



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 10 JUNE 2024
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, WEST WING, GUILDHALL.

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)	Sharlene McGee, (Leonard Cheshire)
Liz Andrew, London Natural History Society	Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
Ray Booth, (Barnet Mencap)	Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Arnoldi, (Heath Hands)	Ellin Stein, (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
John Etheridge, South End Green Association	Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)	Steve Ripley, Ramblers Association
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)	David Walton, (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces Society)	John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
	Michelle Martin-Williams, Vale of Heath Society

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
 - a) To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Health Consultative Committee held on 22nd April 2024. (Pages 5 - 12)
 - b) To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Health, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park held on 21st May 2024. (Pages 13 - 20)
4. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

For Information
(Pages 21 - 28)
5. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

Part 2 - Non Public Agenda

7. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

For Decision

8. **MINUTES**

- a) To agree the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Health Consultative Committee held on 22nd April 2024. (Pages 29 - 30)
- b) To note the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Health, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park held on 21st May 2024. (Pages 31 - 32)

9. **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES - INCOME ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIES**

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

For Information
(Pages 33 - 62)

10. **THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2024.**

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 22 April 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall. on Monday, 22 April 2024 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
Liz Andrew
John Arnoldi
John Foley
Colin Gregory
Michael Hammerson
Michele Martin Williams
Richard Sumray
Jeff Waage
Simon Williams

In Attendance:

Nick Bradfield
Dr Gaye Henson
Helen Payne
David Walton

Officers:

Emily Brennan	- Natural Environment Director
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department
Helen Evans	- Environment Department
Jack Joslin	- City Bridge House Estates
Isobel Tucker	- City Surveyor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Liz Andrew and John Weston.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

3.1 **To agree the draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 15 January 2024**

RESOLVED – That, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 January 2024.

3.2 ***To note the draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held 12 February 2024**

The minutes were noted.

MATTERS ARISING:

The following points were noted.

- London Council for Sport and Recreation Member expressed concerns about the Constabulary's visibility and numbers, noting a significant reduction compared to previous figures and questioned whether this had been addressed by the HHMC.
- Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association Member raised a query about uniforms not being provided by the city police, the implications for visibility, and whether funding would need to come from the Heath. The Assistant Director responded that the issue predates current discussions, uniforms were sourced through colleagues and other departments, and funding would need to come from the Heath.
- The Chairman indicated the intention to ensure the work of Heath Hands is reported and acknowledged, stating it was in Heath Hands' remit to do so.
- It was noted by Members that the committee representation had decreased for some representative bodies. The London Council for Sport and Recreation Member committed to bringing a name back to the next consultative committee.

3.3 ***To note the draft minutes of the Sports Advisory Forum Minutes held on 28 February 2024**

The minutes were noted.

MATTERS ARISING

Forum Strategy

London Council for Sport and Recreation Member expressed satisfaction with the forum's shift towards a more strategic focus rather than operational, emphasising the importance of balancing officer work and strategic planning for health and wellbeing. They noted this as a good starting point to reset and enhance the forum's value.

Sports and Wellbeing Integration

Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association Member discussed the Sports and Wellbeing Forum, mentioning an issue with accessing the sports strategy link, which seemed to be focused on the square mile. They raised questions about integration and the business plan item related to the swimming forum's relation to the Sports and Wellbeing Forum.

Swimmers Forum and Sports Strategy

Head of Operations and Parks informed Members that the swimmers forum has been established with the first meeting scheduled for 23 April, including representatives from the lido, men's and ladies' mixed ponds. They mentioned

upcoming meetings with the Head of Sport Strategy & Engagement regarding the sports strategy review, ensuring it includes NLOS.

London Council for Sport and Recreation Member highlighted the necessity of including open spaces in the sports strategy and the importance of utilising the current strategy until a new one is developed. They committed to providing an update on the sports strategy.

4. ***HEATH HANDS UPDATE - MARCH 2024**

The Committee received an update from Heath Hands.

The Heath Hands representative gave a summary of the Heath Hands activities in the first quarter, including wildlife monitoring, interpretation centre, landscaping work at the men's and mixed pond, and the upcoming 21st anniversary celebrations.

The Committee noted the heath hands agreement and clarified that no decisions had been made and nothing is currently planned for the tennis hut at Parliament Hill.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Meeting on 30 October 2023.

The Assistant Director's report covered the formal opening of the athletics track, progress of the Parliament Hill sports and leisure facilities, the status of the pergola restoration project, the completion of the Ponds Access Project, and the conservation and ecology work on the heath. The committee discussed various topics related to the Heath and it was noted that a small working group would be formed to review and update the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy.

Parliament Hill

Head of Operations and Parks noted the Cricket nets project had been delayed, Members were informed that the plan to relocate or refurbish the cricket nets on the Heath had been postponed due to planning issues and lack of sufficient budget. It was noted that the City Surveyors team has an allocated funds that could be used for either option, but not both. A Member expressed disappointment and suggested looking for external funding sources. It was agreed that a further update to be provided at the next meeting. The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association Member noted that the association could help make up the current shortfall of approximately £20,000 and proposed to speak to other boards for assistance.

Golders Hill Pergola Update

The Assistant Director provided a summary on the pergola update, stating that long-term repair would require a significant sum and that temporary works might not be sufficient, but a better sense would be obtained after works

currently underway were completed. They advised erring on the side of caution.

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association Member inquired about the funding source, whether it was from capital resources or a local budget, and what issues might be faced. The Assistant Director responded that there was not sufficient funding for this, and the source of funds was an open question. Members noted works were being carried out in May subject to weather conditions.

Ponds

The Head of Operations and Parks reported that all work at the mixed and ladies pond, including snagging, was completed. The remaining works included a sliding door from Finland, which was being manufactured and expected to be installed between 7-10 May, with an end of May completion target.

Conservation

The following points were noted.

- The recent desilting work on the Heath Extension had finished.
- There was a lot of ongoing work on the ponds and wetlands by the conservation team, including the amphibian survey of all 30 ponds, which was assisted by Heath Hands.
- The discovery of Black Hair Streak larval eggs on the Heath was mentioned as an exciting new development.
- Leaky dams, constructed out of wood, are being installed on the streams and tributaries of the Fleet Stream as part of the climate action strategy to create pools, damp woodland habitat, and assist with flood mitigation.
- The conservation team completed a week's work at Burnham Beeches, doing specialist work on the most vulnerable Beech pollards.

In response to a discussion on windspeed, it was suggested that notices about risks or dangers could be put up at main entrances when people come onto the Heath. A Member noted that signs are put up and social media is used to inform when windspeed exceeds 40mph, leading to the closure of ponds, particularly the ladies pond.

Constabulary

During the meeting, there was a discussion about the Constabulary and its current makeup, presence, visibility, and effectiveness on the Heath. The topic of the role of Parkguard was also mentioned and it was suggested that it may need to be touched on in the future.

In relation to questions raised on the licensing scheme for dogs and the resource limitations at COL for managing the Kenwood estate, officers noted that consideration has been given to the topic but no action was currently possible.

The representative for London Council for Sport and Recreation raised concerns about safety on the Heath due to drug paraphernalia and proposed

that the work plan should include a review of Constabulary policing over the year, with a review to be provided by the end of the year.

Boarded Up Cottage

It was reported that the initial timeline for the repair of the boarded-up cottage had been delayed. The decision was made to retain and repair, which will be covered through insurance, with construction estimated to take 9 months to a year, aiming for a 2025 completion.

6. MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR FY'2024-25 (BUSINESS PLAN)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning an overview of the planned key management activities and initiatives at Hampstead Heath for financial year 2024-25.

The Assistant Director reported that there has been significant planning and strategy development happening across COL. A 5-year business plan is being created for North London Open Spaces this year, and a 1-year plan has been developed for this year. Officers noted that the document is a working document, and the forthcoming 5-year business will seek to align with the multiple strategies across the organisation. Members noted that there a delicate balance needs to be struck to ensure that all activities are happening in the right way. Sport was discussed as a key strategy for the Natural Environment Division, including access and recreation. The need to incorporate connections, and physical activity, health, and exercise management into the strategy was also discussed.

The meeting was extended for 45 minutes.

7. REVIEW OF CURRENT DESIGNATED, UNRESTRICTED, AND RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS HELD AND PROPOSED CHANGES

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning the complete list of the current designated, unrestricted, and restricted income funds held for Hampstead Heath with the recommended future usage and changes required for these funds, to meet charity accounting SORP rules.

The interim head of finance at Chamberlain's, presented a report on the review of current designated, unrestricted, and restricted income funds held and proposed changes. She explained that the report was a building block that reviews the information held by the organisation and appears in the charity accounts each year. Members noted that the report showed the movement of funds for Hampstead in 2022-23 and the balance on the 31st of March 2024, subject to audit. Officers also mentioned that there was ongoing work on the charity review, and there may be more precise notes in the statutory accounts that would be produced in the future.

The London Council for Sport and Recreation representative inquired about the permanent endowment mentioned in appendix 1 of the report. The Member was interested in knowing if the amount had changed over the years or had been built up and if the endowment has kept in line with inflation. It was

explained that the permanent endowment mentioned on page 46, is something where the capital must be maintained unless the originator specifies otherwise. Members noted the income could be spent, but there was no requirement to maintain the asset.

8. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning decision taken under urgency authority.

8.1 **Hampstead Heath Fees and Charges for Financial Year 2024-2025**

The report was noted.

8.2 **Parliament Hill Athletics Track**

The report was noted.

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

There were now questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

12. ***TO NOTE THE DRAFT NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes were noted.

13. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning decision taken under urgency authority.

14. **CORPORATE CHARITIES REVIEW SCOPING EXERCISE TO SUPPORT THE NATURAL CHARITIES REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 10 JUNE 2024**

The Committee noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Blair Stringman
Blair.Stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Tuesday, 21 May 2024**

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 Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chair)
John Beyer
Councillor Marcus Boyland
Deputy Timothy Butcher
John Foley
Jason Groves
Michael Hudson
Pauline Lobo
Andrew McMurtrie (Ex-Officio Member)
Councillor Arjun Mittra

In Attendance:

Alderman Gregory Jones KC
Mathew Frith

Officers:

Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Clem Harcourt	- Chamberlain's Department
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Simon Owen	- Chamberlain's Department
Bob Roberts	- Environment Department
Niranjan Shanmuganathan	- Chamberlain's Department
Sunil Singh	- City Surveyor's Department
Callum Southern	- Town Clerk's Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's
William LoSasso	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Deputy Charles Edward Lord and Caroline Haines.

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

There were no declarations.

3. *ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee received the order of the Court of Common Council held at the Guildhall of the City of London on Thursday 25th April 2024, which appointed the Committee and approved its Terms of Reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee considered to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No.29.

The Committee received an Expression of Interest from William Upton KC to be elected as uncontested Chair of the committee.

RESOLVED – That William Upton KC be declared as Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

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

The Committee received an Expression of Interest from Alderman Gregory Jones to be elected as uncontested Deputy Chair of the committee.

RESOLVED – That Alderman Gregory Jones be declared as Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

6.1 **Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the public and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

6.2 **Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 22 April 2024.

6.3 **Draft Queen's Park Consultative Group Minutes**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Group held on 8 May 2024.

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

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee's consultative committees and groups, and the appointments it was invited to make to other bodies.

RESOLVED – That Members:

- Noted the terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- Appointed John Foley to serve on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee subject to his agreement outside the meeting, alongside the Chairman.

- Agreed the terms of reference and composition of the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Consultative Groups.
- Appointed Jason Groves to serve on the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and act as Chair. Agreed that two other Members of this Committee may be appointed to serve on the Highgate Wood Consultative Group at the next Committee meeting.
- Appointed Alethea Silk subject to her agreement outside the meeting to serve on the Queen's Park Consultative Group. Agreed that two other Members of this Committee could be appointed at the next Committee meeting.
- Agreed that the action to appoint a local representative from this Committee to observe meetings of the Natural Environment Board be moved to the next Committee meeting.
- Appointed John Foley to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee subject to his agreement outside the meeting.

8. ***ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

8.1 **Hampstead Heath**

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment, concerning update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting on 12 February 2024

The following points were noted:

- The opening of the Parliament Hill athletics track on April 17th was discussed and was well received locally.
- The night of the 10,000-meter personal bests on Saturday was also discussed, with the biggest crowd ever for the event.
- The Bowling Green and croquet lawn were mentioned for making it into Parks for London's Green Space Quality Manual.
- The popularity of the swimming facilities on the heath was discussed, with 3000 swimmers at the Lido alone and 10,000 swimmers at all three ponds over the weekend of May 11th and 12th.
- The Ponds access project was expected to conclude in June.
- The committee congratulated the staff and volunteers for their excellent work on the events.
- A suggestion was made to do a big social media campaign around the launch of the access project.
- The committee discussed the recruitment at Golders Hill Park and the appointment of a new head zookeeper.
- A ceremony for Declan Gallagher at Golders Hill Park was mentioned, with a memorial bench placed at the top of the lawn near the car park.
- The committee discussed the issue of sexual activity and drug paraphernalia being found on West Heath and suggested a deeper dive into the issue at the next meeting.
- The committee discussed the possibility of reviving the liaison with a local group to help with the issue on West Heath.

- A suggestion was made to do a committee walk around West Heath to see the problem on the ground.
- The committee discussed the Heath Hands agreement and the finalisation of the document.
- The committee discussed the Hampstead Heath management strategy review and the possibility of having an away day in October to facilitate the review.
- A suggestion was made to have the away day at Hampstead Heath or one of the other council spaces.

8.2 **Highgate Wood and Queen's Park**

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment, concerning update on matters relating to Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since the last Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting on 12 February 2024.

The following points were noted:

- The Committee received an update on the Roman kiln project in Highgate Wood, the sandpit project in Queen's Park and its progress, the paddling pool in Queen's Park and its status and the cafe tendering process and the use of consultants..
- Members noted the sandpit project in Queen's Park has taken longer than expected, but is nearing completion and is expected to open in June.
- The committee were informed that the paddling pool in Queen's Park requires investment and would not open this year.
- Members noted that the Woodland Walk proposal in Queen's Park would be considered as part of the updated 10-year management strategy for Queen's Park.
- In regard to the cafe tendering process Members were informed that this would be discussed in more detail at the next committee meeting, including the use of consultants and the potential for investment in the buildings.

9. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment, concerning the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee with assurance that risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department and its Natural Environment Division are satisfactory and meet the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and the Charities Act 2011.

Officers explained that the report included the detailed risk registers and that all risks had been recently reviewed in detail by the assistant director and the management team. The report asked members to confirm whether the registers satisfactorily set out the key risks to the charities and that appropriate systems were in place to identify and mitigate the risks.

RESOLVED – That Members confirm, on behalf of the City Corporation as trustee, that the registers appended to the report satisfactorily set out the key

risks to the charities and that appropriate systems are in place to effectively identify and mitigate risks.

10. ***NATURAL CAPITAL AUDIT**

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment, concerning a Natural Capital Audit.

The Director of Natural Environment provided an update on the natural capital audit, explaining that the audit articulated the huge value of open spaces for many different ecosystem services, including biodiversity, carbon sequestration, access, recreation, health and well-being, and flood management. The data from the audit was captured on a geographic information system, allowing it to be broken down to the site-specific level or clustered up to a group of sites. The audit covered not only the open spaces within the division, but also City Gardens, school grounds, and the cemetery and crematorium.

Members noted that the next steps for the audit included feeding into the new corporate plan, influencing local planning, working with funding organisations, supporting income generation, establishing a reputation as an international leader in natural capital accounting, establishing a baseline against which progress can be measured, informing governance and priorities, and building effective delivery partnerships.

It was noted that an internal working group meeting was planned for later in the month to prioritise the next steps and determine who would deliver outcomes. Members were informed that the audit was planned to be repeated every two to three years to enable significant progress to be shown and more value to be delivered by the open spaces.

11. **NORTH LONDON OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN**

The Committee considered reports of the Interim Executive Director, Environment, concerning an overview of the planned key management activities and initiatives for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park.

11.1 **Management Priorities for Hampstead Heath for FY'2024-25 (Business Plan)**

RESOLVED – That Members, approve the FY'2024-25 business plan for Hampstead Heath.

11.2 **Management Priorities for Highgate Wood FY'2024-25 (Business Plan)**

RESOLVED – That Members, approve the FY'2024-25 business plan for Highgate Wood.

11.3 **Management Priorities for Queen's Park FY'2024-25 (Business Plan)**

RESOLVED – That Members, approve the FY'2024-25 business plan for Queen's Park.

12. ***ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Committee received joint reports of the Chamberlain and Interim Executive Director, Environment concerning annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

12.1 **Hampstead Heath Incorporating Hampstead Heath Trust Fund Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Members noted the report.

12.2 **Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Members noted the report.

13. ***HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK KILBURN CHARITY - REVIEW OF CURRENT DESIGNATED, UNRESTRICTED, AND RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS HELD AND PROPOSED CHANGES**

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment concerning the complete list of the current designated, unrestricted, and restricted income funds held for the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn charity.

The following points were noted:

- There is an unrestricted fund of nearly £170,000, which the committee could designate for certain purposes.
- The committee discussed the potential use of the funds for dangerous trees work.
- A Member suggested considering using the funds for the capital of the paddling pool.
- Officers agreed to work to produce a paper on the costs and the committee's wish to utilise some of the funds.

13.1 ***Hampstead Heath and Hampstead Heath Trust Fund Charities**

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director, Environment concerning the complete list of the current designated, unrestricted, and restricted income funds held for the Hampstead Heath and Hampstead Heath Trust Fund charities.

Members noted the contents of the report and were informed that an updated paper would be brought to the next meeting.

14. ***HAMPSTEAD HEATH - HILL GARDEN PERGOLA - UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor concerning background information on the Hill Garden Pergola, to provide an update its current condition and comment on next steps.

The following points were noted:

- Officers provided an update on the pergola, stating that short-term repairs had been completed.
- It was noted that repairs were expected to last until August 2024, after which it is recommended that the timbers be removed and replaced in full.
- A feasibility study is being conducted to provide options and refine costs for the repairs, which are estimated to be between two to four million pounds.
- The committee discussed potential funding strategies, including applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund and dividing the project into stages.
- It was agreed that the matter needed to be escalated and that a report should be provided at the next meeting, with the possibility of a verbal update if more time was needed.
- Officer agreed to consider putting the matter on the risk register.

15. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received reports of the Town Clerk concerning decisions taken under urgency powers since its last meeting.

15.1 **Urgency Decision: Hampstead Heath Fees and Charges for Financial Year 2024-2025**

Members noted the report.

15.2 **Urgency Decision: Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Fees and Charges for Financial Year 2024-2025**

Members noted the report.

15.3 **Urgency Decision: Parliament Hill Athletics Track**

Members noted the report.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

18. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

19. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

19.1 **Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

19.2 **Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

Members noted the draft non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 22 April 2024.

20. ***OUTTURN REPORT: AFFORDABLE ART FAIR**

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director.

21. ***DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning a decision take under urgency powers.

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

There was no questions.

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

There was one item of urgent business.

23.1 ***Corporate Charities Review Scoping Exercise to support the Natural Environment Charities Review**

The Committee received a joint report of the Managing Director, City Bridge Foundation and the Interim Executive Director, Environment.

The meeting ended at 6.04 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Blair Stringman
Blair.Stringman@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Item 4

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Dated: 10 June 2024
Subject: Assistant Director Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	-Diverse engaged communities -Leading sustainable environment -Vibrant thriving destination -Providing excellent services -Flourishing public spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts Executive Director, Environment Department	For Information
Report author: Bill LoSasso Superintendent North London Open Spaces	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Meeting on 22 April 2024.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Parliament Hill / Leisure

1. The 'Night of the 10K PBs' was held on Saturday 18 May 2024, which was a qualifying event for athletes ahead of the Paris Olympics this summer. It was a wonderful evening that was supported by representatives from the management and consultative committees, local councillors and the Mayor of

Camden, and the Town Clerk. There were thousands of spectators, athletes from over 40 countries represented, over 50% of athletes running their own personal best, and a spot at the Paris Olympics secured by Megan Keith. William Upton KC CC supported the event in a television interview, and over 100,000 people watched the event on the European Athletics YouTube feed.

2. Meetings and arrangements are underway for 'Give it a Go' 2024, which will be taking place on 14 July. It is a collaborative event with partners from Camden Council and local sports clubs and leisure centres. It's an event to promote health and wellbeing and a chance to try out new sports from tennis to fencing and bowling to boxing.
3. The cricket square has been prepared and the cricket season was due to start on 23 April. It has unfortunately been delayed at Parliament Hill Fields due to poor weather and ground conditions. The cricket season is underway at Heath Extension, however, with regular maintenance being carried out on the squares. Weekly games are being booked in for the coming months. Meetings are being held with City Surveyors regarding the cricket nets on Heath Extension and to discuss the use of their existing limited budget. The next meeting is on 22 May. The local team are also discussing funding opportunities with local cricket teams.
4. Football and rugby season is now completed at Heath Extension. Bookings are also increasing for the football pitches, rounders and grids at Parliament Hill Fields, with schools and the general public. Summer sports grids have been marked out and are now being used by Camden School Sports Association (CSSA), local schools, and groups for football training and general fitness. Work is underway to mark out rounders pitches for local schools.
5. Hampstead Heath Extension changing rooms have been closed due to traces of Legionella in a recent routine water quality test. The changing rooms were closed immediately after the issue was identified, our risk guidance for Legionella has been followed, and we are working closely with the City Surveyor's Department and specialist external contractors to address the situation and ensure continued public safety. Despite the closure of the changing rooms, there will not be any impact on our sports clubs' ability to use sports pitches while work is carried out to resolve this problem. It is hoped that the changing rooms will be reopened by the start of the rugby season in September this year.
6. The Lido and Ponds are getting much busier with the warmer weather, and with more awareness and publicity being generated about the health benefits of year-round swimming, showing a year-on-year rise. As an example, the weekend of 11-12 May was very busy with over 3,000 visitors to the Lido and

in excess of 10,000 visitors to the three bathing ponds. Wi-Fi connection has now been installed at the Mixed Pond and new cables were installed at the Men's Pond in April to strengthen the Wi-Fi connection, which will help with payment made by credit cards.

7. The Lido started its summer opening hours on 4 May and the Mixed Pond opened to the public on this date. Repairs and maintenance of the Lido and Parliament Hill paddling pools began on 16 May. The works include new filter media and dosing units for both paddling pools and a new pump for the Lido paddling pool. The aim is to open both pools by half-term starting on Saturday 25 May.
8. The Ponds Access Project is now coming to a close. All the works at the Ladies, Mixed and Men's Ponds has progressed well and is now complete. The hoists are installed, the grating has been added and the sliding doors at the Men's Pond were installed the week commencing 13 May. The extra grating to fill the void in the Men's Pond has now been instructed and will be carried out in mid-June. The handover is scheduled for 20 May when all works associated with the Ponds Access Project will be signed off and completed. Training was provided to the Lifeguards at the end of March on how to use the new hoists. Heath Hands helped with some planting at the Mixed Pond to replace vegetation removed during the Ponds Access Project. They also installed new fencing to help with control of the new accessible platform.

Golders Hill Park

9. The main task currently is cutting the grass, but areas of long grass are being left where possible to create more wildlife friendly areas within Golders Hill Park. The sandpit area is still closed due to refurbishment works taking place. Progress has been made with the local team, but it has been decided to appoint external contractors to complete the work, due to the machinery and technical expertise required to meet play safety standards. Quotes are being gained from contractors to install the remaining plastic sleepers. The sandpit remains closed, but we are working hard to ensure it can be opened in a timely manner. The other half of the sandpit area where the sunshade is located will be opened by Saturday 18 May.
10. Structural repair work has taken place on the Pergola and five of the worst columns were pinned at the base with two 450mm steel pins. Temporary structural repair work has been carried out and the eastern section of the colonnade was reopened on 15 May 2024. It is now safe for the public to access temporarily until August 2024. Future steps are now being evaluated. Senior Building Surveyors are still working with specialist contractors on the

next phase of works, as parts of the pergola may need to be removed to ensure continued public safety if a longer-term, more comprehensive solution is not implemented. A feasibility report has been commissioned by the City Surveyor's Department to identify options, and the cost for a full restoration is currently estimated to be more than £2 million. Heath Hands volunteer sessions are continuing in both the Park and Hill Garden, with three sessions a week being hosted by the Gardening team.

11. In partnership with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Heath Hands, the NLOS Senior Ecologist led a hedgehog survey workshop in Golders Hill Park. Wildlife cameras were placed throughout the park and will be in situ for approximately 3 weeks from the 1 May 2024. Based on previous surveys, Golders Hill Park remains one of the healthiest hedgehog populations in London.

Golders Hill Park Zoo

12. The Zoo Team hosted a corporate apprentice day on 9 May for apprentices across the City of London Corporation. 28 apprentices attended and worked with the Zoo and Gardening Teams to carry out work and renovate the butterfly garden. The apprentices helped to create a new nature pond in an old unused veg plot, carried out some much-needed weed clearance and painted some planters. The day was a huge success, and it was a great opportunity for apprentices from different departments and teams to come together to showcase the Zoo. The butterfly garden is not open to the public yet, as further works need to be carried out, but we hope to have the area fully renovated and open later this year.

Conservation

13. The Conservation Team was called in by the Swimming Team to carry out some emergency reinstatement to the Mixed Pond access path following the completion of the contractor works to install an upgraded electrical supply. The works were successfully completed last week with the assistance of the lifeguards, and we are now just waiting for the coxwell gravel aggregate to dry out before the surface is rolled to achieve a suitable wearing surface for access to the facility. The team has also been involved in tree damage clearance at various locations following the recent wet and stormy weather, and last week started the weekly butterfly transect surveys. With the recent warmer drier weather tree irrigation operations have recommenced as part of a three-to-five-year establishment programme.

Ecology

14. The Ecologist has now identified potential sites for new leaky dams on the Fleet Stream as part of the Climate Action Strategy objectives to improve resilience and reduce flood risk. These minimal structures using natural materials will be constructed by the Conservation Team over the next twelve to eighteen months. 150 wildlife cameras have been installed around the Heath to start the new hedgehog survey. Heath hands volunteers and the Zoological Society London (ZSL) team were involved in installing the cameras. Ecological monitoring is planned for the butterfly meadow installed in 2023 on the Hampstead Heath Extension, using the Butterfly Conservation App.

Arboriculture

15. The Tree Team has been carrying out scheduled inspections at a number of locations around the Heath and follow up tree works. We had more stormy weather during April, which caused several tree failures which were then worked on and made safe by the Tree Team. They also carried out repairs to the veteran tree enclosure fencing at the Vale of Health and provided professional advice and guidance during a film shoot below Kite Hill.

Events

16. The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Fairs arrived on 26 March for the traditional Easter holidays, finishing on Sunday 7 April. Due to the problematic weather, numbers were down on last year as several of the days were wash outs and they were therefore unable to open.
17. The Affordable Art Fair arrived on 23 April and the complicated building began. The weather was in our favour and the raising of the giant structure went without incident.
18. The Hampstead Heath and Golders Hill Park music programme begins on Friday 21 June and finishes on Sunday 25 August. We have a varied mix of music genres which caters for our wide and diverse audiences during the event.

Learning Team

19. The Natural Environment Division's Learning Team continues to provide valued programmes and activities on the Heath. In FY'2023-24, 10,706 students took part in facilitated learning sessions designed to boost

connection with nature and enrich classroom learning. 88% participants felt connected or very connected to nature after taking part. The programme reached students in some of London's most deprived boroughs, including Camden, Barnet, Hackney, Islington and Haringey. In addition, 20,345 participants engaged at our play centres. Play is vital for child development and wellbeing, and the play centre are a vital resource for children with limited access to holiday enrichment activities and safe outdoor play areas. 100% of participants felt happy or very happy after taking part. Finally, bespoke sessions were facilitated for 13 – 25-year-olds in need of support with education, employment or mental health. Groups included pupil referral units, young carers and Family Action UK.

Financial implications

20. No implications.

Resource implications

21. No implications.

Legal implications

22. No implications.

Risk implications

23. Risks are monitored and recorded through the various risk registers, including the Division and Departmental Risk Registers.

Equalities implications

24. No implications.

Climate implications

25. Included within the business plan for 2024-25 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.

Security implications

26. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register

Conclusion

27. This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath Consultative Meeting on 22 April 2024.

Appendices: None

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