPTION 2: Scottish walkthrough area.

The current enclosure consists of mesh fitted over a tubular metal framework. This framework could be used to subdivide the current enclosure to create new public pathway which would run between a number of smaller enclosures within the space. This approach has multiple advantages. From a public point of view, the area will connect with the 'Out-Side-In Space' (outlined on pages 12 & 13) delivering a more immersive zoo experience and should also allow us to remove the obtrusive secondary chain-link fence to be replaced with a planted border and lower wooden stand-off barrier improving public visibility and the aesthetic of the site.

The newly created enclosures on what are currently the public boundary would be used to house species such as red grouse, Capercaillie, common pheasant and other gamebirds. This arrangement will also be ideal for housing Red Squirrels as the new internal enclosure will be enveloped by the outer new enclosures. This will effectively double mesh the internal enclosure as is necessary for biosecurity protection (preventing transmission of the squirrel pox virus from the Heaths population of wild Grey Squirrels). Only the single side of the Red Squirrel area facing the new public path would require extra resources to provide proper protection and this can be easily and cheaply achieved.

OPTION 3: Rare Breeds walkthrough area.

The area could be utilised to house a number of domestic rare breeds. The integrity of the enclosure would be able to remain intact with small modifications made to make an entrance/exit. This area could become a paid area if thought was given to an easy way to take payment such as a contactless turnstile. The majority of the animals would have some visibility from the outside, but visitors would have the option of paying a small contribution to enter and get closer to the animals. This area would only be able to be open for set hours in the day and therefore the ability to see some of the animals outside of this time would be essential. Having an area that people can come into would increase the feeling of inclusivity with visitors. Animals in this enclosure could include rare breed sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, ducks etc. With this option thought would have to be given to the staff time it takes to run such an area as it would need to be staffed whilst open to the public.

Whilst this option takes us away from wild animals there are opportunities to breed and be involved in saving these breeds from extinction, there is also the added benefit of these animals being highly visible and good for visitor interaction.

Current Pheasant Enclosure

The enclosure is split into three sections with internal mesh and access doors.

The option decided upon for the Lemur enclosure will impact the changes made to this enclosure. If option 1: the mixed aviary is chosen then the middle section of the enclosure will be transformed into an internal viewing window, allowing visitors to feel like they are in the enclosure. This will be achieved by removing the mesh and framework from the front and roof of the enclosure and extending it back into the aviary. For options 2 and 3 the central section of the pheasant enclosure would be removed completely creating an entrance into the enclosure.

The two end enclosures will be maintained ready as holding areas for animals within the collection that require separation but for whom full quarantine facilities are not necessary. This will enable us the flexibility to engage in conservation breeding programs by addressing possible welfare issues caused by overcrowding or to temporarily separate animals for veterinary treatment and recuperation. At the same time this will allow our current facilities to be kept available for cases that require full sequestration for reasons of quarantine or veterinary care.

As these enclosures will likely be empty of animals for a significant proportion of the time particular attention will need to be paid to their aesthetic furnishings and to providing significant explanatory signage for our visitors. These will need to be updated as and when residents come and go but will have the additional advantage of enabling regular visitors to engage with some of the internal goings on of the collection.

RED JUNGLE FOWL ENCLOSURE

The collection currently suffers from a lack of internal public space. The only time that the visiting public may feel truly 'in' the zoo is passing along the path between our upper and lower enclosures. This leaves one with the impression of almost skirting around the zoo itself rather than being properly surrounded and thus immersed in the experience. Also lacking is the facility to display any of the smaller species that are common in Britain and on the Heath in particular. The proposal laid out here is aimed at addressing both issues by creating a publicly accessible covered area inside the current zoo boundaries which will double up as an educational space as well as housing a number of small vivarium type exhibits. This would be achieved by redeveloping the footprint of the area currently occupied by the Red Jungle Fowl.

A simple wooden framework and polycarbonate roofing will provide a sheltered area with one wall fully open onto the current pathway through the zoo. Use of transparent roofing material and maintaining the small tree within the area will have the effect of creating an area that feels very much as though the outside world of the Heath is being brought inside. Simple wood panel walls on the three solid sides of the structure will allow for vivarium displays to be set behind appropriate cut-out viewing windows as well as providing a huge surface area for interpretation displays. To further increase the impression of entering into a new space the current pathways leading into the area from both sides will be covered by a 'living-roof', a simple arrangement of suitably dense climbing plant species grown across wires or trellis connecting the fencing of the current pheasant exhibit with that of the coati and wading aviary. Gates will need to be installed at each of these entrances to maintain proper security.

The Vivarium Exhibits:

The space should be sufficient to accommodate 6 or 8 small vivarium exhibits which will enable us to display a decent variety of species present in the habitats of the Heath. The possibilities for species are many and specific choices can be made at a later date to ensure that they fit with the more specifically Heath related interpretation message intent for this 'Out-Side-In Space'. A mixture of native and invasive species in these enclosures would be the ideal from an educational viewpoint, with each species being linked with extensive interpretation displays relating to native or invasive counterparts or to their habitat impacts or ecological niches surrounding each vivarium. Some of the possible options are:

Red-Eared Sliders / Terrapins – Currently resident in some of the Heath ponds and regularly trapped for removal and rehoming. The species is a great example of how human actions in acquiring and then releasing unwanted pets can have a lasting impact on British wildlife.

American Signal Crayfish – Intentional introduced into British waterways this species has now rapidly spread and is supplanting our native crayfish in their habitats. These invaders are also present in some of the Heaths aquatic habitats helping to link specific Heath wildlife to British wildlife in general for our visitors.

Common Frog or Toad – Often used as an example when exploring the life cycles of different species, the growth and development of these amphibians is an educational tool that has been in use for generations.

Wormery – One of the most important species in maintaining soil quality globally and also one which is rarely considered or observed by most people. A well-presented wormery will highlight this less considered but essential part of Heath (and world) ecology and the importance of even these smallest of inhabitants as both a food source for other species and a key part of general ecology.

Ant Colony – Similar to the wormery an ant colony can be used to highlight the roll of invertebrates in the breakdown of detritus and the maintenance of Heath habitats. There are a large number of potential species that may be presented this way and a choice will be made in consultation with specialist entomologist at a later date.

WADING BIRD AVIARY

Like much of the zoo, the current Wading Bird Aviary is a large but rather under-utilised space. The existing fabric of the enclosure lends itself to being fairly easily divided into several large enclosures, thus increasing both stock diversity and public interest/value for the available space. Whilst physically divided the enclosures will be stylistically cohesive, furnished so as to represent a continuous area of native British woodland. The preferred species set out here represent an excellent mix of conservation needs, public engagement and British natural history.

- **Enclosure 1 – Eurasian Eagle Owls:** The male we currently hold is greatly loved by many of our regular visitors and are also an excellent example of historical British wildlife, having died out on the British mainland some 9000 years ago. Moving these birds to a new, larger and more naturalistically furnished enclosure will help to integrate them into the new zoo narrative, provide continuity as well as an improved experience for regular visitors and the animals themselves.
- **Enclosure 2 – Pine Martens:** Pine martens are an excellent example of historical human impacts on native wildlife and also the ongoing native species conservation work taking place in Britain today. Steady decline in the 19th century due to persecution and forest clearance is being countered today by scientific study, captive breeding, habitat protection and relocation programs.
- **Enclosure 3 – Scottish Wild Cats:** Britain's only surviving wild feline, this species is under very real threat from disease and genetic dilution due to the prevalence of feral and domestic cats in and around their remaining wild habitats. They are now found only in remote parts of Scotland despite once being widespread throughout Britain. The potential for us to engage in supporting the captive breeding program for this species would be an excellent ex-situ conservation effort for us to undertake and provide a wonderful educational opportunity for the visiting public on one of Britain's lesser-known predatory species.
- **Enclosure 4 – European Polecat:** Widespread throughout Europe including the UK this species presents an excellent and entertaining introduction to the kind of native British wildlife rarely seen by the overwhelming majority of people. As the sole ancestor of the domesticated ferret, they also provide an interesting window into the interactions between humans and our native species. These highly active and engaging creatures will create a high impact counterpoint to the often-elusive Wildcats and Pine martens.

The resulting series of enclosures and animals will meet all our mission and vision needs by educating and engaging with the public whilst also giving us the potential to contribute to captive conservation efforts in the future.

RING TAILED COATI

This enclosure will continue to be used to house our male Ring-Tailed Coati 'Pedro'. The species is featured on the listings of the European Invasive Species Act, and this imposes restrictions making it difficult to re-home him. Whilst he might be legally transferred to another collection their invasive status and the dangers involved in attempting to integrate individuals into unfamiliar groups means that finding a suitable home for him is extremely unlikely. He will remain in the collection for the remainder of his natural life span.

Pedro offers a stimulating and interesting viewing experience for the visiting public, and they can be integrated into the 'wildlife in Britain' narrative as an example of an invasive/introduced exotic species which is having a significant impact in parts of continental Europe (Breeding populations have established in Spain). There have also been reports of several escapes and unconfirmed sightings of possible breeding of the species around the Lake District in recent years.

Whilst the enclosure is currently sufficient to his needs it is in need of refurbishing to improve the aesthetic appeal and usability of the area for the species. This is an ongoing project using materials freely available on-site.

As Pedro nears the end of his natural life thought will need to be given to what species can inhabit this enclosure as for the reasons stated above there will be no scope for replacing with more coati. As the enclosure is the same as the Kookaburra's species considered for that enclosure could also be considered for this one.

KOOKABURRA AVIARY

The aviary which currently houses Kookaburra and Speckled Pigeon is proposed to be developed according to one of two options presented below. The choice will depend on whether the enclosure can be adapted to house Red Squirrels within welfare and budgetary constraints. This will need to be decided by consultation with experienced keepers of the species and scrutiny of budget availability. An analysis of this option was undertaken by the International Zoo Veterinary Group for a previous version of the collection plan. This concluded that while feasible, housing Red Squirrels would require significant investment in adapting the current structure of the enclosure.

RED SQUIRRELS: The housing of Red Squirrels remains the preferred option due to their status as an iconic species of native British fauna and the possibility that the collection might be able to engage with other organisations in the conservation breeding of the species. This possibility must be balanced against the potential difficulty/cost of adapting the enclosure to suit the species needs. Most importantly this would mean raising the roof of the structure by a significant amount, probably doubling the current height at a minimum (keepers will be looking to consult with the Wild Wood collection). There are also concerns to address in terms of potential contact with the local Grey Squirrel population in terms of disease risk. Grey Squirrels often carry squirrel pox virus which is fatal to Red Squirrels. Creating an effective transmission barrier would need to be balanced against the need to improve public viewing of the animals.

(This collection plan also contains an alternate option for housing this species which addresses these issues, see “Ring-Tailed Lemur Enclosure” Option 2 on page 11)

BLACK GROUSE: These relatively large native birds occur in parts of Scotland, Wales and Northern England and occupy moorland and the edges of woodland. The current enclosure would require very little adjustment other than replanting/landscaping to mimic the species natural habitats. Even a relatively small group comprising a single male and several females should make the area well populated to public eyes. If multiple males could be safely housed together, they may also display their lekking courtship behaviours providing further spectacle for regular visitors. Although they lack the iconic appeal of the Red Squirrel, Black Grouse would still create a good exhibit with both the enclosure and the animals being easier to prepare and maintain.

In 1999 a biodiversity action plan was put in place for the Black Grouse in a bid to increase numbers. Today they are classified as Red under the birds of conservation concern on the red list for birds UK meaning that their numbers are decreasing. As well as being a good exhibit they will also offer a good educational opportunity and possibly a chance to get involved in some conservation projects.

EAGLE OWL AVIARY

For many of our visitors the current Eagle Owl aviary may be considered the ‘front-and-centre’ of the zoo, and the proposal for redeveloping the current Wading Bird Aviary would see this enclosure emptied. Both our current collection and the majority of this new collection plan focus on larger scale mammal and bird life in Britain. This leaves little space for covering the ecological connectivity of plant and animal life and includes only a small amount of space for other taxonomic groups (see Red Jungle Fowl/’Out-Side-In’ development). By opening up this enclosure as a public space we can again draw our visitors into the zoo itself whilst presenting them with a concentrated flavour of the wildlife out on the Heath and British ecology in general. In order to achieve this effect, this area should be developed into a semi-formal public garden displaying native, invasive and introduced plant species integrated with exemplars of invertebrate, amphibian and reptile habitats. This garden would occupy only the public facing front half of the current enclosure with the remaining area being given over to the expansion of the internal staff yard to accommodate improved and updated facilities.

By removing the scaffold framework and mesh making up the aviary the area will be opened up to public access and expand the available footprint outward to level with the enclosures either side of the space. By employing a ‘pinch-point’ narrowed entry way and using tiered raised beds on all sides this will become quite an immersive space whilst also providing suitable visual and sound barriers for the enclosures on either side. Visitors entering the space will be presented on all sides with a mix of plants representing food sources, breeding sites and home habitat for various species. Although signage must be made to comprehensively cover the ecological significance of the plants, we would hope to keep it rather more low-key and integrated with the aesthetic of the garden rather than overwhelming it (CONCEPT = Information vs Aesthetic). The planning and execution of this space will require extensive cooperation and consultation with park horticultural staff and NLOS ecologist to achieve the desired balance of information and aesthetic considerations.

Distributed within the planting around the garden will be examples of the habitat requirements for a range of species types and the importance of these groups to British ecology. These will include a small wild pond area to focus on amphibians, a beehive (uninhabited for safety), wood and stone piles for reptiles, rotting logs and leaf litter for insects as well as spaces for both wild bird and bat boxes. With the exception of the beehive these habitats will be minimally maintained allowing the possibility of wild examples creatures taking up residence. Again, here the interpretation must be comprehensive without becoming obtrusive. The aim is to create an attractive, immersive space for the public within which they can gather a great deal of knowledge

if they look a little closer as a reflection of the larger experience available to them out in the Heath habitats proper.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Due to covid-19 and the restrictions put in place the Butterfly House did not open for the 2020 season. In 2021 it remained closed due to the remaining restrictions.

Prior to its closure the Butterfly House was open from the end of March until the end of October and was open daily between 1-3pm. On top of the heating costs, £100 a week is spent on pupae to top up stock. There is a Donation Box located inside the Butterfly House that on average makes £2,000. Housing only exotic butterflies does not fit the new narrative theme of the collection and requires substantial heating and therefore a change of the area is proposed to enable us to utilise this space more effectively.

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: Small natives' centre.

The Butterfly House could be repurposed to house a number of smaller species, giving the public a good idea of the array of native species found in the UK (some of which may be found on the heath). This area could be modified to become a chargeable space and its location next to the Glasshouse could offer a great opportunity to offer more sessions to school groups.

There are a number of species that could be housed in this area that would allow the public to get a much closer look of some of the more elusive species they would be unlikely to see in the wild. It would give us a chance to explain the important roles these species have in maintaining ecosystems and be able to show the conservation/ecology work that takes place within the heath. Given that this area would need to be staffed it may be an opportunity to collaborate with Heath hands to support this project.

Ideas of species that could be held are as follows.

- Hazel door mice – classified as vulnerable and is part of a conservation programme that we could be involved in.
- Harvest mouse – Near threatened.
- Bees – display hive could be installed backing on to the garden.
- A pond to display some species of native fish
- Native moths and Butterflies

- Hedgehog – iconic British mammal with populations in decline, could house a rescue that cannot be released back into the wild.
- Native reptiles – common lizard, sand Lizard, slow worm, grass snake, Adder, smooth snake.

Not all of these species would need to be housed and more research into availability and husbandry needs would need to be done.

This area could also provide a good place to educate the public on what to do with Wildlife they find in the park, i.e. fledgeling birds/hedgehogs.

STAFF FACILITIES UPGRADE

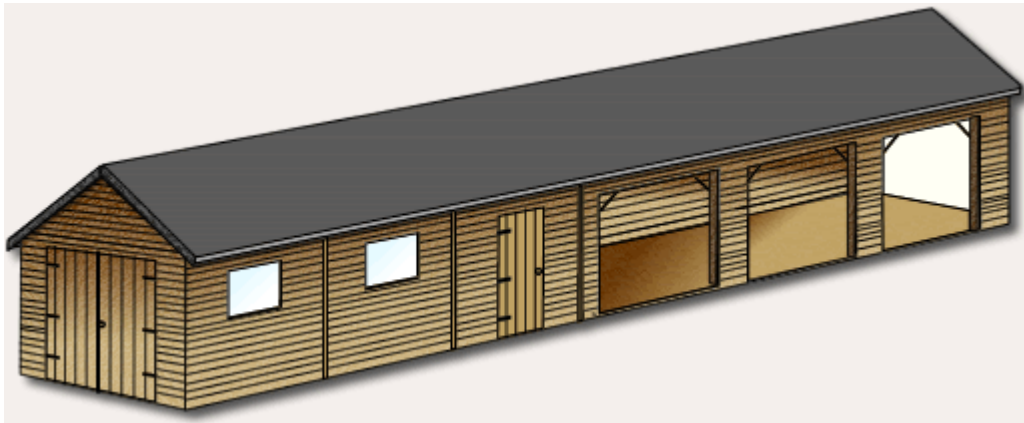
The current zoo yard and associated facilities will need to be substantially upgraded in order to enable staff to provide appropriate levels of care for the expanded and diversified collection. Improved facilities will be necessary for food preparation, dry fodder storage, veterinary facilities, quarantine and recovery holding enclosures, office space, general equipment and supply storage, tool and material storage and workshop space.

This improvement will be achieved by expanding the footprint of the yard area and replacing the current accretion of mismatched structures with prefabricated wooden agricultural buildings (examples below). The area will be enlarged by taking in half of the adjacent Eagle Owl enclosure on one end and also part of the current Red Jungle Fowl enclosure on the opposite side. These can be able to be tailored to our specific needs, making more sensible use of the available space.

Best use of the available footprint will be to use standard prefabricated wooden stable buildings where each section or room is 3.6m square (12' x 12') as standard, plus a sheltering overhang of a further 0.9m. The area is wide enough to accommodate two of these structures placed back-to-back leaving an open veranda each side so that accessibility to all parts of the adjacent enclosures is unimpeded. The result should be two separate buildings with an open yard space between. The smaller of the two buildings will be approximately 7.2 x 7.2m and house a new veterinary treatment room, zoo office and two quarantine or treatment holding enclosures. This will be separated from the larger building by a 3m wide open yard adjoining the current gated entrance to the compound. The second, larger building will be ~7.2 x 10.8m and provide space for the animal kitchen, storage for bulk dry feeds, hay & straw, tools & materials, workshop space and a further two quarantine/holding areas.

It is possible that the 'Out-Side-In Space' described earlier in the collection plan (p.13) could also be included as part of this build by extending the roof and walls of the smaller of the buildings to cover the entirety of the current Red Jungle Fowl enclosure. With the far Western end left fully open to the public this could accommodate the proposed exhibits and save on over all construction time and costs by combining the two projects, utilising the prefab structures to create the new public space.

Reference Images:





SUMMARY

The redevelopment of Golders Hill Park Zoo will take many years. In reality it may be considered as an unending push to reinvigorate and improve all aspects of the collection. Through a rolling program of progressive change, guided by the **mission, vision, values & ethos** set out in this plan we can begin this process of growth and betterment.

Whilst we may adjust or change any of the development proposals herein the final aim remains unchanged. Golders Hill Park Zoo will become an outstanding, welcoming public resource, focused on promoting public engagement with our living world and with the wildlife of the British Isles and Hampstead Heath in particular.

9 Phase Plan Timetable:

Phase 1: Introduction of wallaby in the donkey paddock.	2017/19	Completed 2019
Phase 2: Redevelop butterfly house – native species.	2022/24	
Phase 3: Introduction of reindeer to deer paddock.	2024/25	
Phase 4: Redevelop Jungle fowl enclosure to create inside out space.	2024/25	
Phase 5: Redevelopment of wading bird enclosure. (3 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosure 1: Scottish wildcats • Enclosure 2: Owl • Enclosure 3: Pine marten 	2025/28	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosure 4: Pine marten • Enclosure 5: Polecats 		
Phase 6: Redevelopment of Coati/Kookaburra enclosure to introduce red squirrels / ground dwelling birds – pheasant, grouse, capercaillie etc.	2028/29	
Phase 7: Redevelop old owl enclosure to create Heath botanical display area.	2028/29	
Phase 8: Redevelop staff yard area.	2028/29	
Phase 9: Redevelop ring tail lemur enclosure.	TBC	

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consulative Committee	Date(s): 23 May 2022
Subject: Assistant Directors 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?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

Summary

On 9 June 2014 Committee approval was given for marriage and civil partnership ceremonies to take place at the Hill Garden and Pergola. A licence was obtained from London Borough of Camden to establish them as licenced venues. Weddings have been supported by existing keeper's teams with a substantial amount of manager's time.

It is proving challenging to ascertain the financial performance of the current arrangements as substantial staff time is required, and staff are taken away from day to day duties, with casual staff engaged to attend to regular duties. There is also a limitation in developing the business within our teams due to the specialist nature of the activities and the skillsets required. The report sets out the proposal to enter into a contract with a specialist wedding supplier to manage weddings at the Hill Garden and Pergola.

Recommendation

It is recommended that: -

- Members provide feedback in relation to the proposal set out in para 12.

Main Report

Background

1. The use of the Hill Garden and Pergola as a venue for weddings was proposed as a means of generating income for the Hampstead Heath charity.
2. Following Committee approval in June 2014, we began hosting weddings at the Hill Garden the pergola and the Belvedere

3. During the 8 years ranging from 7 to 22 weddings per year, with a decrease in bookings during the pandemic.

Current Position

4. Since 2014 staff have proved invaluable in managing the ceremonies, which are vastly different from the events usually taking place within Open Spaces. Each is obviously a very personal occasion and needs to be managed as such. With the parting of the business manager who managed weddings, there has been an opportunity to review the business and measure its long term sustainability.
5. From the events that have already taken place it has become clear that the service provided is resource intensive and is taking away key Golders Hill staff from their main duties to host weddings. A substantial resource at managerial level is also required.
6. This year from March to October, 17 weddings have been booked on Thursday Friday and Saturdays.
7. The viewing meeting conducted before a booking is taken and the follow up meeting to complete arrangements has proved to be a particularly important part of the process, as it provides clarity from the start and manages expectations. This relies heavily on the Leisure and Events managers time.
8. The Registrars who have visited the site to perform ceremonies have been very happy with the way the facility is managed. An Officer from the Hampsted Heath teams, often at managerial level, must attend all the ceremonies.
9. Although receptions cannot be held at the venue, couples have requested the opportunity to drink a toast following their ceremony and have brought their own drinks flutes and canapes for this purpose. This has proven very successful and we are currently seeking a licence to develop this part of the offer as part of the packages.
10. The 2-hour hire period for the venue has worked effectively in most cases.
11. Storage facilities for the items required for the events, such as chairs, tables, barriers and signs are currently located within Golders Hill Park.

Proposal

12. Due to the very labour intense nature of the activities and the specialist nature of the provision of these activities, the proposal is to engage with a specialist wedding contractor with a concession to take over the provision of the service through an income share formula.
13. It is proposed that there will be no change to current venue guest capacities. During the two year contract period the contractor will be setting fees and charges according to the market. The frequency of the ceremonies will remain unchanged but a review with the contractor might be necessary in the future, with the principle that the venues are to remain accessible to members of the public. The proposal includes Queen's park ceremonies.
14. It is envisaged that these arrangements will be trialled for two years.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. This proposal contributes 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.
16. The proposed changes outlined in this report would 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.

Conclusion

17. This proposal will be able to give us a more transparent picture of the financial performance of these activities and will reduce the impact on the day to day duties of our keepers.

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Volunteering Update – May 2022

Heath Hands as ever continues to **collaborate** and **partner** with CoLC and English Heritage in the delivery of events, volunteering learning programme and communications.

Recruitment of 25 new volunteers so far in 2022, with a total volunteer group now 170.

- **conservation and estate maintenance** programme fully running across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Hill Garden, Heath Extension, Golders Hill Park, Keats House and Kenwood Estate.

-Over **15,000 Heath Hands volunteering hours** in 2021-22 – highest ever annual total.

-In addition to Heath Hands' work, volunteers contributed over **1,500 hours** across Keats House, Highgate Wood, Golders Hill Zoo and Queens Park Zoo

-**wildlife interpretation** weekend sessions re-started in January with Big Garden Birdwatch – monthly theme (trees in May)

-seasonal **wildlife monitoring** re-started in April. Increase to 4 reptile transects, developing our butterfly and dragonfly surveys

-over 165 **youth** volunteers involved during 2022 on after school and weekend sessions

-**Heath Friendly Schools:** seventeen local schools have joined membership scheme and hundreds of pupils taking part in volunteering and nature activities

-**corporate volunteering:** 12 companies welcomed so far in 2022 following a record year in 2021.

-**community** activities and health connections (selected): regular activities and partnerships developed with QCCA (Queen's Crescent Community Association), Umoja (African) Health Forum and Barnet Mencap. Programme of wellbeing activities e.g. forest bathing, nature walks and work with social prescribers.

Annual **Community Fun Day** on Sunday 12th June 2022 at Parliament Hill Bandstand.

Selected Highlights

What's on: growing programme of **walks and talks** organised: tree identification, nature art, bird walks, pollinator walks – coordinated to complement Hampstead Heath's programme of nature walks.

Work experience programme for two trainees so far in 2022.

Savernake Road bridge: work progresses on the borders over the bridge, with wildflower meadow areas, perennials and heathland plants. Greening project around Hive with new native hedgerows and **wildflower meadows** being developed for areas behind Hive in conjunction with Heath's Ecologist and Butterfly Conservation.

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