



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: HYBRID – VIRTUAL AND COMMITTEE ROOM 4, SECOND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)	Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)	Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)	Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
John Foley	Prof. Jeff Waage (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Merlin Fox (Heath Hands)	David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)	John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)
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)	

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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 Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 23 May 2022.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 12)

- a) Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (Pages 13 - 18)

To note the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 15 June 2022.

4. **SPORTS AND WELLBEING FORUM - DRAFT ACTION POINTS**

To receive the draft action points of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum meeting held on 21 July 2022.

For Information
(Pages 19 - 24)

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Report of Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 25 - 46)

6. **A BLUEPRINT FOR THE PARLIAMENT HILL LIDO**

Report of Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 47 - 52)

7. **GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT FOR NATURE RECOVERY**

Report of Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 53 - 60)

8. **SWIMMING BOOKING SYSTEMS**

Report of Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 61 - 64)

9. **VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR PARLIAMENT HILL IMPROVEMENTS**

Report of Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 65 - 70)

10. **HEATH HANDS SEPTEMBER UPDATE**

For Information
(Pages 71 - 72)

11. **QUESTIONS**

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

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7 November 2022
16 January 2023

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 23 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at HYBRID – VIRTUAL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, 2ND FLOOR, WEST on Monday, 23 May 2022 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton QC (Deputy Chairman)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Simon Hunt (Open Spaces Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Jeff Waage (Heath & 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)

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Edwin James Birch	- City Surveyor's Department
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Division
Declan Gallagher	- Natural Environment Division
Richard Gentry	- Natural Environment Division
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Division
Katherine Radusin	- Natural Environment Division

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Matthew Frith (London Wildlife Trust) and Merlin Fox (Heath Hands). Karin Oleinkova was in attendance for Heath Hands.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting of the Consultative Committee, held on 24 January 2022.

A Member (Friends of Kenwood) suggested that the final sentence in item 12 be corrected to read 'should *not* be sited on the Heath'.

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 24 January 2022 be agreed as a correct record, as corrected.

MATTERS ARISING:

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) suggested that the style of minutes should reflect that Members were giving views rather than asking questions. They also requested that the name of the body the Members were representing be included in the minutes, as had been the previous practice.

A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) raised concerns about the format of the Wellbeing Forum. They felt that the change from the Sports Forum to the Wellbeing Forum could lose the voice of the Clubs . The Chair suggested that the Committee continue to monitor the Forum's performance.

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

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

MATTERS ARISING:

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) expressed their concern that the current timetable to the developments being carried out on the Parliament Hill Athletics Track would risk the loss of the entire 2024 athletics season. They asked if the timetable if the project team could consider moving the timetable forward by a couple of months to allow more flexibility and reduce the risk. They also suggested that it would be helpful if future works after the project could be included in the cyclical maintenance programme, or have a reserve fund developed, rather than having it return as a major project each time. Officers replied that preventative maintenance through cyclical works are preferred from reactive maintenance, but there is a limited budget for assets and infrastructure and a priority system is in place. The Assistant Director said that the upcoming investment in the athletics track would hopefully allow for better resilience in the future. The Gateway 2 Report was going to the Operational Property and Projects Sub Committee for approval on Monday 30 May. This was the final step in drawing down the funds for the project. Once this approved, officers would consult with the City Surveyor's Department on procuring the design team and reviewing the programme. A Member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) said that the Representatives were a distance away from understanding the procurement timetable and programme of works, and that once out to tender contractors might come back with their own preferences. They agreed that it was vital to

avoid losing the athletics season and that once there was greater clarity on the project, they would welcome further discussions on how to minimise disruption.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, providing the Assistant Director's Update.

Night of 10,000 PBs

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) said that the Heath should be considering how to build on this event, particularly with the forthcoming resurfacing of the Parliament Hill Athletics Track. They suggested that further events should look into the possibility of sponsorship.

Constabulary

A review of the constabulary was carried out to respond to the changes brought by the pandemic with the aim of having a more effective and responsive service that is guided by data. A Member ((London Council for Sport and Recreation) commented that it was important to make sure that there was a Constabulary presence by the Model Boating Pond over the summer, as this was a popular spot for unauthorised swimming and barbecues.

Placards

A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) raised the issue of the number of signs on the Heath, and said that it was important that the vision of the Heath as a piece of countryside in London was not abandoned. They gave the example of signage at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. In reply, the Assistant Director said that signage was due to be included in the Swimming Review, and invited the Member to contact her with other examples of signage and issues encountered on the Heath.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

- Receive the report and note the contents
- Provide feedback on the draft Divisional Plan 2022-25 in appendix 1
- Provide feedback on the draft Swimming Annual Review 2021/22

5.1 **Draft Divisional Plan 2022-25**

A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) said that they were pleased that archaeological interpretations were going to be included, and suggested that some of the projects can be listed to clarify the outcomes.. They said that there was a need to produce a full survey of known archaeological monuments across the Heath. They would also like to see a commitment to maintaining long-term ecological commitments. In regards to item 10, they hoped that they would be able to work with others on that item. With regards to item 14, they hoped that visitor engagement would be accompanied by a public information and communication programme.

The Assistant Director said the Natural Environment Department was conducting a wide survey and heritage audit at a Divisional level, which would help to develop appropriate plans. With regards to visitor engagement, this

would underpin new ways of working for Natural Environment, which was looking to conduct a more strategic approach.

A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association) asked for an update on fundraising. The Assistant Director replied that fundraising was one of a number of focused workstreams for how the Natural Environment Department could work strategically and joined up.

5.2 HomeRun App data

A Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) commented that the data set on journeys round the Heath from schools was taken from private schools rather than general schools local to the Heath. For private schools to expand, they need to have proposals for green ways for pupils to get to school. The Chair asked if any further data was expected. In reply, the Assistant Director said that this was the data that had been provided by the London Borough of Camden and she would feed back to Camden on possible further data from other schools.

A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) expressed their view that the data was inadequate and was biased towards certain schools and socio-economic classes. They felt it should contain further information on all the schools neighbouring the Heath, and consider all the ways in which students travelled across the Heath.

A Member (London Council for Sports and Recreation) said that the scheme was a valid way to contribute towards the reduction of rush hour traffic.

5.3 Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)

The Assistant Director reported in the progress of the ponds improvement programme. The engagement with users and stakeholders was completed and there has been an overwhelming support for the proposed improvements. The next stage will be to submit a planning application and, pending approval, works are due to start in the autumn.

5.4 Draft Swimming Annual Review 2021/22

A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) commented that they were pleased to see from the paper that the team had been reaching out to groups who might not normally use the facilities, and praised the staff for the job they were doing.

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) asked if the income from 2021/22 covered the costs, when compared to the budget, and commented that swimming would always require a subsidy. In reply, an Officer said that the subsidy had decreased by 6% from the previous year, and that this exceeded the expectations in the budget.

A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Resident's Association) asked if the aim of ensuring that all customers pay for swimming had been successful. An

Officer replied that they had introduced methods and systems that will allow to monitor payments.

5.5 Murphy's Yard Representation letter (February 2022)

The Chair commented that, although the developer's had withdrawn the application, it seemed that development on the site was still likely, and said that it was important for the Committee to continue to monitor the impact potential development could have. A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) said that the development was one of the largest proposed adjacent to the Heath for some time, and provided a chance to enhance the impact of the Heath's biodiversity on the local community.

5.6 Biodiversity Interpretation Boards

A Member (Friends of Kenwood) expressed their hope that the wording for the Summer Biodiversity Interpretation Board had been agreed. Officers confirmed that the summer boards will be ready to be installed shortly. They also asked for further clarification on the information on grazing livestock, as she was not aware of any plans to introduce grazing at Kenwood. A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) replied to say that they were responsible for the statements, along with English Heritage. With regards to grazing, trialling had been carried out on Hampstead Heath using sheep, and there were plans to repeat this. Longhorn cattle were not being used, but were included on the Board to highlight historic methods.

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

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment relative to the proposed sustainable management at Golder's Hill Park Zoo.

A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) said that the direction being taken by the Zoo was a good one, as was a strong case for a zoo focused on a conservation and education remit rather than putting wild animals in cages. They said that they hoped that the report author could make it clear that, during the transitional period, the Zoo had a duty of care to the exotic animals in its collection. An Officer replied that as part of the Licences Act, the Zoo was required to have an ethics committee. This committee meets twice a year and its members have substantial experience. All decisions on stock management go through the committee.

A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) asked if there were any plans on concessions for the zoo experiences to engage people who otherwise could not afford them. An Officer replied that there was a volunteering programme open to everyone that will allow participation no matter the backgrounds. .

RESOLVED, 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.

7. **WEDDINGS AND CIVIL CEREMONIES - ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**
Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Assistant Director's update on the hosting of weddings and civil ceremonies on Hampstead Heath.

A Member (South End Green Association) expressed concern about the number of weddings to be organised, as they did not want to see the pergola frequently closed to accommodate these.. In reply, an Officer said that the main issues would be keeping the capacity and frequency of events in balance.

A Member (Friends of Kenwood) asked for further information on the costs of weddings and the revenue they brought in, and for clarification on the maximum capacity for weddings. An officer confirmed that capacity was capped at 120 guests at the pergola. With regards to the financial elements, the fees and charges is information in the public arena, and ranges depending on the type of wedding. These will be reviewed with the contractor according to market. With regards to revenue, this was commercially sensitive information.

A Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) suggested that thought should be put in to creative ways to increase revenue when the contracts were put out for procurement and ideas such as for example sponsorship from the couples could be considered

RESOLVED, that - Members provide feedback in relation to the proposal set out in para 12 of the report.

8. **HEATH HANDS UPDATE**
Members received an update from Heath Hands.

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) congratulated the officer and said that Heath Hands were doing superb work, in particular on their Health and Wellbeing agenda.

9. **QUESTIONS**
A Member (Highgate Society) referred to the mention in the Assistant Director's update report of the research conducted by the University of Exeter which listed the Heath in the top four most valuable recreation sites in the Country, and said that this should be given further publicity.

In reply to a question from a Member (Hampstead Rugby Club), an Officer said that they were aware of continuing issues with night fishing and they were working with all parties to ensure that the behaviours don't continue.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
The Assistant Director provided Members with an update on dog licences. Members heard that the scheme introduced in 2020 had set a cap of 70 licences. 89 applications had been received, and there was an issue with a possible appeal on how the cap had been identified. The appeal process is complicated, and the Assistant Director said they would prepare a paper for

review by the Management Committee which will focus more on targeted intervention and an holistic approach rather than focusing just on numbers of commercial dog walking businesses. They said that that the information provided by licences could be used to ensure there was a proactive approach to mitigating the impact of dog walkers on sensitive areas of the Heath.

A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) asked if all the received applications would now be accepted, as this might make it harder to potentially reduce numbers in future. The also noted that there was anecdotal evidence that dog owners have doubled during the pandemic and that pressures from dog walking have increased on the Heath. The Assistant director noted this and stated that it is even more important to consider an holistic approach focusing on the sensitive areas rather than just numbers. Another Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) said that the issue with high numbers of dogs under the control of one walker was the amount of faeces that resulted from their presence on the Heath, as it was difficult for walkers to clear up after too many dogs.

Two Members (representing the London Council for Sport and Recreation and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Resident's Association) felt that it would have been useful to know the criteria for the setting the cap at 70 licences.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair commented that he felt that the hybrid method of holding meetings was valuable, but that he would continue to think on the best manner of holding them.

The Chair announced that it was Simon Taylor's last meeting as a representative of Hampstead Rugby Club, having participated in the Committee for nine years. The Chair and the Committee thanked Simon for his contributions. Simon Taylor thanked fellow Members for all they brought to the Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.22 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Ben Dunleavy
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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 15 June 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 15 June 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chair)
Alderman Gregory Jones KC (Deputy Chairman)
Timothy Butcher
John Foley
Alethea Silk
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Emily Hills
Arjun Mittra

Officers:

Katherine Radusin	- Natural Environment Department
Richard Gentry	- Natural Environment Department
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Edwin James Birch	- City Surveyor's Department
Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Department
Graham Nickless	- Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed to the Committee those Members newly elected and thanked those Members attending the meeting in person, who were to be elected by the Court of Common Council on the 16th. In addition those Members who had stood down were thanked for their time on the Committee.

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

No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 4 May 2022.

RESOLVED - That the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee meeting held on the 4th of May be approved as an accurate record.

4. OTHER MINUTES

The Committee agreed to appoint John Foley to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. It was noted that Jason Groves would be appointed to the Highgate Wood Consultative Committee once he was formally elected by the Court of Common Council to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

4.1 **Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee***

4.2 **Highgate Wood Consultative Group***

4.3 **Queen's Park Consultative Group***

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Assistant Director's Update.

The Chairman thanked the staff for their work supporting the successful events over the jubilee.

RESOLVED - That: -

- I. The report be noted; and
- II. That the content of the Swimming Annual Review 2021/22 be approved.

6. **SWIMMING CAPITAL PROJECT GATEWAY 3 /4 REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment regarding the Safety, Access and Security Improvements to the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities.

The Committee were informed of the context of the project and noted that the final report on this would be prepared for Member approval in October.

Replying to a Member's query the improvements to the site were explained and it was confirmed that there would be no significant impact to the natural surroundings of the site caused by the works. The Chairman observed that the full details of this potential impact would be provided in the planning application which, as confirmed by Officers, had been completed on the 7th of June.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. That an additional budget of £30,700 be approved to reach the next Gateway; and
- II. That the revised project budget of £163,700 (excluding risk) be noted; and
- III. That the total estimated cost of the project at £691,245 (excluding risk) be noted; and
- IV. A Costed Risk Provision of £27,000 be approved to reach the next Gateway (to be drawn down via delegation to City Surveyor); and
- V. That the Committee approved Option 2 be progressed as the only viable option; and

VI. That it was noted that a minor planning application was submitted on 7th June 2022

7. **SUB-DIVISIONAL PLAN 2022-25**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25.

Replying to a Member's query it was confirmed that the enforcement and administration of car parking charges would be continuously reviewed for their effectiveness. The Chairman requested regular updates on this matter going forward.

RESOLVED- That the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-2025 be approved.

8. **PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE GOLDER'S HILL PARK ZOO**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director on the Proposed sustainable management of the Golder's Hill Park Zoo. The Chairman observed that the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee had reacted positively to this report.

The Superintendent informed the Committee that options were being explored to make the Golder's Hill Park Zoo more financially stable in the long term and that the report's recommendations were produced to this end. The Chairman noted that the Zoo was a highly valued community asset.

Members encouraged Officers to expedite work on the contactless donations to ensure this was in place for the summer. Following explanation from Officers that there was ongoing issue with the wireless internet at the site the Chairman requested a update on the progress of the contactless donation posts at the next meeting of the Committee.

Replying to a Member's concern it was explained that the Zoo's charges were based on the benchmarks of the British & Irish Association Of Zoos and Aquariums and were at the lower end of these benchmarks.

It was confirmed, in response to a Member's query, that the Zoo had appropriate links with local schools and the University of London but that communication of these links could be better managed.

RESOLVED- That the preferred option and ancillary plans, including the change of use of the Butterfly House be approved.

9. **REGISTERING HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOODS AND QUEEN'S PARK FOR GIFT AID DONATIONS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Registering of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Woods and Queen's Park for Gift Aid donations.

The Committee noted that the Hampstead Heath charity was the pilot for the use of Gift Aid across the City of London Corporation's Charities.

Responding to the Member's question it was explained that the use of third parties was not favoured by the Chamberlain as the Value Added Tax position was not preferable but confirmed that it would be explored further, if the pilot was successful.

RESOLVED- That the Chamberlain be authorised to open dedicated bank accounts in order to register with HMRC the Hampstead Heath charity (803392), and the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn charity (232986) for Gift Aid status.

10. **FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEDDINGS AND CIVIL CEREMONIES AND HAMPSTEAD HEATH AND QUEEN'S PARK**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Future arrangements for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies and Hampstead Heath and Queen's Park.

The Committee observed that it was important to balance achieving income through holding events and maintaining public usage of the open spaces. It was confirmed that a report from the City Surveyor would be prepared, and brought to the Committee for consideration accordingly, on the repairs to the pergola.

In response to a Member's query it was confirmed that income from filming fees paid in relation to the filming at Hampstead Heath was received by the Hampstead Heath Charity.

RESOLVED- That the proposal to engage a specialist wedding contractor on a two year contract with a concession to take over the provision of the service at Golders Hill Park and Queen's Park through an income share formula be approved.

11. **REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL LICENSING SCHEME (PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS)**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Review of Commercial Licensing Scheme Professional Dog Walkers.

RESOLVED- That the Assistant director and relevant officers be authorised to review the commercial dog licencing scheme considering the number of applications received in 2022 as a baseline and to consider a holistic approach that considers the use of the Heath and its sensitive areas.

12. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Executive Director Environment on the Hampstead Heath Trustees Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021.

RESOLVED-That the report be noted.

13. **HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK KILBURN TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021***

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Executive Director Environment on the Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Kilburn Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

14. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2021/22 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK***

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director on the Revenue Outturn 2021/22 Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

15. **OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 - YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan 2021/22 – Year End performance report.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

16. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Risk Management Update Report.

The Committee noted that the report had been completed to satisfy the Charity Commission's approach to risk management and was compliant with the City of London Corporation's risk register format. It was added that another risk report would be received by the Committee at its next meeting which would provide further detail on these risks.

RESOLVED-That the report be noted.

17. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions in the public session received.

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

There was no urgent business considered in the public session.

19. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

20. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2022.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee meeting held on the 4th of May be approved as an accurate record.

21. **HIGHGATE WOOD INCIDENT UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Highgate Wood incident. The Committee were updated on the Highgate Wood tree incident and the Coroner's report.

22. **CHARITIES POOL AND HAMPSTEAD HEATH TRUST FUND: FUND MANAGER STRATEGY CHANGE**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain on the Charities Pool and Hampstead Heath Trust Fund: Fund Manager Strategy Change.

23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions in the non-public session.

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

There was no non-public urgent business.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Ben Dunleavy
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Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum

Thursday 21 July 2022, 5.30pm

Attending		
Alderman Gregory Jones	GJ	(Chair) Deputy Chairman Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Richard Sumray	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
David Walton	DW	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Karen Smith	KS	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Mary Powell	MP	Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
Jackie Risman	JR	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club & Mixed Bathing Pond
Joseph Lowe	JLo	Athletics
Sandy Nairne	SN	Licensed Activity - Croquet
Anandi Shah	AS	Licensed Activity - ParkRun
Robert Gibbs	RGi	Angling
Ella Mitchell	EM	Rugby
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Tennis coaching
Karin Oleinikova	KO	Heath Hands
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands
Ray Booth	RB	Mental Health
Stefania Horne	SH	Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	RGG	Officer from, Hampstead Heath
Paul Jeal	PJ	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Apologies		
William Upton	WU	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
John Carrier	JC	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Richard Caylor	RC	Bowls & Croquet
Dr Frankie Blackmore	FB	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Jane Myatt, GP	JM	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Cindy Galvin	CG	Trustee representing Heath Hands
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Debbie Bush	DB	Pro-Active Camden (PAC).
Mike Sands	MS	Mixed Bathing Pond
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands
Paul Maskell	PM	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	DG	Officer from Hampstead Heath

Meeting Action Points & notes

Outstanding Actions from the last meeting (11.01.2022) & matters arising

Angling –

- ACTION – RGG to follow up with the Heath Conservation Manager to confirm if funding has been sought from the Environment Agency to support angling infrastructure, such as platforms. RGG will follow up with RGi in relation to funding opportunities.

UPDATE: Heath Ecologist has sought platform costs, which are around £7k. Looking at ways to fund with support from the HAHAS. Need to consider how many platforms can accommodate.

Walk Talk Walk –

- ACTION – COL to provide an further update on discussions with Walk Talk Walk regarding a Hampstead Heath event at the next meeting.

UPDATE: Heath Hands are recruiting additional volunteers, with the intention to introduce weekly sessions on the Heath moving forward.

Parks for Health –

- ACTION – COL to meet with Camden to discuss opportunities regards Social Prescribing.

UPDATE: SH will be meeting with a member of the Parks of Health team. Additional funding sources, such as CIL funding, to be considered, with the support of Stakeholders.

Swimming Capital Project

The project is focusing on improving access to the bathing ponds. Designs have been discussed with the bathing pond associations. Planning application was submitted in June 2022 and comments can be made via Camden's planning website. A number of surveys are planned. The project is currently on track for works on site to commence during autumn 2022, subject to planning approval.

MP noted that members of the KLPA felt that they had not been consulted on two aspects of the design which required planning approval, including the back fence and the steward hat.

SH clarified that the stewards hut not a change of current use and the plans were to reduce the footprint of the existing space used. Comments can be submitted as part of the planning consultation process.

PJ clarified that the changes to the fencing had been discussed in the past and was mentioned at the engagement workshop held with swimmers. Comments can be submitted as part of the planning consultation process.

SH outlined the process of engagement focused on ensuring the design met the access needs of users of the facility which is the purpose of the project. Details of the proposals were now available on Camden's planning portal, and comments/feedback on proposals could be logged via the panning portal.

- ACTION – Link to Camden's Planning portal to be circulated.

Athletics Capital Project

SH funding has been agreed in principle. The project is on track in relation to the COL Gateway process, Once the project board is set up, the stakeholders will be engaged to fully contribute to the project. A review of the project programme will be undertaken, following stakeholder feedback.

JL welcome COL's commitment to resurfacing the track. There is potential for the 2024 Night of Personal Bests event to incorporate the Olympic trials. In order to achieve the 2024 event, re-surfacing will need to be completed in 2023. Highgate Harriers would like additional power outlets to be installed along the back straight as part of the scope of works. DW surface would need to be completed during autumn 2023 to be ready for a 2024 event, noting a current shortage of raw materials

RS would support Stakeholders involvement in the Project Board. The project should be driven by the needs of Athletics, as opposed to the Gateway process.

SH clarified that the Gateway process is the City of London Corporation process to deliver projects, and projects needs to go through a series of approvals. This cannot be changed and every capital project needs to go through this process. The last approval was given at the end of July and the Project Board cannot be formed until all approvals have been granted. Once the Project Board is set up, there is the intention to involve a wider range of Stakeholders moving forward. SH understood the concerns around the programme, which need to be discussed with the Project Board once established.

EM noted that the Rugby Club were supportive of the resurfacing project and requested advanced notice of works so that alternative training locations should be arranged during the period of works on site.

GJ outlined the importance of Stakeholder support and additional external funding to support the sporting facilities on the Heath.

- ACTION – KR to arrange a for SH to meet with Track Stakeholders so that discussions can continue to take place.

Update from COL

SH has met with the London Cricket Trust, who are proposing investment in a number of cricket facilities across the COL open spaces, including Parliament Hill and the Heath Extension. Stakeholders will be engaged to ensure the proposals meet the needs of users.

A Sports Engagement Report has been prepared by the City of London Corporation. The report sets out the value of the COL's sporting facilities and includes locations in the City as well as locations across the Natural Environment. The report highlights the benefit of a clear strategy in relation to sports and wellbeing. The Natural Environment is preparing a strategic framework, which will include a visitor and community engagement strategy.

RS Cricket proposal has a potential to engage a number of communities. Early Stakeholder engagement in relation to the Strategies is key, as the Heath plays a key role in sport and recreation.

GJ consideration will need to be given as to how to involve representatives of sports activities at Highgate Wood & Queen's Park moving forward.

Heath Hands Update

KO Heath Hands have been busy across all areas, including conservation, interpretation, schools and corporate volunteering. Visits with Social Prescribing Navigator Teams from Voluntary Action Camden and Age UK have been held. The navigators are based at local GP practices and help people to access facilities which may be beneficial to them. A range of activities are available across the Heath. A green social prescribing taster session is planned for the coming week via the Mental Health Foundation. Following visits from the navigator teams, two less mobile individuals have been supported to start volunteering at Kenwood House. A number of groups have been facilitated to access swimming on the Heath. There are a wide range of on-going wellbeing sessions taking place,

including a newly established Nordic Walking group. Activities available to support mental health include forest bathing (sessions throughout the summer).

Updates from Clubs

MP the KLPA have had an on-going discussion with COL Officers in relation to the dog tethering area at the Ladies' Bathing Pond. An agreement has been reached which accommodates all users. The request to amend the current free swim times to align with the free swim timings offered by LB Camden needs to be considered now that the Judicial review has concluded.

SH highlighted that this needs to be part of the annual review of fees & charges, which will take place during the autumn.

The Pink plaque awarded to the Ladies' Bathing Pond by the Highgate festival has been installed. The plaque celebrates the lifeguards and swimmers.

The centenary of the Ladies' Bathing pond is coming up in 2025/6. A celebratory event will be discussed to mark the centenary. The COL would like to join the KPLA in the celebrations.

- Action: KLPA to send more information to the Sports & Wellbeing Forum Chair.

The KLPA has an archive at the Bishopsgate institute. A year will be settled on to mark the centenary and further discussions can be progressed outside of the Forum.

RGi the HAHAS have produced a short video, which can be viewed at: [HAHAS - A short film | My Site \(thehahas.co.uk\)](http://thehahas.co.uk). the prices quoted for fishing platforms seem very high. There was a disappointment that the reopening of the north bank for fishing has still not been considered. SH reassured HAHAS that she supports the re-opening but risks need to be mitigated for other pond users. Representatives from the Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds needs to meet on site with representatives from the Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society (HAHAS). Discussions needs to focus on co-use of the Bathing Pond, taking into account swimmers concerns around angling, safety and impacts on wildlife.

- ACTION: KR to organise a site meeting,

KS raised a query around the current parking hourly rates at the Lido car park and whether they can be lowered. A concern around a recent spate of bike thefts was raised. This is impacting on Lido users, using the cycle racks.

SH confirmed that parking charges needs to be considered as part of the annual fees and charges review.

PJ noted that this is a wider issue in Camden and reassured Lido Users that a number of interventions were put in place in relation to the bike thefts including liaison with the MET, the community safety team, more patrolling by the constabulary and signage to help users to be aware and with advice of types of locks that are more difficult to break.

SN reflected that the GIAG event this year fulfilled many of the objectives of the COL and Clubs, and has raised the profile of Croquet on the Heath. When possible a further discussion on the facilities at Parliament Hill would be welcomed.

Upcoming & Recent Events

PJ provided an update on recent events:

- English National Cross Country – event was very well received, especially followed a cancelled event from last year.
- Night of 10m Personal Bests – event has grown in popularity, with approx. 4,000 spectators at this year's event.

- GIAG – Extremely hot weather meant a number of wellbeing events did not take place. The event was very well received with a number of activities on offer.
- British Water Polo League (Men's 60th and Women's 35th) Anniversary – event was a great success, with the matches being played in the deep end of the Lido, whilst public swimming continued. 300 participants and spectators enjoyed the event, with 15 exhibition matches taking place across the day, including the Men's & women's 2012 Olympics teams.

Upcoming events include:

- Duathlon (4th September).
- London Youth Cross Country (19th November)
- Christmas Day Swim

Update from Pro-Active Camden

RS provided an update. A focus area for the next few months is a response to a drop in participating levels for sports and physical activities amongst girls during the pandemic. In other London Boroughs the drop in participation levels was equal amongst boys and girls. A focus in participation amongst girls and young women should again be a focus for the Forum.

RGi fishing school sessions will be taking place in September, when the schools return. The GIAG Angling taster session has been postponed but will be taking place.

Future Meetings

There following a discussion around the merits of in person, hybrid and online meetings,

- ACTION – KR to circulate an email seeking Members of the Forum preferences of future meetings format and to share a table collating feedback with the Forum via email.

Process for appointing a new representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

SH A Member (representing Sport) has stood down from the Committee. A new representative needs to be sought and needs to cover a wider remit on sports and not a single sport. If there any suggestions, please email these to KR.

Date of the Next Meeting

- ACTION – KR to circulate meeting dates, following confirmation of the format of the next meeting.

RS it would be helpful for dates to be set in advanced for 2023, which can be discussed at the next meeting.

AOB

SH a strategic review of the Parliament Hill facilities, and a mini-masterplan for the area is being considered. This will be shared and discussed with the Forum.

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 26 September 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?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: 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 May 2022.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the report.

Main Report

Management Framework

1. An update on Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 projects is attached (appendix 1) for information.

Capital Projects

2. A "project on a page" summary has been prepared in relation to the Swimming – Safety, Access and Security Capital Project (appendix 2) and the Parliament Hill Athletics Track resurfacing Capital Project (appendix 3).

Events

3. Recent events include:
 - Race for Life (18 June 2022)
 - Kite Festival (26 June 2022)
 - Give it a Go (16 July 2022)

4. Upcoming events:

- 19th Annual Conker Championships (9 October 2022)
- London Youth Games (20 November 2022)

Constabulary Update

5. With extreme temperatures being witnessed across the country, the focus during the summer for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary has been fire safety and security. With an increased risk of wildfires, the Constables have proactively engaged with members of the public, reminding visitors not to have bonfires or barbecues on Hampstead Heath. Staff were equipped with fire fighting back packs and vehicle drawn bowsers.
6. The Metropolitan Police, in partnership with the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Camden (Community Safety Team) ran a week long operation on Hampstead Heath, Parliament Hill Fields during the summer. The purpose of the operation was to provide public reassurance, especially at a time when parks and open spaces are becoming busier with an increased footfall. The Park Manager can provide a verbal update on the outcomes of this operation.

Judicial Review Outcome

7. A challenge to the charging policy at the Ladies' Pond was heard at the High Court on 22-24 February 2022. The case, *R (Efthimiou) v The Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London*, was brought by a disabled swimmer who contended that the charging policy unlawfully discriminated against her. The thrust of the challenge was that disabled persons as a class were financially worse off than non-disabled persons, and that the charging policy (even with concessionary rates) created significant barriers to their ability to swim.
8. Judgment was handed down on 23 June 2022. The Court held that the charging policy, under which disabled swimmers receive a 40% discount on single swims and season tickets, did not breach the duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled persons, and was not indirectly discriminatory towards disabled persons. The root problem was a lack of disposable personal income, and all those of limited income, whatever their circumstances, were catered for under the charging policy by the same concession.
9. The Court held that, as a general principle, charging for leisure facilities was fundamentally fair and reasonable. On the facts, the charges were modest and compared favourably with charges at other similar facilities. The Court also held that the claim did not fall within the ambit of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Right to respect for private and family life) or Article 1 of Protocol 1 (Protection of property).

Ponds & Wetlands Conservation Plan

10. Conversations with the Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society and swimmers are in progress to re-open float fishing at the men's bathing pond north bank. Fishing was suspended 5 years ago after an accident with a swimmer that was injured with fishing equipment. New measures have been put in place to separate the area from the swimming area and officers are in conversation with all stakeholders to make sure the right balance is achieved in using the pond for different activities.
11. Works are planned to create a dedicated area for dog bathing at the Hampstead pond number 2. Dogs can access the pond in various areas and they are not sufficiently controlled to protect wildlife on site. By creating a dedicated area and with clear signage and natural barriers it is hoped that access can be controlled better.
12. The recent hot weather generated an increase of algal blooms in the ponds when water levels are falling and water flow through the chain is negligible. A network of floating aerators have been used to improve oxygen levels in the water and where necessary additional 'splash pumps' have been used to keep the algae controlled and maintain a good level of oxygen in the ponds.

Gift Aid

13. The project is progressing well and still on track to have a fully functional gift aid option for donors by April 2023 in line with the incoming tax year. This schedule includes contingency time noting the lengthy processes to set up bank accounts and registering with HMRC. We are also still reviewing the possibility of using a 3rd party, such as Just Giving or CAF, who will then organise our Gift Aid donations, reducing the administrative workload on officers. A project on a page update for Gift Aid is attached at appendix 4.

Queen's Green Canopy

14. The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The QGC invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". As such, the City of London Corporation has become actively involved with the QGC activities, including Education and Conservation. A report was submitted to the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on 7 July ([\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Open Spaces and City Gardens, 07/07/2022 10:00 \(cityoflondon.gov.uk\)](#)) setting out a request from the incoming Lord Mayor via the Remembrancer's Office to find a location within Hampstead Heath to plant 33 trees, to represent each of the London Boroughs.
15. The proposed tree species and planting locations have been carefully selected to maximise the opportunities for the trees to flourish whilst promoting nature recovery and biodiversity:

Hampstead Heath Extension: a group of 11 Italian Elms (*Ulmus pumila* hybrid) which are Dutch Elm Disease resistant, to be planted along the pathway leading

across the cricket field to replace the native elms that succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease.

Kenwood Nursery Yard: a group of up to 11 traditional orchard apple and pear trees, to be planted within the hazel coppice compartment. Up until the outbreak of the Second World War this site was a commercial orchard producing significant produce. This will increase the conservation and the education value of the area.

Tumulus Field east of the Tumulus site: up to 11 native oak trees (*Quercus robur*) to be planted to mark the lost field boundary and increase the nature conservation value of existing hedges. The trees will be planted in twos and threes to achieve the most 'natural' effect.

16. This will be a great opportunity for the Heath to engage in a national scheme; host a large event; welcome the incoming Lord Mayor and encourage children and volunteers to get involved with the tree planting efforts. Full funding is provided for this project by the Town Clerks Department. A map is included at Appendix 5.

Good News

17. The fundraising total for the Heath Extension Playground has been reached. Planning approval for the proposed changes at the Heath Extension has been granted and contractors have been appointed. Works are planned to start on site in the autumn.
18. Hampstead Heath has been successful in obtaining a Green flag award for 2022. The Heath is also taking part in the a 2022 London in Bloom awards. The results are due to be announced on 21 September.
19. The London Cricket Trust has confirmed funding for improvements of the cricket facilities at Parliament Hill, the Heath Extension, and at Highgate Wood. A Stakeholder engagement will commence in the autumn to scope the details of the works. The improvements include new nets and artificial cricket squares.
20. A partnership project with the Royal Free Hospital is being scoped to provide cancer patients a view of the Heath via a video link. Officers are still assessing the feasibility of the camera installation and the viability of the proposal. Funding for implementation is provided by the Royal Free Hospital.
21. From 15 – 31 August, Hampstead Heath hosted the 'Green City' outdoor exhibition at the East Heath entrance. Developed by London Metropolitan Archives, the exhibition highlights the essential role played by London's parks and open spaces in the lives of Londoners. From playgrounds and picnics to concerts and Sunday football kickabouts, Green City: A Visual History of London's Parks and Open Spaces celebrates green spaces and the way in which Londoners have embraced and enjoyed the 'great outdoors' since the sixteenth century. Following its successful run on Hampstead Heath, where it was enjoyed by thousands of people during the last two weeks of the summer holidays, it can

be seen at The View in Epping Forest's Visitor Centre from 1 – 18 September 2022.

22. Works have started on creating the new pond at the bottom of Judge's Hollow, to the west of Whitestone Pond. The project is community led, with the Reddington Froggnal Association partnering up with the City of London, and funding raised for an excellent exhibition earlier this year at Burgh House, celebrating the return of what was once the subject of several Constable landscape paintings. The new pond has been inspired by a Constable painted nearly 200 years ago, and has been designed specifically for wildlife. It is hoped that the clay lined pond will be completed along with some marginal planting next spring.

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 project:
 - 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. £6,153.00 has currently been raised towards this project.
26. We have recently reached the funding total (£5,000) for the bird and mammal shelters project.
27. 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

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

Climate Implications

29. Included within the Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 are a 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. The Climate Action

Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

30. Contained within the body of this report.

Risk Implications

31. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register.

Equality Implications

32. No impact.

Security Implications

33. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 (August update)
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Athletics Track Capital Project)
- Appendix 4 – Project on a Page (Gift Aid)
- Appendix 5 – Queen's green canopy tree planting

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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, Queen's Park and Keats House 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.

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.		A number of initiatives are in place to increase effectiveness including: introduction of a gift aid process for donations, review of lido and ponds booking systems, review of enforcement in car parks and review of the Lido.
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 during winter 2022.
Page 33	Develop our Workforce Deliver a range of initiatives to ensure the health, well-being, learning and development of our workforce.	On-going.		Linking to the city staff development and learning programme, this includes new modules i.e. public speaking. Opportunities to act up are in place and further opportunities includes apprenticeships and collaborations, i.e. training to become a green flag judge
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.	Completed		Vehicle replacement programme completed. Vehicles will remain under review to ensure compliance with regulations.
5	Divisional Radio System Procure an alternative Radio system.	On-going.		The new Mast is operational. Signal boosting technology is being investigated. Further testing to be carried out on the effectiveness of a radio system which uses push to talk technology over the cellular network.

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
6	Promote Health Connections Work together with Partners, including Heath Hands and the NHS, to promote health & wellbeing.	On-going.		Heath Hands continue to work with Health Navigators to signpost the facilities and opportunities available on the Heath.
7	Licencing schemes Undertake consultation and engagement to inform the development of a licencing scheme for Fitness Trainers, and Professional Dog Walking. Implement a Licencing for Forest Schools.	On-going.		Forest School Licences have been issued for the Old Orchard Garden at Kenwood Nursery Yard, and for Forest Bathing sessions. We are finalising a forest school licence for a local school provider. Roll out of the Dog Licencing Scheme Licence cards has been experienced a slight delay, due to operational changes within the team responsible. Officers continue to liaise with Licence holders.
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.		An audit of heritage across the new Natural Environment Division, including heritage sites and projects at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park as well as other locations, is being undertaken to better understand the range, nature and current management of the historic assets in our care and the outcomes they contribute to. The initial audit, which is expected to be completed by late spring, will be reported to the Divisional Director to inform TOM Phase 2 and the future management of these assets.
9	Bio-Security Management	On-going.		Current focus is Oak Processionary Moth (OPM), Massaria of Plane, and Ash Dieback. All of these are being proactively managed by the Hampstead Heath

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
	Proactive management of threats, including pest and diseases which impact upon the condition of trees, plants and wildlife.			Tree Team working collaboratively with Forestry Commission, and other tree management partners, such as DEFRA.
10	Planning Regular monitoring of development and planning applications to ensure that the Heath is protected.	On-going.		Current planning applications being monitored include: -Jack Straws Castle (Hampstead Heath). Party Wall discussions are on-going.
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.		A programme of allowing areas of amenity grassland to develop into meadow is planned for 2023, and a Committee Report has been drafted for presentation to Committee this autumn. This will support the Climate Action Strategy's objectives on carbon removals, and also increase biodiversity value across the Heath.
12	Litter, Waste & Recycling Reduce reliance on external contracts. Undertaken public engagement in relation to recycling.	On-going.		Camden Veolia general waste collection contract from Parliament Hill has been closed and collections being carried out by Waste and Recycling Team. This has proved a successful addition to the Team's collection duties and we are confident that the team can continue to provide this service.
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.	On-going.		In partnership with Epping Forest, FPNs are being introduced. Initial set up of back-office process is underway, further training necessary for frontline and back office staff.

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
14	Visitor Engagement Undertake surveys and capture data to understand visitor trends and satisfaction.	On-going.		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.
15	Asset Management Review and implement site specific Asset Management Plans.	On-going.		Project Team to be set up to manage this project. Key priority is Heathfield House, Parliament Hill and staff accommodation. An update on the Parliament Hill Masterplan is included within the meeting agenda pack. (Linked to project HH7)
16	Interventions to mitigate impacts from increasing visitor pressures Interventions to address impacts on wildlife, erosion, compaction, path maintenance, waymarking and signage improvements.	On-going.		A number of fenced off areas have successfully recovered but will remain fenced off as they are now providing refuges for wildlife. More ground restoration works will be undertaken this autumn once the weather has become cooler and rain has returned.
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		Changes within the City Surveyor's Dept has put this project on hold. Sites visits will be completed in August 2022, with a high level review of property conditions assessed by the Surveyor.
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.		

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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
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 3 completed. Gateway 3/4 report approved by Members (21 June 2022). See project on a page update include within the meeting agenda pack.
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.		See project on a page update include within the meeting agenda pack.
HH3	Playgrounds Implement improvements at the Hampstead Heath Extension.	2022/23		Planning permission has been approved by the London Borough of Barnet granted May 2022. A procurement exercise has been undertaken and a contract has been appointment. Works are expected to start on site on 26 September 2022.
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 tending process to appoint a Consultant to develop options which	2022/23		New car park markings installed (April/May 2022). Next steps: -Installation of signage & comms.

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
	facilitate safe weekend and Bank Holiday opening of the Car Park.			-Enforcement.
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.	Summer 2022 (present options to HHCC).		An Officer Project steering group has been set up to implement priorities as agreed by HHMC. A procurement exercise is in progress to shape new visitor experiences. The review of the collection plan is on-going.
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.		An update on the Parliament Hill Masterplan is included within the meeting agenda pack. (Linked to project 15)
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

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: 7 September 2022 **Phase: Detailed Design**

Page 39	Highlights	Next Steps	Metrics	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 4 design complete with final review underway of the Stage 4 Cost Report Tender pack being compiled. The tender is planned to be launched W/C 12th September and running for six weeks with a two weeks moderation period planned. Planning submission – Following direct external stakeholder comments to Camden Council, a number of queries have been responded to. Camden have indicated that they are on programme to complete the officer recommendation and be put to the members panel in (September / October / November) for approval Communications workshop held to update the current strategy and discuss next steps <p>Looking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender period and further stakeholder engagement 	<p>RIBA Stage 4 - Sign off – September.</p> <p>Tender – September- November.</p> <p>Gateway 5 Report - November. (Via Delegated Authority submitted in October)</p>	Budget	
			Schedule	
			Risk	

Risks and Issues	Reasons for RAG Status
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<p>Key Risks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning process delays due to objections 2. Cost increases due to market conditions and inflation 3. Corporate review of capital projects 4. Work sequence & access restriction changes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project is within planned timescales and budget. 2. Plans are in place to mitigate the current risks.
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PH Athletics Track Surface Reconstruction	Outcome	Lead	Overall status
	Undertake a full reconstruction of the 8 lane Parliament Hill Athletics Track & associated infrastructure to obtain UKA "TrackMark" certification.	Richard Chamberlain (C. Surveyors) Stefania Horne/ Declan Gallagher (HH)	

Date of Report: 8 August 2022 **Phase: Agreed Funding**

Highlights	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateway 2 regular report was approved at the Corporate Projects Board (06.04.2022), Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee (04.05.2022) and Operational Property & Projects Sub Committee (30.05.2022). Corporate review of capital project is in progress. Policy & Recourses Committee (19.07.2022) approval to draw down up to £111K to progress the scheme and to procure consultants to form the Design Team, including Project Management, Cost Consultant & Architect who will undertake an outline options appraisal following on from the Project Brief. This will also further develop the project budget & costed risk register and take the project to Gateway 3-4. Key stakeholders have raised concerns on the Gateway 2 programme which indicates a December 2023-June 2024 construction period. One of the main priorities of the Project Board will be to review the programme and bring forward the construction period and time frame. 	<p>Formation of a Design Team – Early September 2022.</p> <p>Review the programme for the project.</p> <p>Update members via the Corporate Gateway process</p>

Metrics	Status
Budget	
Schedule	
Risk	

Risks and Issues **Reasons for RAG Status**

<p><u>Key Risks:</u> The project costed risk post-mitigation is £336k & £30 has been agreed to get to the next gateway 3-4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling for the reasons explained above. Unexpected cost increases. Unexpected fees/Surveys. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is a project Procedure Corporate Risk Register to manage risk. Project delivery needs to take into consideration feedback from key stakeholders on the Project Programme, particularly the Construction Phase. Until we reach Gateway 3-4, overall risk is Amber.
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GIFT AID - Budget, Timelines & Milestones	Outcome	Lead	Overall status
	Increasing value of donations with option of Gift Aid across HH, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park	Katie Lawman (NE)	

Date of Report: 28 July 2022 **Phase: Detailed Design**

Highlights	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot Project Approved 1st June 2022 Initial Project Board Meeting 13th July 2022 – Chamberlains, Charity Accountants <p>Looking ahead:</p> <p>Bank accounts – the 2 identified accounts are being “emptied” of there current balances and credited to income at HW and QP. Needing additional input from Lloyds bank.</p> <p>Registering with the Charity Commission and HMRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of IT prototype for the CoL donation webpage. Reviewing possibility of using 3rd party to reduce administrative workload on CoL employees. E.g. Just Giving, CAF. Confirmed VAT would be taken on fees, rather than the donation amount. 	Approval / Implementation in line with incoming tax year.

Metrics	Status
Budget	
Schedule	
Risk	

Risks and Issues	Reasons for RAG Status
<p>Key Risks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule - Work sequence & delays (Lloyd's / Charity Commission / HMRC) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project is within planned timescales and budget. Plans are in place to mitigate the current risks, including time allowances for schedule delays.

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Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

Tree Planting Locations

- 1 Hampstead Heath Extension - 11 Italian Elms.
- 2 Old Orchard Compartment - 11 traditional orchard apple & pear
- 3 Tumulus Field, east of the Tumulus site - native oak trees to mark lost field boundary oaks (planted in groups of 2-3 trees).



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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 26 September 2022
Subject: A blueprint for the Parliament Hill Lido	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?	Yes
If so, how much?	To be determined
What is the source of Funding?	To be determined
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 sets out the high-level concept plan (appendix 1) for the Parliament Hill Lido, which will aim to ensure the facility continues to serve the needs of users and the local community, whilst increasing the value of the Lido for health and fitness.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the high-level concept plan (appendix 1).

Main Report

Background

1. Parliament Hill Fields Lido, located within Hampstead Heath, was opened on 20 August 1938. The Lido has been operated by the City of London since 1989. Designed by Harry Rowbotham and TL Smithson of the London County Council Parks Department, the Parliament Hill Fields Lido is almost identical to the Victoria Park and Brockwell Park Lidos.
2. In 1999 the Lido was listed as a Grade II building. It provides an unheated 60m long open-air swimming pool which is open 365 days a year, a small café, and a small sauna. A small-scale gym provider is currently licenced to operate within the facility. Since 2005 there have been a number of building refurbishments on a phased approach and a stainless-steel lining was installed, a pioneering solution and first of its kind in Britain. In 2021 a proposal for improvements to the sun bathing terraces was approved as part of the planning process. The structure is generally ageing and in need of investment.

3. A Capital Project funding bid in relation to safety, access and security at the Swimming facilities was approved in 2021. A review of the existing layout at the Lido has been commissioned which focuses on identifying underutilised space, and improving the health, wellbeing and fitness offer at the Lido.
4. The Lido offers a number of activities and free swim session that add social value including to schools, refugees, NHS workers, BAME communities' mental health swim sessions. A successful triathlon club uses the Lido every Tuesday evening, and it hosts water polo sessions at the weekend, cold water swimming events and the annual Heath Duathlon.

A Blueprint for the Lido

5. The Parliament Hill Lido has underutilised space which could be utilised to support the swimming offer and provide additional health and fitness opportunities. It is important that the blueprint retains the main function of the Lido, as a cold-water swimming venue.
6. In 2021, 160,749 swims were recorded at the Lido and participation levels are broadly in line with similar Lidos. However, the Lido is still subsidised by the Heath's Local Risk Budget. The subsidy for 2021/22 was in the region of £400K. To support income generation, it is proposed to consider and create opportunities for health, wellbeing and fitness which complement the cold-water swimming offer.
7. A blueprint for the Lido will aim to ensure the facilities continue to serve the needs of users and the local community and increase the value of the Lido for health and fitness.
8. A high-level concept plan is attached in Appendix 1. This includes:
 - A circa 200 sqm health and fitness suite (capable of accommodating circa 40 stations). To be located in the southwest part of the site within part of the existing male changing rooms and adjacent storage facilities;
 - Two studio spaces to be located on the southeast part of the site within part of the existing female changing rooms and the education centre (assuming the education team can be adequately relocated, and this can be phased when a suitable location and investment is found);
 - The old basket rooms close to reception will be reutilised as staff offices and a shop. The use of individual lockers would continue;
 - New toilets and enhancements to changing facilities;
 - The café may be extended although this space is currently rented to an external operator.
9. The proposed changes were considered after a supply and demand analysis was carried out to assess latent demand and current health and fitness offers within a 1.5 miles catchment area. The analysis included demographics, Sport England Local Insight Tool, Index of Multiple Deprivation and the 2011 census.
10. Members views and feedback on the high-level concept plan (appendix 1) are welcomed.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The proposals outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy
12. The proposals 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 and C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors

Financial Implications

13. A Capital Bid funding application may be considered to support the development of the high-level concept plan. External funding opportunities will also be considered.

Resource Implications

14. Staff resources will need to be reviewed in line with a business plan that can highlight the revised usage of the Lido. If additional resources are required, they will be funded by the improved health and fitness offer at the Lido.

Climate Implications

15. The changes will not impact on 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 and any proposed changes will need to be in line with the strategy.

Legal Implications

16. Under article 7 of the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967, the City Corporation may provide indoor and open-air facilities for sport and for any form of recreation whatsoever. Similarly, under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the City Corporation may provide such sporting and recreational facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, as it thinks fit. The Lido is a Grade II listed building, and any proposed changes will be subject to planning permission and listed building consent, as appropriate.

Risk Implications

17. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register. Any risks arising from this proposal will be included in a project risk register.

Equality Implications

18. No impact.

Security Implications

19. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register.

Conclusion

20. This proposed high level concept plan (appendix 1) for the Parliament Hill Lido, sets out a number of proposed changes which will enable the Lido to improve the health and fitness offer for the local community.

Appendices

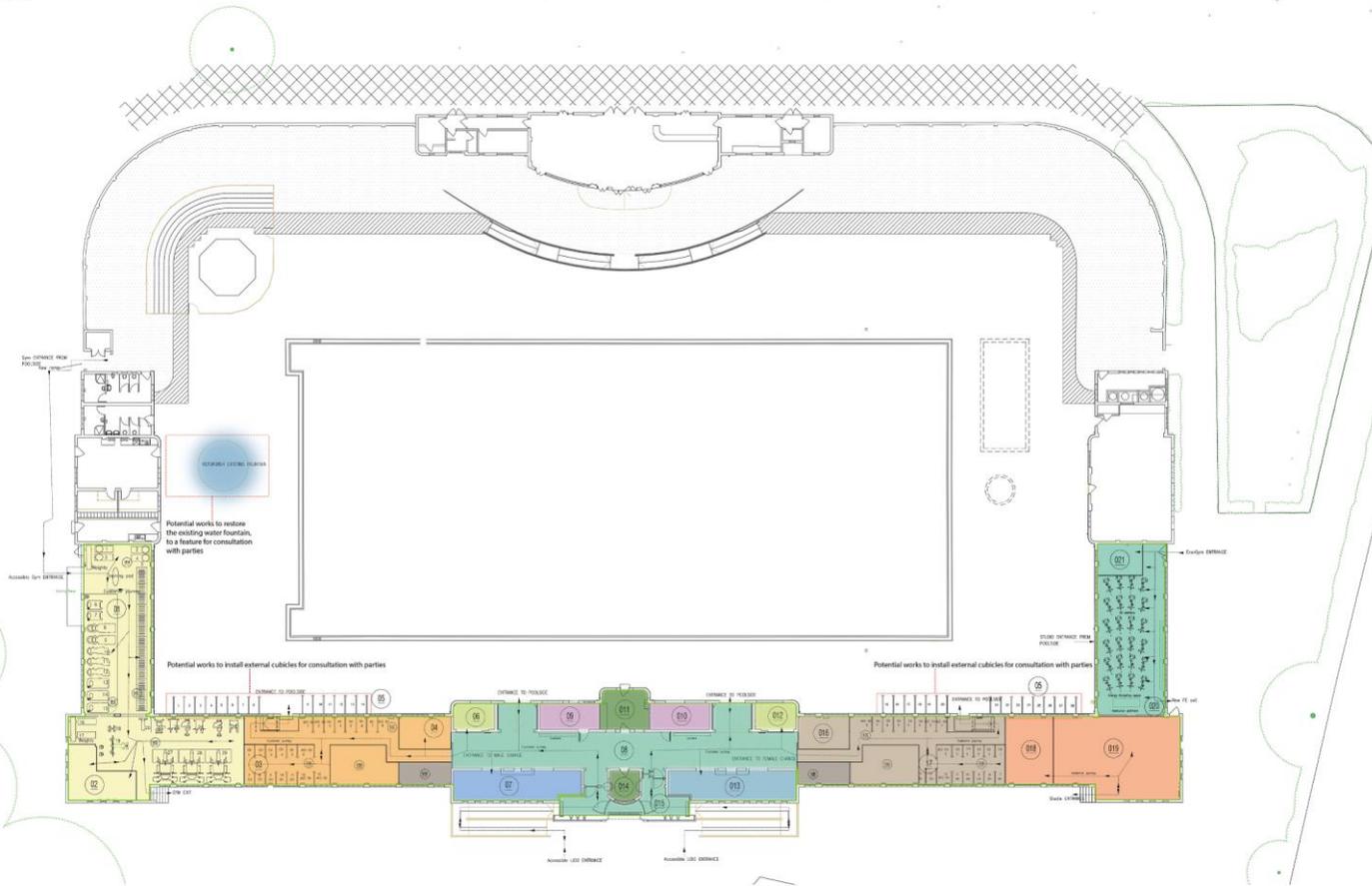
- Appendix 1 – High-level concept plan

Stefania Horne

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- NOTES
- LEGEND
- PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT
 - PROPOSED GYM
 - STRETCH ZONE
 - CARDIO STATIONS
 - FUNCTIONAL TRAINING
 - RESISTANCE TRAINING
 - GYM SH/WC/CH
 - MALE CHANGING ROOMS
 - MALE CHANGING CUBICLES
 - MALE WC'S
 - MALE SHOWER
 - FAMILY/GROUP CHANGE/WC/SH
 - STORE
 - POOLSIDE CUBICLES
*Not included in the cost estimate
 - ACC/WC/SH/CH
 - STAFF OFFICES
 - CIRCULATION
 - POOL WCS
 - POOL WCS
 - OFFICE
 - ACC/WC/SH/CH
 - RETAIL
 - TICKETING OFFICE
 - FOYER/RECEPTION
 - FAMILY/GROUP CHANGE/WC/SH
 - STORE
 - FEMALE CHANGING ROOMS
 - FEMALE CHANGING CUBICLES
 - FEMALE WC'S
 - FEMALE SHOWER
 - STUDIO SH/WC/CH
 - STUDIO 1
 - ENERGY RECYCLING STUDIO
 - ENERGY STUDIO SH/WC/CH

ALL DRAWINGS ARE FOR INDICATIVE USE ONLY. FURTHER DESIGN DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED FOR A FULLY DESIGNED SCHEME TO INCLUDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION, CONSERVATION OFFICER CONSULTATION AND A FULL M&E REPORT TO ENSURE WITH STATUTORY COMPLIANCY, FIRE AND BUILDING REGULATIONS.

REVISION DATE DESCRIPTION BY CLW

LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW
SPACE PLACE
 ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMAN BEINGS

PROJECT: PARLIAMENT LIDO
 PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR
 SKETCH FOR FEASIBILITY

DATE: 03/06 2024
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]
 PROJECT NO: 3942 (03) 001
 SCALE: 1:500
 SHEET NO: 01
 TOTAL SHEETS: 04
 PROJECT LOCATION: LONDON
 CLIENT: [Name]
 CONTACT: [Name]
 TEL: +44 (0)20 7611 0011
 FAX: +44 (0)20 7611 0000
 WWW: WWW.SPACE-PLACE.COM
 EMAIL: INFO@SPACE-PLACE.COM

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Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultive Committee	26 September 2022
Subject: Grassland management for nature recovery	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director, Hampstead Heath	

Summary

The report sets out a series of proposals for future grassland management on Hampstead Heath in response to the City of London's 2020 Climate Action Strategy, nature recovery and the biodiversity emergency.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members provide feedback on the future grassland management proposals set out in paragraphs 7 - 10 and appendix 1.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London launched the Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 with a series of milestone objectives to achieve net zero by 2040. At the same time the global pandemic was placing immense pressures on open spaces across the UK and beyond as the public sought respite from lockdowns. In early 2021 works started across the Heath to repair the impact of increased visitor numbers and widespread erosion and compaction on grassland and in woodland areas.
2. With the pandemic moving into a new phase the Trees and Conservation unit propose a series of interventions to build on the nature recovery work carried out over the last 18 months and to commence on a programme of lowland meadow creation by taking areas of amenity grassland out of regular cutting regimes. This will have multiple benefits, notably reducing compaction, increasing biodiversity, reducing flooding, and improving carbon absorption and storage.

Current Position

3. Hampstead Heath extends to 275 hectares in area. The Heath's two largest broad habitat types are woodland and grassland, with woodland covering an estimated 105 hectares, and grassland 117 hectares. These figures come from the 2009 Vegetation Survey, now 13 years old but still relatively accurate. Of the 117 hectares of grassland 33 are currently classified as amenity grassland and remain intensively managed for sports and informal recreation. The remaining 84 hectares are managed as lowland meadow and cut on an annual or longer cycles.
4. The amenity areas demand an intensive management regime of weekly cutting from March through to September to maintain a short sward. Some of the sports pitches are on a more intensive maintenance programme with cricket being the most labour and machinery intensive. With the costs of fuel exceptionally high for the foreseeable future maintaining these sports facilities remains a major commitment financially. This report does not propose any changes to the current level of sports pitch provision as these facilities provide a critical local recreational resource.
5. Returning to the Climate Action Strategy, there are ten linked work streams delivering the key objectives, with Natural Environment (Open Spaces) working towards the Carbon Removals Project. An external consultancy is currently finalising a report which provides detailed data on carbon sequestration and storage values across all the Open Spaces. The report also identifies opportunities for increasing carbon removals through a variety of interventions, including tree planting and vegetation management. One of the interventions identified is conversion of amenity grassland into lowland meadow, a process that involves the cessation of regular mowing in the growing season. These areas are then allowed to naturally regenerate and repopulate with a variety of plant species providing valuable habitat, improving biodiversity, and allowing soil recovery.
6. The meadow creation will have an important additional benefit in terms of flood alleviation where the new meadow areas alongside the Highgate Pond chain will act as buffering zones during heavy rainfall events absorbing excess surface water and reducing inflow into the pond chain.

Proposed sites for lowland meadow creation and works in Spring 2023.

7. The Ecologist and Trees and Conservation Manager have initially identified a maximum extent of 7.2 hectares across the Heath where areas of amenity grassland not designated for sports activities could be allowed to develop into meadow. However due to the current extent of amenity usage of these areas it is initially proposed to allow the development of up to 3.3 hectares of meadow to assess this change in management before any further proposals are developed. Alongside this relaxed mowing regime, it is proposed to further enhance some of these areas with wildflower seeding. An initial area has been identified for the creation of 0.1 hectare of wildflower meadow on Hampstead Heath Extension. It is hoped that this will be a project linked with the conservation charity Butterfly

Conservation. A map setting out the proposed location is available at appendix 1. Table 1 shows the proposed size of these areas.

Table 1: Proposed amenity grassland management areas

Label	Name	Area (m2)	Area (Hectares)	Proposal
10	Extension Changing field	8798	0.88	Relax mowing
12	Extension Cricket fringe	6047	0.60	Relax mowing
13	Extension track fringe	2187	0.22	Relax mowing
14	Old hockey pitch	3070	0.31	Relax mowing
15	Old hockey pitch	1115	0.11	Wildflower meadow
16	Vale- Fairground	4324	0.43	Relax mowing
17	Vale- Ice House grassland	1060	0.11	Relax mowing
18	Small Tumulus field	1762	0.18	Relax mowing
19	Highgate No.1 fringe	3723	0.37	Relax mowing
	Totals	32,086	3.3	

8. The Ecologist and Trees and Conservation Manager intend to implement the proposed grassland management changes in March 2023, and will be liaising with the grass cutting teams this summer to ensure that the selected areas are clearly marked up for the start of the cutting season next spring.
9. Areas with relaxed mowing regimes will then come under the wider cyclical grassland management programme but will for the first couple of years receive an Autumn cut.
10. The Heath Ecologist will be monitoring the areas and recording change. These finds will be reported back to Committee, along with any future proposals resulting from this initial work.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. This 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, in particular the following Corporate Plan outcomes:
12.
 - (11) We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.
 - (12) Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.
 - (2) People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
13. The proposals embed the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, with the proposals focusing on habitat creation, landscape

character, and balancing visitor impacts with conserving the natural fabric of the Heath and B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors.

Financial Implications

14. A small reduction in fuel usage is expected as a result of the proposals. This will help to offset current increase in fuel prices.

Resource Implications

15. No impact.

Climate Implications

16. The City of London launched its Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 and the strategy is now in implementation stage. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing the City of London's carbon emissions. The proposals included in this report will contribute towards achieving the Climate Action Strategy's objectives of Net zero by 2040. will be the main objective at Hampstead Heath in the short term, especially following the impact of exceptionally high number of visitors due to COVID-19.

Legal Implications

17. The objects of the Hampstead Heath charity are the preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. Under section 16 of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 the City Corporation "...shall at all times preserve, as far as may be, the natural aspect and state of the Heath, and to that end shall protect the turf, gorse, heather, timber and other trees, shrubs, and brushwood thereon." The City Corporation as trustee has other statutory powers to provide recreational facilities, set aside part of the Heath for sports pitches, etc. A balance must therefore be found between preservation and recreation.
18. Where amenity grassland is not required it is entirely consistent with the 1871 Act to manage that land in a way that captures more carbon, in line with the wider City of London Climate Action Strategy, particularly where this will enhance biodiversity. If climate change is not addressed, then this will inevitably have an increasing impact on the natural aspect of the Heath. As a reservoir undertaker it is also appropriate to give consideration to measures which will reduce the risk of overtopping along the Highgate Chain.

Risk Implications

19. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register. Mitigations, such as fire breaks, will be in place to reduce the risk of fires associated with long grass.

Equality Implications

20. A Test of Relevance: Equality Analysis has been undertaken and a full equalities analysis is not proposed/required.

Security Implications

21. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Conclusion

22. These proposed amenity grassland changes will be part of a wider programme of Climate Action focused works including tree planting and nature recovery projects to protect the natural fabric and mosaic of habitats that make up the Heath.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Hampstead Heath future grassland management proposal

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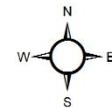


Hampstead Heath Amenity Grassland management options

Option

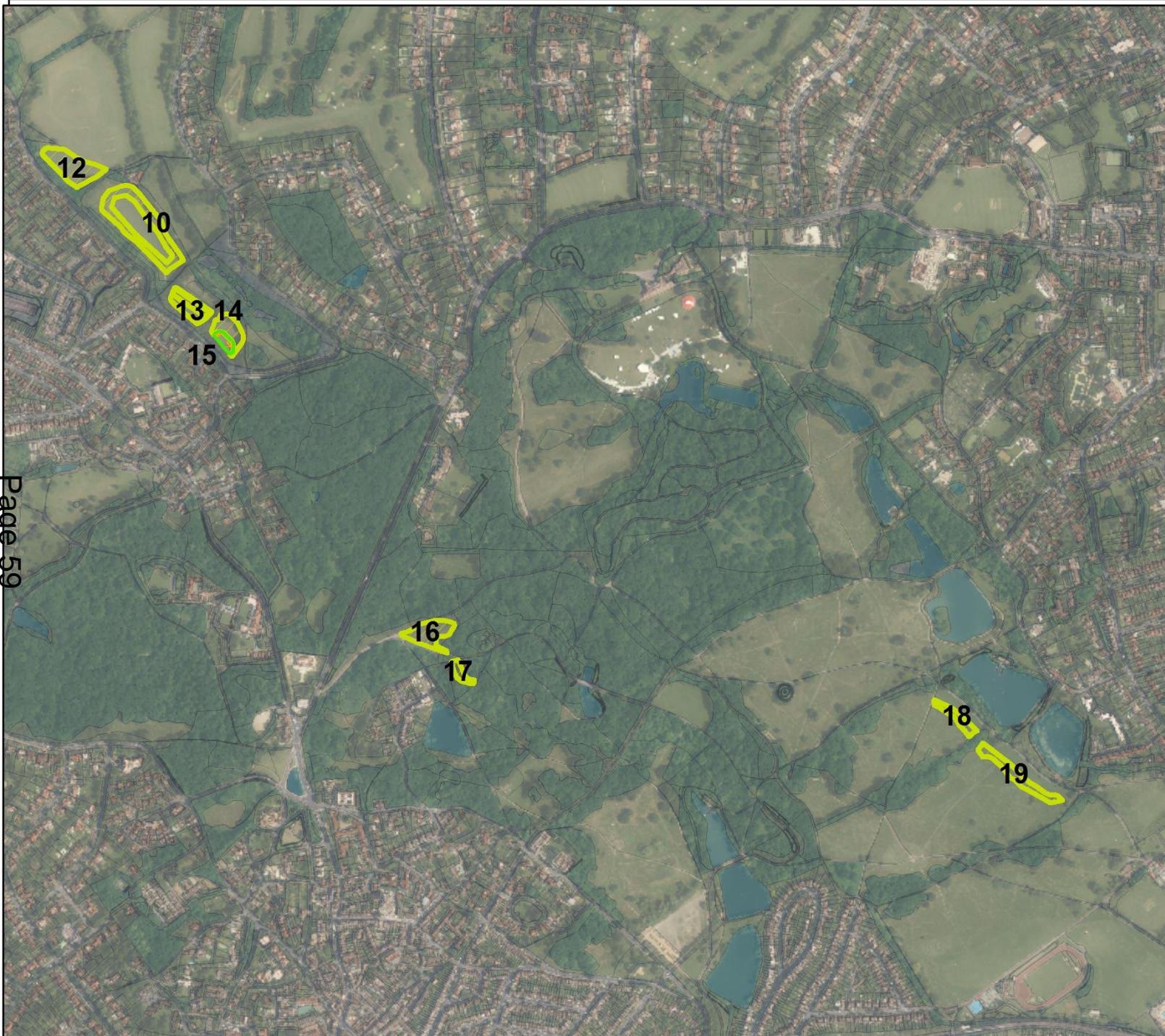
 Relax mowing

 Wildflower meadow



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Metres

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 26 September 2022
Subject: Swimming Booking Systems	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y
If so, how much?	To be determined
What is the source of Funding?	Local risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

Summary

This report set out proposed changes to the Booking System used at the Bathing Ponds and Lido on Hampstead Heath.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the content of the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In 2020, during the first National Lockdown, a booking system was introduced to respond to the COVID19 pandemic, to allow the Heath's Bathing Ponds and Lido to operate and introduced a system that proved useful to manage crowded periods and peak usage.
2. The systems currently in place are Eventbrite for the booking of the swimming sessions and Clover for the payment of pay as you go. The two systems are not integrated and to obtain statistics in relation to usage, officers need to use manual systems that are time consuming.
3. Officers have worked with the current booking provider, Eventbrite, to streamline the booking process where possible, however there remain limitations with the current systems.
4. The systems do not offer opportunities to choose other method of payments such as flexible payments or bookings through a dedicated application.

Proposed Improvements

5. It is proposed to explore the use of alternative booking systems which support an integrated payment approach, offer flexible payment opportunities such as direct debits, provide usage data, and continue to support the existing wristband arrangements.
6. The booking systems to be considered have been tested and have had longstanding use in swimming environments, with applications that can guarantee data protection and cyber safety.
7. The scoping of the new booking system can be shaped together with our stakeholders and users, assessing needs and using feedback from customer surveys.
8. The principles used in the choice of new systems are:
 - Improvement of booking experience introducing more flexible approaches for payments and multiple ways i.e. use of an app as well as the website.
 - Retention of features that are already working to minimise set up costs, i.e. use of wristbands, minimising disruption to customer experience.
 - Improvement of booking systems to facilitate administration and improve data collection on usage.
9. It is important to note that the ponds will continue to be considered unique environments and the new booking systems will not seek to introduce a more formal approach.
10. A dialogue with all users will continue to capture feedback that can be incorporated in the scoping of the new systems where possible.
11. The current systems use an income sharing model and fees. It is anticipated that the new system will generate some efficiencies in relation to staff usage and income. This is because the system will operate on a single licence that can be forecasted with no shared income. The system will be less manual and staff duties can be repurposed to support other activities that are currently understaffed such as support to other booking activities and engagement.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. The proposals outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy
13. The proposals 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 and C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors

Financial Implications

The cost to introduction a new booking system will be met from the Heath's Local Risk Budget.

Resource Implications

14. Introduction of a new booking system will reduce the manual elements of the current booking arrangements, which will enable staff to support user engagement and other leisure and sports activities across the Heath.

Climate Implications

15. The changes will not impact on 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 and any proposed changes will need to be in line with the strategy.

Legal Implications

16. All personal data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR.

Risk Implications

17. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register. Any risks arising from this proposal will be included in a project risk register.

Equality Implications

18. The new booking system will support access to the Bathing Ponds and Lido. The telephone booking line will remain in place.

Security Implications

19. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register.

Conclusion

20. It is proposed to explore the use of alternative booking systems for the Bathing Ponds and Lido which support an integrated payment approach, offer flexible payment opportunities, provide usage data, and provide a good user experience.

Appendices

- None.

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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 26 September 2022
Subject: Vision and Priorities for Parliament Hill Improvements	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members a vision for improvements at Parliament Hill.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the content of the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In 2007, a proposal for improvements to Parliament Hill was considered as part of a wider proposal to the Heritage and Lottery fund. This was over 15 years ago and clearly the priorities for the area need to be reassessed in order to agree the principles and a Vision that can be adopted for future funding opportunities.
2. New priorities and strategic frameworks are currently being discussed as part of the establishment of the new Natural Environment Division, including an emphasis on Nature recovery and visitor and community engagement. Any new Vision should take into account the current Divisional Plan and other new policies applying to the open spaces as a whole, whilst always reflecting the unique character of the Heath, and local issues.
3. A fresh proposal in Camden to re-develop the nearby Murphy's yard, which had been paused, has created an opportunity to emphasise the value of Hampstead Heath to the local planning authority as very important green infrastructure for Camden residents. A new Vision and principles for Parliament Hill improvements would identify opportunities that could then be developed into detailed costed

proposals for future funding from planning obligations linked to developments in the local area.

Vision and concepts for improvements

4. The Vision for improvements at Parliament is based on the following principles:
 - The emphasis on the Heath's Nature conservation delivering the new priorities of the City's Climate change strategy and the Nature recovery strategy for the Natural Environment Division.
 - A pedestrian priority to ensure visitor can enjoy the natural space.
 - The need of a defined visitor hub to strengthen the recreational value of the area in line with the Charity Objectives, and with interpretation in line with the Natural Environment Division's Visitor Strategy.
 - Repurposing the buildings to generate more community value.
 - Harness opportunities to increase the learning and education value, in line with the Natural Environment Learning Strategy.
5. As part of the Vision, the following main proposals are considered a priority:
 - The creation of Sustainable drainage with the introduction of a wetland area that can resolve some of the drainage issues on site. This will also create new habitats and increase the biodiversity value.
 - Defined pedestrian access routes that can minimise soil erosion and increase safety of pedestrians.
 - Refurbishment of buildings for a better community use.
6. There is an opportunity to scope the improvements of the Gordon House Road entrance in line with any proposed development at Murphy's yards with an improved public realm proposal although at this stage this cannot be defined.
7. Parliament Hill is also hosting a number of leisure and recreational facilities including an Athletic Track, a Lido, a cricket pitch and a bowling green. The development of these facilities is progressing with separate projects and proposals that will feed into the Vision once the details are finalised.
8. The Vision for the improvements are at this stage conceptual and further engagement and consultation is needed to develop detailed proposals. The Vision is attached in appendix 1.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The proposals outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy.
10. The proposals 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 and C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications at this stage.

Resource Implications

12. There are no resources implications at this stage

Climate Implications

13. Included within the Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 are a 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. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

14. There are no legal implications at this stage.

Risk Implications

15. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity and Queen's Park and Highgate Wood Charity Risk Registers. Any risks arising from this proposal will be included in a project risk register.

Equality Implications

16. The new booking system will not change the opportunity to book for all section of the community. A telephone booking opportunity will remain in place.

Security Implications

17. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Registers.

Conclusion

18. This report sets out a high-level vision for the Parliament Hill area. The Vision for the improvements are at this stage conceptual and further engagement and consultation is needed to develop detailed proposals.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Conceptual Vision

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Legend

Phase 1 Projects

- ① Gordon House Road entrance and improved Lido approach and car park.
- ② Improved alignment of pedestrian access route.
- ③a Refurbishment of the Lido café seating area and inclusion of a mini native forest.
- ③b New wetland area providing stormwater attenuation and treatment, comprising shallow swales and small ponds with a diverse mix of flora and fauna. Play on the Way adds an additional layer of interest.
- ④ Existing café refurbished and extended to create a visitor hub and toilets with a new enlarged outdoor seating area.
- ⑤ Dedicated pedestrian access route from Highgate entrance
- ⑥ Renovation of the existing changing rooms to provide an improved community space and a potential new café with a landscaped outdoor seating area.

LUC Landscape Masterplan
Parliament Hill
DRAFT
May 2022

SCALE 1:2500 @ A3

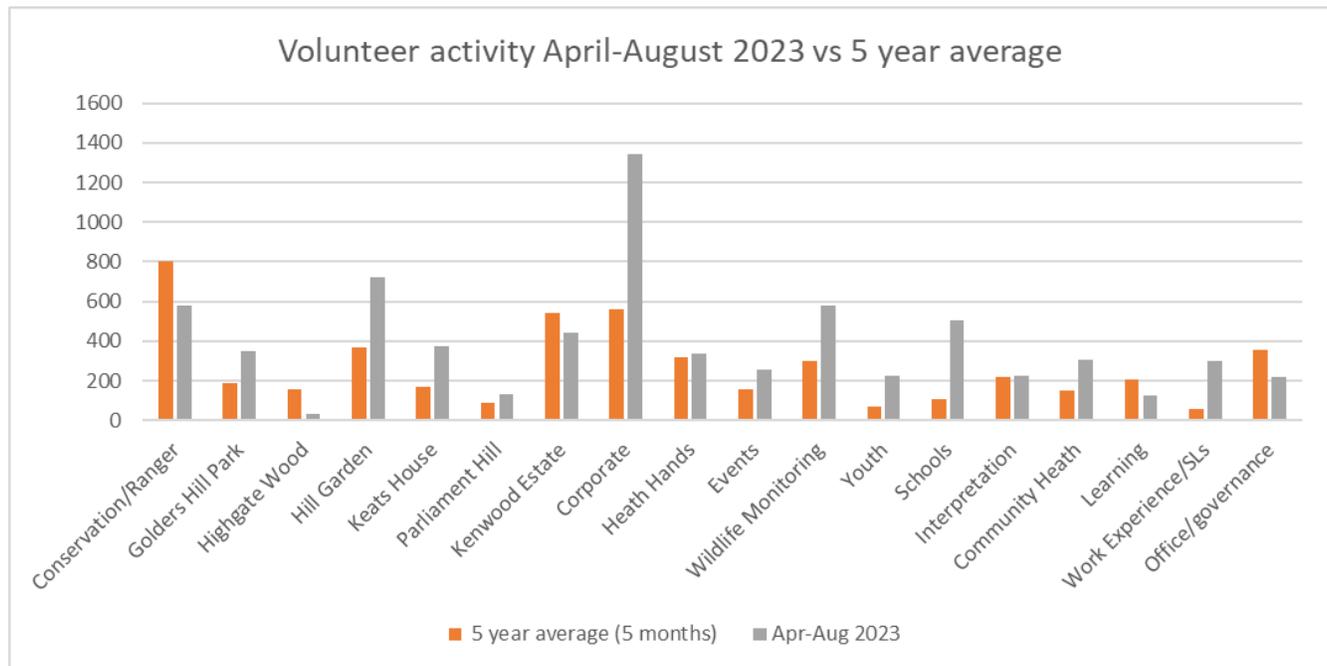


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Heath Hands Update – September 2022

- Over 7,000 **hours** contributed by volunteers in the year to date
- Over 300 volunteer **sessions** delivered
- Working with Conservation, Ranger, Golders Hill, Keats, Highgate Wood and English Heritage teams
- Nearly 500 participants on 45 **community** activities so far this year
- More than 500 **school** children participated in activities and expanding **youth** volunteering programmes
- 14 **Heath Friendly Schools** active with a balanced mix of state and private
- Savernake Bridge, Whitestone Garden and landscaping around Hive projects ongoing
- Over 1300 **corporate** volunteering hours contributed over 22 sessions
- Ongoing **wellbeing**, social prescribing and health connections projects with African/Umoja Health Forum and Cheshire Foundation for mental health, Healthy Minds (Mind in Camden), Barnet Mencap and Camden Mental Health services
- Busy programme of **walks and talks** including forest bathing, Ranger led walks, bat nights, Fleet River, Nordic walking, bug hunting and more
- **Wildlife Monitoring** (Ecology) and **Wildlife Interpretation** projects reaching Summer peak
- Two large **public events** successfully delivered: Community Fun day (and carnival) in June and Afghan Kite Festival in August
- New Heath Hands **2030 strategy** published and shared amongst different audiences (pto)





Conservation and Community
on Hampstead Heath

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