



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 2 - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Alderman & Sheriff Gregory Jones	Ella Mitchell, (Hampstead Rugby Club)
KC (Chairman)	Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
Liz Andrew, London Natural	Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority
History Society	Ethnic Communities representative)
Arnoldi, (Heath Hands)	Steve Ripley, (Ramblers Association)
Councillor Marcus Boyland,	Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation
(London Borough of Camden)	Area Advisory Committee)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park	Alethea Silk
Conservation Area Advisory	Richard Sumray, (London Council for
Committee)	Sport and Recreation)
John Etheridge, (South End Green	Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead
Association)	Society)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead	John Weston, (Hampstead
Garden Suburb Residents'	Conservation Area Advisory
Association)	Committee)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate	Michele Martin Williams, (Vale of Heath
Society)	Society)
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone	
Birdwatching Society)	
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces	
Society)	
Sharlene McGee, (Leonard	
Cheshire)	

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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 draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 17 June 2025 (Pages 5 - 16)
- b) *To note the draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on Tuesday 16 July (Pages 17 - 30)
- c) *To note the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum Minutes (Pages 31 - 36)
- d) Matters arising

Members will note that the Deputy Chair William Upton KC has been asked to continue to act as Chair of the Consultative Committee whilst the Chairman, Alderman & Sherriff Gregory Jones KC, is engaged in his Shrieval role.

4. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 37 - 38)

5. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

For Information
(Pages 39 - 70)

6. *HEATH HANDS UPDATE

Report of Heath Hands.

For Information
(Pages 71 - 72)

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

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

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10. **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

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

- a) To agree the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 17 June 2025. (Pages 73 - 76)
- b) To note the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 16 July 2025. (Pages 77 - 82)

12. **NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

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

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17 June 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 17 June 2025 at
5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Acting Chairman)
Liz Andrew, London Natural History Society
John Arnoldi, Heath Hands
Nick Bradfield, Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee (attended virtually)
Colin Gregory, Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association
Michael Hammerson, Highgate Society (attended virtually)
Ella Mitchell, Hampstead Rugby Club (attended virtually)
Helen Payne, Friends of Kenwood (attended virtually)
Susan Rose, Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Richard Sumray, London Council for Sport and Recreation
Jeff Waage, Heath & Hampstead Society
Michele Martin Williams, Vale of Heath Society (attended virtually)

Officers:

Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Andrew Impey	- Environment Department
Jack Joslin	- Environment Department
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Zoe Williams	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman & Sheriff Gregory Jones, Alethea Silk, John Etheridge 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 Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

A Member requested that Members who attended the meeting online be recorded as present.

It was agreed by the Committee that amendments be made to the minutes in the instances where a question was attributed to the incorrect Member.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the discussed amendments, the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 29 April 2025 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

The draft public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 20 May 2025 were formally noted.

3.3 **Matters Arising**

The Committee noted that the Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, William Upton KC had been asked to continue to act as Chair of the Consultative Committee whilst the Chairman, Alderman & Sherriff Gregory Jones KC, was engaged in his Shrieval role.

The Chairman noted that Alethea Silk had been appointed to serve on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee as a representative from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, and Councillor Marcus Boyland would be attending in an observational role.

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Resident's Association (HGSRA) representative asked if there was an update on the resilience arrangements that were being discussed with the London Boroughs of Barnet and Camden. Officers responded that at the last meeting with the London Borough of Barnet's resilience team, a set of proposals were raised that would not be suitable. They further explained that the resilience team would need to establish a consultation with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Resident's Association. Officers noted that the London Borough of Barnet were amenable to the changes requested, and at the request of the Member, provided an example of an issue within the proposal.

The Highgate Society representative requested that the relevant Officer speak to them regarding an archaeological strategy. Officers confirmed that they would follow up with the Member.

The Chairman noted that they had been following up on the policy for access to the Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds. Officers provided an update that, following the recent Supreme Court judgement in *For Women Scotland* on the statutory interpretation of the Equality Act 2010, they were reviewing access policies which included those at the Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds. Officers explained that they were preparing appraisal proposals for the engagement process which would be brought forward for decision as soon as possible. They acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue and noted that, despite the time pressure, it was essential to take the necessary time to determine the most appropriate course of action. The Committee was informed that they would be working with specialist legal advisors to shape the consultation process which would be shared with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee.

The Committee agreed that given the next meeting was after the summer recess, they would be comfortable with being contacted by email about this consultation. The London Council of Sports and Recreation (LCSR) representative agreed that time should be taken to determine the correct approach and emphasised the need for caution in issuing guidance prematurely, particularly in the absence of any national guidance. Officers noted that a holding response was being drafted for Officers and Members to use in response to queries, while the current facility arrangements remained in place. They assured Members that they would not be committing to any changes until the consultation and the review had taken place.

The HGRSA representative noted their agreement that consultation should not begin until the guidance from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission had been received. Regarding the process for consultation, the Member requested that the consultation document be sent to Members to consult with the organisations they represented. They also noted that following the consultation, the Consultative Committee should have the opportunity to comment on the proposal before it went to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. The Chairman responded that the Equalities and Human Rights Commission's draft code of practice had been circulated, and they were in the process of consultation. The Chairman noted that waiting for the final version of the code of practice may cause a delay in the consultation process.

4. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since its last meeting.

The Assistant Director noted that the Cricket Nets and Paddling Pool at Hampstead Heath were opened on 24 May 2025. They noted that the Paddling Pool was opened until 30 May 2025, and there was a brief closure as they

addressed mechanical issues. The Assistant Director also apologised for the cancellation of the Consultative Committee's walk at Hampstead Heath on the Saturday before the meeting. They noted this was due to staffing needed for an unauthorised events that took place that day.

The Chairman noted the additional paragraph that had been included in the report about the City Surveyor's Department's work at Hampstead Heath. They also sought clarity on what the years identified in appendix 1 of the report referred to. The Assistant Director introduced the purpose of the update and the background of the funding for the Cyclical Works Programme, welcoming feedback about the structure of the report.

The HGSRA representative raised a question regarding the reference to potential wildflower meadow creation on the Hampstead Heath Extension. They asked whether this initiative might alter the recreational use of the area for sport or affect the overall perception of the land's traditional agricultural character. The Assistant Director assured the Member that they were not proposing a fundamental change to the use of Heath Extension and clarified that the report was considering the potential opportunities for the future. Officers assured the Member that the part of the Heath Extension for wildflower meadow creation would be incorporated into the area that had already been allowed to succeed into meadows. They noted they would provide the Member with the exact locations in due course.

The HGRSA representative also noted that they had found the appendix of the report about the Cyclical Works Programme difficult to understand without further commentary as the text was small and the matters were not in order of priority. They noted that it should not be a substitute for the progress that had been made on being provided with more information about project prioritisation.

The Heath & Hampstead Society (HHS) representative asked why Golders Hill Park and Parliament Hill Field's year on year forecasting had been recorded separately to that of Hampstead Heath. They were also interested in understanding the factors that drove the fluctuations in the forecasting. The Assistant Director noted that they would follow up with the City Surveyor's department for a detailed response. They explained that the projects that were identified in the forecast were from the forward maintenance plan which accounted for all Cyclical Work Programme projects that should occur. The Assistant Director explained that they were in the process of standardising how the City Surveyors department identified the different areas of Hampstead Heath with how they were identified in the North London Open Spaces.

The LCSR representative expressed a preference for greater clarity on the basis for decision-making across the City Corporation, rather than the detailed information provided in the appendix of the report. Specifically, they sought understanding of why certain areas received more funding than others and how priorities were established. The Member noted that the Consultative Committee should be involved in the process of setting these priorities. Officers confirmed the feedback would be communicated to the City Surveyor's Department.

The LCSR representative asked Officers about what had caused the delay in processing the application for the London 5000m event. The Member highlighted the importance of supporting the local clubs as they were important for the success of recreation on the Heath. The Assistant Director responded that they were supportive of the new event that had been proposed and had been working with the running club to ensure it would be possible. They explained that as it was a new event, the application process was necessary. The Assistant Director assured the Member that a meeting was planned within the next couple of days to finalise the details.

The Member also noted that they had been contacted by the rugby club, which had been instructed to cease operating a café from the Athletics Track. They noted that this arrangement had previously been agreed with a former Superintendent and emphasised the need for improved communication and mutual understanding between Officers and the club. The Assistant Director acknowledged that there may have been an un-memorialised legacy agreement for the rugby club to use the track as a café. They noted that there were some arrangements that needed to be addressed as they had become aware of some health and safety and other issues. The Assistant Director assured the Member that they were committed to communicating with the club. In response to concerns that the clubs were not satisfied with how they had been treated, the Assistant Director assured the Member that they were working in a positive and collaborative manner with all partners, and noted it was helpful to receive the feedback.

Regarding the coppicing required in autumn for maintaining the habitat on the dams and spillways, the HHS representative noted that Members frequently received inquiries from local interest groups and members of the public asking for information on work being undertaken at Hampstead Heath. The Member recommended improving communication through the use of on-site signage and regular updates on the website to explain the nature and purpose of ongoing works. Officers noted the point and explained that the maintenance work on the habitats around the dams and spillways was being carried out at the request of the reservoir inspector.

The Highgate Society representative suggested that publishing information about ongoing and completed surveys on the Hampstead Heath website would help engage the public and raise awareness of the work being undertaken. They also requested an update on the moth survey that had been conducted in previous years. The London Natural History Society representative noted that any support the City Corporation could provide in promoting volunteer opportunities would be appreciated. Officers confirmed that they would discuss this with the ecologist and noted that while a follow-up moth survey was planned, it was not a top priority.

Regarding the coppicing of trees, the Friends of Kenwood representative noted that they had similar discussions at Kenwood, trying to prevent the felling of trees to maintain the backs and prevent erosion. They noted they had been working closely with English Heritage on this and encouraged the City Corporation to

continue the collaboration with them on Hampstead Heath. The Member also noted that in the past, Kenwood had raised public information boards about any work that was being conducted in the area. They encouraged this practice to be adopted on Hampstead Heath.

The Member also asked for an update about the work on the sand pit, noting that it had been closed for over a year. The Assistant Director noted that they were confident they could now move forward with this project following the successful application for match funding. Officers explained the work that had occurred since the closure of the sand pit and noted that repairs would commence as soon as possible once the paperwork had been completed. They believed this would be completed before the end of the calendar year.

The representative of the Vale of Heath Society asked for an update about the water fountains. They noted that there was no longer signage on one of the fountains that remained in disrepair. The Assistant Director responded that the City Surveyors had identified funding for this issue, and they were in the process of choosing a design and instructing a vendor. They noted that were addressing this as a priority.

The representative of the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee (HCAAC) noted that a large amount of Lime Bikes had not been collected on the Highgate edge area of Hampstead Heath. The Assistant Director responded that they were aware of this issue and were in communication with Lime about resolving this problem. They explained that the instructions for Lime based on their digital control of the bikes was being finalised, and the bikes would be monitored for the rest of the season.

The LCSR representative asked whether there was an update on the results of the Green Flag Award. The Assistant Director responded that the judging was conducted on 21 May 2025, and the official results would be announced on 15 July 2025.

The Member also noted the issue that they did not receive their calendar invite to the Affordable Art Fair had taken place in Hampstead Heath. The Assistant Director apologised noting this was a technical error and assured the Member that they would continue to receive the invitations when this was held in the future.

In response to the Member's query about preventing future unauthorised events taking place at Hampstead Heath, the Assistant Director assured the Member that they were gathering advice on preventing this taking place. They noted that this year's event was smaller than the previous year, and while they had contacted the organisers of the event, they had not received a response.

The LCSR representative also noted that due to the expected high temperatures over the weekend, more people may attempt to use the non-bathing ponds for swimming. They asked if there would be increased Constabulary in place to mitigate this issue. The Assistant Director assured the Member that they were

aware of this problem and that the Rangers and Constabulary had been briefed in preparation.

RESOLVED – That, Members –

- Noted the report and its contents.

5. HEATH HANDS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of Heath Hands, which detailed recent highlights, and its work towards its strategic objectives.

The Heath Hands representative presented the update to Members, noting that it was a busy time of year for the charity. They explained various work underway such as the annual wildlife monitoring programmes, the Hedgehog survey, and the Annual General Meeting which was taking place in July.

The Chairman asked for a progress update on the information hut. Officers responded that they were working with the City Surveyor's Department to complete the necessary repairs, which were expected to be concluded shortly. The Heath Hands representative noted that they had the additional support for the information hut ready for weekends.

The Highgate Society representative welcomed the update and emphasised that making survey information publicly accessible would help highlight Hampstead Heath's importance as a vital ecological resource. The Heath Hands representative responded that there was information available on the Heath Hands website about the surveys that had been conducted. They expressed an interest in working with Officers to integrate this information with content on the City Corporation's website.

RESOLVED – That, Members –

- Noted the report and its contents.

6. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITY REVIEW - FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Committee a report of the Executive Director, Environment and the Chamberlain which detailed the progress since 2024 and the next stages of this workplan.

The Chairman confirmed with Officers that Members would be invited to a briefing on fundraising opportunities and resourcing later in the year. Officers noted that the dates would be confirmed in due course.

RESOLVED – That, Members –

- Noted the report and its contents.

- Noted the two planned briefing sessions for all interested Members on Biodiversity Net Gain potential at Natural Environment sites, and fundraising opportunities and resourcing for the Natural Environment Charities.

7. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITY REVIEW - HAMPSTEAD HEATH CHARITY ASSETS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment and the Chamberlain which summarised the processes used to audit the land assets held by the City Corporation as trustee of the Hampstead Heath Charity.

The HGSRA representative queried whether Metropolitan Open Land would be a relevant factor for the trustee to consider. Officers noted that they would take this forward to be included, and that it may also be commented on in the complementary land review.

RESOLVED – That, Members –

- Noted the audit process undertaken for the land assets of the Hampstead Heath Charity and the steps to maintain the Asset Register.
- Noted the list of charity land assets of the Hampstead Heath Charity included in the appendix of the report.

8. GRANT FUNDING MODEL UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from Officers of the Environment Department on the Grant Funding Model.

Officers presented an update that provided information on the transition to the Grant Funding Model. They discussed the aims of the Natural Environment Charity Review, the alternatives to the Deficit Funding Model that were explored and the timeline for the transition.

The HHS representative sought clarification on whether the fundraising team was considering all aspects of income generation or just the fundraising aspect. Officers responded that the two fundraising consultants had been appointed to expand the work on assessing different income streams and finding areas for potential income generation. They explained that the consultants would identify the greatest opportunities for income generation and work with Officers to determine how this could translate into income generation targets and priorities. Officers confirmed that the scope of the consultants' work would include the whole range of income generation.

The HGSRA representative expressed concern that the report timeline would be under more pressure towards the end of the financial year, and there may be less time for the Committee to be involved in consultation.

The Member also queried whether there was information on the split between income generated through events, and philanthropic fundraising from the other open space charities identified in the presentation. Officers confirmed that they had considered this, and how much money would need to be spent on income generation. As example, they explained the various income streams generated by the Royal Parks and acknowledged that their donations processes were more advanced.

The LCSR representative asked Officers whether the City Corporation had publicised information about the transition to the Grant Funding Model. Officers explained that they had created a document with Frequently Asked Questions to address those that had been asked in the media. As the next step, Officers noted that they would be working on a plan to update key stakeholders and share as much information as possible on the website.

The Member emphasised the importance of protecting the balance that has been maintained at Hampstead Heath when evaluating income-generating opportunities, particularly by limiting the number of events held. Officers explained that the benefit of having external fundraising consultants was that they would be able to articulate the unique nature of the City Corporation in their review, while also benchmarking against other organisations in an impartial manner.

The Member also inquired about the governance and decision-making processes involved in determining the level of grant funding provided. Officers explained that this involved several components, including funding from sources such as the local risk budget and the Cyclical Works Programme. They acknowledged that further work was needed before a formal proposal could be presented. Officers confirmed that the Chamberlain and the Executive Director, Environment, were co-sponsors of the project and were committed to ensuring that appropriate grant levels were established. They emphasised that this was the initial stage of the process and that a clearer understanding of future income generation would be necessary before final decisions on grants could be made.

The Member asked how conflicts of interest between the corporate trustee and Court of Common Council would be managed when they arose in this process. Officers responded that they would consider this and respond in due course.

The representative from the Vale of Heath Society asked whether more comprehensive information could be provided regarding the initial work undertaken when exploring alternative models. Officers responded that a SWOT analysis had been completed, although such assessments were not typically shared with Members. They added that the request would be relayed to the Chamberlain's department for consideration in future reporting.

The Member also questioned why they had not been invited to participate in the initial workshops and expressed concern about the lack of consultation. Officers explained that the workshops were intended as internal sessions for Officers to explore potential solutions. However, they noted that all-Member briefing

sessions had been held, involving both elected Members and Consultative Committee Members.

The Member asked whether Officers had an initial estimate of the amount that would need to be raised annually through trusts and foundations for Hampstead Heath. Officers responded that it was too early in the process to provide a reliable figure. They assured the Member that any future estimates would be based on good research and data and would be shared as soon as they became available.

RESOLVED – That, Members –

- Noted the verbal update.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the date of the next Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting was Tuesday 16 September 2025.

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

The Chairman raised the question of the Consultative Committee meetings being held at Hampstead Heath, rather than Guildhall. Officers responded that they were working on modernising the IT equipment at Hampstead Heath to allow for online connection. They expressed optimism that the next Consultative Committee could be held at Hampstead Heath.

The HGSRA representative asked Officers about the potential of an additional meeting which had been raised earlier in the meeting. Officers explained that they had raised the potential of an additional Consultative Committee meeting with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, as the report that detailed the results of the Complementary Land Use Appraisal would not be completed until after the Committee's final meeting of the calendar year. They explained that this would give the Consultative Committee the chance to be consulted on the report before it was considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. They noted that this meeting was yet to be confirmed.

As this point, the Chairman sought approval from the Consultative Committee to continue the meeting beyond two hours from the appointed time for the start of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 39, and this was agreed.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

12. 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.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

13.1 DRAFT NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That, subject to the amendments discussed, the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2025 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

13.2 DRAFT NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 20 May 2025 were formally noted.

14. CITY CORPORATION GOVERNANCE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES – UPDATE ON PLANNED CHANGES

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment and the Chamberlain.

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

There were no questions raised in non-public session.

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

There was no urgent business raised in non-public session.

The meeting ended at 7.56pm.

Chairman

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 16 July 2025**

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, 16 July 2025 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Marcus Boyland
Deputy Timothy Butcher
Simon Burrows
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE
Jason Groves
Pauline Lobo
Councillor Arjun Mittra

In attendance:

James St John Davis (Ex-Officio)
Karina Dostalova
John Beyer

Officers:

Simon Owen	- Chamberlain's Department
Niranjan Shanmuganathan	- Chamberlain's Department
Jack Joslin	- City Bridge Foundation
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director, Environment
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Jo Hurst	- Environment Department
Andrew Impey	- Environment Department
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Zoe Williams	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman & Sheriff Gregory Jones and Edward Lord.

In the Chairman's absence, the Deputy Chairman took the Chair.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

3. **MINUTES**

a) **Draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 20 May 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

A Member raised a query regarding the Hampstead Heath Ponds item listed for discussion in the non-public session of the agenda.

Officers confirmed that the final decision lay with Members, and the report had been made non-public in order to keep that option open to Members. They explained that it would be possible to conduct part of the discussion in public session, so long as Members were mindful of the need to move into non-public session as appropriate during the debate. This would be addressed later in the meeting, under item 17.

b) **Draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meetings held on Tuesday 29 April 2025 and Tuesday 17 June 2025 be noted.

c) **Draft minutes of the Highgate Wood Consultative Group**

RESOLVED – That, the draft minutes of the Highgate Wood Consultative Group meeting held on Tuesday 22 April 2025 be noted.

d) **Draft Minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Group**

RESOLVED – That, the draft minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Groups meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2025 be noted.

Matters arising

A Member asked whether residents in the Queen's Park Consultative Group were supportive of the proposed Splash Pad. Officers confirmed that the Members of the Consultative Group and the constituencies that they represented were supportive of the new water play feature. They noted that they would be setting up some meetings to initiate the community fundraising campaign in the near future.

Another Member sought confirmation on whether it was clear how the Splash Pad would be funded. Officers responded that the majority of funding had been identified through the charity. They noted that they would seek to fundraise the remaining £98,000, and the project would not begin until that money had been raised. They noted that as the Member suggested, they would also be applying for funding through the HS2 Grant if they were eligible.

A Member raised a question about whether there had been any developments to the timetable for the remarketing of the Café. The Chairman noted that this would be discussed during the verbal update.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment which sought to provide the Committee with assurance that the risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department and its Natural Environment Division were satisfactory and met the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and the Charities Act 2011.

A Member requested that Officers provided further information regarding the amber risk of the outbreak of fire in Woodland/Heathland, given the current increase in temperatures. Officers explained that over recent months they had implemented a fire safety training programme. This had focused on fire management strategies, supporting the fire brigade, and managing smaller-scale fires. They noted that the Climate Action Strategy had funded this training and provided the team with advanced fire extinguishing technology.

A Member asked whether there was a risk to the Pergola from the current increased temperatures. Officers responded that while the structure was exposed to both extreme heat and cold, it was not considered to be at risk of fire. They noted that, following a conditions survey conducted last year, a series of tilt monitors and crack gauges had been installed throughout the Pergola. These devices provide live data updates on the structural condition, enabling ongoing monitoring and assessment.

RESOLVED – That, Members confirmed, on behalf of the City Corporation as Trustee, that the Summary Risk Registers appended to the report satisfactorily identified the key risks to each of the charities and that appropriate risk management processes were in place.

5. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITY REVIEW – UPDATE ON FUNDRAISING WORKSTREAMS

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and the Executive Director, Environment which detailed the progress made since 2024 and the next stages of the workplan.

RESOLVED – That, Members:

- Noted the report and its contents.
- Noted the two planned briefing sessions for all interested Members on Biodiversity Net Gain potential at Natural Environment sites, and fundraising opportunities and resourcing for the Natural Environment Charities.

Hampstead Heath

6. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (HAMPSTEAD HEATH)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the last

meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee.

Officers announced that North London Open Spaces was recently awarded eight Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards. Officers and Members commended staff for this achievement.

In relation to the Affordable Art Fair, a Member enquired whether the hirer would consider hosting a second event to make use of the existing infrastructure. Officers acknowledged the potential opportunity and confirmed that this would be taken into consideration for the following year with the hirer. Officers noted that they would update the Committee to any developments in this area. In response to a further question, Officers responded that as the hirer, it would typically be the responsibility of the Affordable Art Fair to find a second event for their space. However, as the opportunity would also benefit the Hampstead Heath Charity, they were working collaboratively on this matter and welcomed input from the City Corporation.

A Member asked how Officers would ensure that the City Surveyor's Department were progressing with the work identified in the Cyclical Works Programme. Officers responded that North London Open Spaces were holding monthly meetings with the City Surveyor's Department to identify projects, make any necessary delegations, discuss priorities and minimise operational disruption.

Another Member thanked the City Surveyor's Department for the funding that was being directed towards these works and noted that the City Corporation should use this to generate good publicity.

The Chairman asked Officers what further work was required to complete the Ponds access project. Officers confirmed that they were awaiting contractors to install the sliding door at the Men's Pond.

The Chairman also asked for an update on the work at the cottages and lodges on Hampstead Heath. Officers confirmed that initial works at the Lodge at Parliament Hill were scheduled to commence in September 2025. They further reported that the final stages of work at the Lodge in Golders Hill Park were expected to be completed within the week. Additionally, they anticipated that works at Kenwood Cottage would be concluded in August 2025.

In response to a query regarding the timeline for the Golders Hill Park Sand Pit project, Officers advised that they were awaiting a legal agreement from Officers at the London Borough of Barnet. In the meantime, Officers confirmed that they were advancing through the procurement process and preparing for a closed tender. They noted that, due to timing constraints, it may not be possible to appoint a contractor to carry out the works during the summer months. However, they emphasised their commitment to ensuring the project was completed as swiftly as possible.

A Member expressed disappointment that the central heating system in the Education Centre had broken and requested an update on the timeline for its repair. Officers confirmed that the heating system had since been fixed. The Member also raised concerns about littering at Hampstead Heath and questioned whether sufficient measures were in place to address the issue. Officers responded that littering was a priority within the annual Communications Plan and that discussions were ongoing regarding the potential effectiveness of additional signage. They explained that Rangers within the Constabulary actively engaged with visitors and encouraged them to take their litter home, highlighting the environmental impact of leaving waste behind. The Member offered to facilitate discussions between Officers at the City Corporation and those at the London Borough of Camden to explore collaborative approaches to signage and public engagement around litter prevention.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

7. HEATH HANDS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of Heath Hands which summarised the charity's main activities on North London Open Spaces from 1 to 30 April 2025.

Members and Officers commended Heath Hands for the helpful contributions of their volunteers and their collaboration with the City Corporation.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

8. HAMPSTEAD HEATH REVENUE OUTTURN 2024/25

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which compared the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2024/25 with the budget for the year.

A Member asked how the 2025/26 estimates compared with the 2024/25 revenue outturn. Officers responded that the investment income realised in 2024/25 was £1.39 million, and the budget applied for 2025/26 was £1.437 million, based on a new calculation and methodology.

A Member requested that Officers provide a summary of how the budget had evolved over the past few years, along with a forecast for future years. Officers responded that a direct year-on-year comparison may not be feasible due to the transition to a Grant Funding Model in upcoming years. They noted that they would consider how best to present this information. Officers confirmed that they would undertake a summary analysis of estimates reports from recent years and present this at the next meeting. They noted that significant variations in previous years may be attributed to changes in the Cyclical Works Programme, depreciation, and investment income.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

9. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITY REVIEW – ASSETS UPDATE FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH CHARITY

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which summarised the processes used to audit the land assets held by the City Corporation as trustee of the Hampstead Heath charity.

RESOLVED – That, Members:

- Noted the audit process undertaken for the land assets of the Hampstead Heath charity and the steps to maintain the Asset Register.
- Noted the list of charity land assets of the Hampstead Heath charity included in the appendix of the report.

10. HAMPSTEAD HEATH CAFES

The Committee received a verbal update about the marketing of the Hampstead Heath Cafes. Officers explained that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Cafes were all being remarketed and were currently being publicly advertised.

A Member requested that a timeline be provided on the expected process for the remarketing of the leases. Officers noted that an update on this would be provided in non-public session.

A Member queried how scoring would be weighted in lease applications, particularly in cases where a proposal included physical upgrades to the site. The Chairman sought clarity on what extent the Committee would be engaged in the process. Officers responded that they would review the submissions and provide recommendations to the Committee. They noted that, should any matters arise beyond their authority, they would return to the Committee for further direction. Officers also acknowledged that both Members and Officers were likely to receive enquiries from interested parties and confirmed that the City Corporation's response would be shared with Members accordingly.

A Member asked whether the current café operators had been informed about the remarketing. Officers confirmed that the marketing materials had been shared with the existing operators and that they had been encouraged to participate in the process should they wish to do so.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the verbal update.

11. GRANT FUNDING MODEL UPDATE

The Committee received the presentation which provided an update on the Grant Funding Model that the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee received at its previous meeting.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the presentation.

Highgate Wood & Queen's Park

12. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (HIGHGATE WOOD)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on matters relating to Highgate Wood since its last meeting.

Officers noted that work was ongoing to develop the information centre at Highgate Wood to accommodate the newly installed Roman Kiln. They reported that the quotes received from the contractors approached were beyond the

available budget but confirmed that efforts would continue to identify a contractor capable of delivering the project within budget.

A Member highlighted the information centre's proximity to the café and suggested that opportunities arising from the café remarketing should be considered. Officers noted they would take this into consideration. The Member also expressed frustration that concerns had previously been raised about installing the Roman Kiln within the existing building when the project was initiated some years ago, and that the decision to proceed had now resulted in additional costs.

The Chairman acknowledged the achievement of Highgate Wood receiving a Green Flag Award, noting that the site had earned this recognition every year since the award was introduced.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

13. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (QUEEN'S PARK)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on matters relating to Queen's Park since its last meeting.

A Member raised that they had been contacted by residents regarding the increased charges to hire the park for Queen's Park Day, which was run by the Queen's Park Residents Association. They noted concern that charities would consider not participating in the day if the charges resulted in them losing income. Officers responded that they were in active conversation with the Queen's Park Residents Association and confirmed that the 2025 Queen's Park Day would still be taking place. They explained that the charges had increased as they had previously been at an artificially low level for years and they needed to ensure they were recovering their fees in an appropriate way. They noted that they would continue to be in conversation with the Queen's Park Residents Association about this as they would like to ensure that Queen's Park Day could continue for years to come.

The Chairman also acknowledged the achievement of Queen's Park receiving a Green Flag Award.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

14. HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK REVENUE OUTTURN 2024/25

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which compared the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2024/25 with the budget for the year.

A Member requested that Officers provide a summary of how the budget had evolved over the past few years, along with a forecast for future years.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

15. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITY REVIEW – ASSETS UPDATE FOR HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK CHARITY

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which summarised the processes used to audit the land assets held by the City Corporation as trustee of the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Charity.

RESOLVED – That, Members:

- Noted the audit process undertaken for the land assets of the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park charity and the steps to maintain the Asset Register.
- Noted the list of charity land assets of the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park charity included in the appendix to this report.

16. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions raised.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
RESOLVED – That, the report on the Hampstead Heath Ponds Consultation be considered in public session.
RESOLVED – That, a public version of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Consultation report be made available after the meeting.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Consultation

The Committee considered a report that sought authority to conduct a consultation exercise on the access arrangements for the Men's and Ladies' Ponds at Hampstead Heath.

The Executive Director of Environment advised that an overview of the report and its recommendations could be discussed in public session. However, any detailed questions relating to budget, legal advice from the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department, or input from consultation providers should be addressed in non-public session. Members were supportive of this approach.

The Chairman raised concern that the phrasing of the first recommendation limited the consultation to the Men's and Ladies' ponds and excluded the Mixed pond. Other Members expressed their agreement on this matter. Officers explained that the access arrangements for the Men's and Ladies' Ponds were the focus of national attention following the Supreme Court judgment, and that the Mixed Pond did not raise the same specific issues. However, they were anticipating that questions would be posed and comments received on the operation and use of the Mixed Pond as part of the consultation exercise. They noted that initial work had begun on drafting the consultation questions, but these were still at a formative stage.

Officers clarified that the second recommendation would authorise the Executive Director of Environment to finalise the questions, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee and others. It was further noted that the Chair and Deputy Chair would have the opportunity to engage with the whole Committee to gather input on the consultation questions.

A Member welcomed the decision to appoint an external supplier to lead the consultation. They recommended that Officers review previous consultations and consider contacting those consultants who had delivered successful outcomes in the past. The Member also emphasised the importance of the Committee having a clear understanding of the process timeline, noting that it would need to operate within the parameters of the Committee cycle. Additionally, they noted that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive assurance regarding the clarity of the consultation questions.

Another Member sought clarification on whether the scope of the consultation would affect who would be involved in the consultation, or nature of the questions asked. The Executive Director of Environment clarified that it would be an open consultation as they wanted to give all audiences the opportunity to engage in it. Regarding the scope of the consultation, the Executive Director commented that the intention was to focus the remit of the consultation on the Men's and Ladies' Ponds as these were where a review of existing policies was most needed.

Another Member emphasised the importance of identifying pond users within the consultation, noting that it was essential to hear directly from those most affected by the outcomes of the process. Officers acknowledged the Members comment and noted that while they expected to receive a large volume of responses on the consultation, the potential consultation providers had assured them that there were robust ways to filter responses to identify where they were coming from and who was responding to the consultation. They noted that this would enable Members to distinguish feedback from the wider consultation respondents, as well as those that use the ponds.

A Member asked whether it would be possible to send the consultation to those who frequently purchase passes to use the ponds. The Chairman asked to what extent existing purchase records could be used to identify pond users in the consultation, or whether there was a plan to conduct a targeted consultation with the specific pond users. Officers responded that these matters were being actively considered. They noted that while the consultation could not just be limited to pond users, because it would also need to capture the views of people who might be self-excluding, they did intend to highlight those responses in the consultation report provided to Members on conclusion of the exercise.

A Member highlighted the importance of gathering both qualitative and quantitative data through the consultation process. In response, the Executive Director acknowledged this and confirmed that the consultation methodology would be shared with Members in due course. They assured the Committee that the consultation would not be a tick-box exercise, and that efforts would be made to achieve the right balance between qualitative and quantitative information. The Member further suggested that the Committee should consider whether the public should be re-consulted on the final proposals. The Executive Director responded that this would depend on the outcome of the initial consultation, and that once the responses had been analysed, the next steps could be considered. The Chairman summarised that it remained uncertain at this stage whether a

two-stage consultation would be required, and the approach would be reviewed in due course.

In response to Member's earlier comments about making use of past consultations, the Executive Director highlighted that they appreciated Member's previous experiences of consultations and would be making use of this knowledge while developing the consultation. They assured Members that they would be informally seeking views from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee; the Policy & Resources Committee; the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee, and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

Regarding the timeline of the consultation, the Executive Director confirmed that a minimum duration of six weeks was being considered. They noted that the full timescale of the process needed to be determined in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the relevant committees. The Executive Director acknowledged the level of scrutiny surrounding the consultation and emphasised the importance of balancing the need for timely progress with the requirement for a robust and thorough process.

A Member asked Officers which future meeting of the Committee they anticipated would consider the final proposals. The Executive Director noted that while they could not yet confirm the timeline for this, there could be an additional Committee meeting held to consider this matter as they did not want the process to be bound by the existing Committee schedule. They noted that this could be further discussed in non-public session.

Another Member noted their support for the approach of ensuring the process was carried out properly, while being conscious of the time pressure of the matter. The Member also sought clarity that the final set of questions in the consultation would be developed by the external supplier, with input from Officers. Officers confirmed that while they had started to think about potential questions, the external consultants would be asked to fully develop the consultation materials. The final questions would also need to be approved by leading counsel.

In response to clarity sought about the inclusion of the Mixed Pond in the consultation, Officers explained that while some access arrangements, such as opening hours, could be considered as part of the consultation, there were no plans to change the admissions policy for the Mixed Pond, as all were welcome.

Regarding the matter of the pre-action protocol letters that had been received, Officers noted that they had received a follow-up letter from the solicitors acting for Sex Matters. They explained that Sex Matters were renewing their demand for the current trans-inclusive policy at the Ladies' Pond to be withdrawn by Friday 18 July, noting that otherwise a judicial review claim would be issued, and interim relief would be sought. Officers advised against withdrawing the current policy at this stage and stated that they did not believe that an interim application would be successful. They cautioned against acting prematurely, emphasising

the importance of gathering all relevant information before making a decision, particularly as there had been no substantiated problems with the current policy. A Member commented that changing the policy without the necessary consultation could also expose the process to further risk of judicial review, as there would be no substantiated basis for such changes. Officers agreed that the City Corporation would potentially be exchanging one claimant for another.

A Member sought assurance that provisions were in place to support Officers on Hampstead Heath that were involved in operations with the ponds. The Executive Director noted that they were working to ensure the staff had the support they needed, and this would be an evolving matter throughout the process. They noted that they would continue to check in with the staff, and that working with the Committee was critical to ensure they could continue providing staff with the support that was required. Members assured Officers that they would have their support on this matter. Officers added that they had recently implemented a more robust reporting mechanism to report antisocial behaviour from members of the public and they would encourage staff to use that process. In response to a query from another Member, the Executive Director assured the committee that lifeguards were a main consideration in the support that was being provided to front-line staff.

The Chairman moved that the first recommendation be amended to include the access arrangement for the Mixed Pond in the scope of the consultation. The Committee unanimously supported the amendment.

A Member requested clarification on how the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Sub-Committee would be involved in the consultation process. The Executive Director explained that the outcomes of the consultation would be presented to the EDI Sub-Committee for input prior to being considered by the decision-making Committees. They also noted that informal input as to the consultation itself would be sought from the EDI Sub-Committee, the Policy & Resources Committee, and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park (HHHWQP) Committee in the coming weeks. The Member expressed concern that involving multiple Committees could delay the process and queried whether the HHHWQP Committee should act as the sole decision-maker. The Executive Director explained that the Policy & Resources Committee was involved in the process as its terms of reference included matters of policy and strategic importance, as well as policies and practices in respect of equality diversity and inclusion, with the EDI Sub-Committee reporting to it.

A Member requested that the final consultation questions be circulated to Members once they had been confirmed. The Executive Director of Environment confirmed they were aiming to gather informal feedback from the relevant Committees on the content of the consultation, and the questions would then be finalised with the consultation providers. They assured Members that they would also seek comments from Members on the final programme for the consultation.

RESOLVED – That, Members agreed that a consultation exercise on the access arrangements for the Men's, Ladies' and Mixed Ponds should be carried out.

RESOLVED – That, Members authorised the Executive Director of Environment, in consultation with the Comptroller and City Solicitor, as well as with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of both the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee, to:

- a. Finalise the consultation questions and materials.
- b. Finalise the consultation programme, including timescales.

RESOLVED – That, Members agreed that the current access arrangements remain unchanged pending the carrying out of the consultation exercise and consideration of its product by this Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

The Committee agreed to discuss the remaining recommendation in non-public session.

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.

The Committee agreed to consider the Hampstead Heath Ponds Consultation before the Non-Public Minutes.

19. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) Draft Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood And Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 January 2025 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

- b) Draft Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee were noted.

20. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment.

21. CITY CORPORATION GOVERNANCE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES – UPDATE ON PLANNED CHANGES

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment.

22. COMPLEMENTARY LAND POLICY AND ASSETS APPRAISAL

The Committee received a verbal update from Officers of the Environment Department.

23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were three questions raised in non-public.

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 urgent business discussed in non-public.

The meeting ended at 6.35pm.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Zoe Williams
Zoe.Williams@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Minutes

Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum

24 April 2025 at 18:00

Parliament Hill Conference Room & MS Teams

ATTENDEES:

Members:	Richard Sumray		Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
	(Deputy Chair, acting Chair)		
	Joseph Lowe		Highgate Harriers
	Sandy Nairne		Hampstead Heath Croquet Club
	Felicity Moir		Mixed Pond User Group
	Emma Rea		Parliament Hill Fields Lido User Group
	Robert Gibbs		Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society
	Scott Davis		Hampstead Rugby Club
	Cassie Bridger	Online	Barnet Council
	Deborah Bush	Online	Pro-Active Camden
Officers:	Karin Oleinikova		Heath Hands
	Bill LoSasso		Superintendent, City of London Corporation
	Charlotte Williams		Head of Operations and Parks, City Corporation
	Richard O'Mahony		Parliament Hill Fields Manager, City Corporation
	Paul Jeal		Swimming Manager, City Corporation
	Colin Houston		Volunteer and Engagement Manager, City Corporation / Chief Executive, Heath Hands
	Helen Evans		PA to Superintendent (Minutes), City Corporation

Enquiries: helen.evans2@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Agenda Items and Minutes

1. Apologies

Greg Jones (Chairman), Jennifer Lovell

2. Introductions

Richard Gentry welcomed the group to the newly reformed Forum with its strategic focus.

3. Review of minutes and Terms of Reference from 28 November 2024

The minutes of the previous Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum held on 28 November 2024 were reviewed and accepted as presented.

4. Actions and matters arising

4.1 Provide clarity on funding, budgets and processes

- a. Officers caveated that budgets affecting the Heath are complex, but that there are generally three ways physical assets are invested in and/or maintained:
 - i. Cyclical Works Programme (CWP): repairs and maintenance projects that are required on a cyclical / life cycle basis that are funded and delivered by the City Surveyor's Department.
 - ii. Planned Preventive Maintenance and Repairs Programme: planned preventative maintenance and reactive repairs that are funded delivered by the City Surveyor's Department
 - iii. Capital projects: one-off funding for new/significant projects, funded centrally (eg, Athletics Track Project)
- b. Capital Projects described in 4.1.a.iii also require risk and contingency budgeting. The Athletics Track Project required additional funding from the Local Risk budget.
- c. Bill offered his thanks to the Chair and Deputy Chair for their work securing funding for the Athletics Track, noting how hard it is to get funding.

- d. There is a project management system at the City Corporation, which is currently being updated.

4.2 Give it a Go event

- a. Officers mentioned that after a review, it has been decided that 'Give it a Go' (GIAG) will not be run by the City Corporation this year due to low numbers recently and lack of Officer capacity, which the group acknowledged and understood.
- b. Some groups will offer their own open sessions on Sunday 13 July.
- c. Officers and the Camden Council representative noted that they will be happy to promote any individual events.
- d. Officers mentioned the need for clubs to monitor club / sport uptake after these events to gauge the success of these days.

4.3 Historical survey results

- a. Officers confirmed they were unable to locate any historical surveys of sports users on the Heath.

5. **Presentation by Heath Hands: *Heath Hands' Health and Wellbeing Programme***

Colin Houston and Karin Oleinikova delivered a presentation on the work of Heath Hands (HH) and its role in social prescribing, with the aim of making the Heath a destination – offering the chance to get involved with conservation, walks, ecological monitoring and surveys, school sessions, art, mindfulness sessions and litter picks. The presentation is attached for reference. Specific points made include:

- a. The traditional volunteer model might not be fully suitable for the future; HH are rethinking this model to further promote access.
- b. The charity is considering increasing sessions to include weekends and improving access to those at work. Developing greater flexibility in the scheduling of activities will allow greater engagement from differing backgrounds.
- c. Heath Hands seeks to continue to diversify its membership and remain accessible to the surrounding community
- d. The Forum noted and celebrated the expansion of HH in the last few years and its evolution to take on responsibility. The future of HH will involve developing

more sessions, more wellbeing initiatives, diversifying to increase access, and reaching out to different boroughs.

ACTION: (COL) to send newsletter link to Heath Hands for events and linking up.

ACTION: (HH) Heath Hands to connect with Camden, who can offer support: funding, comms support, alignment of strategies to offer more collaboration.

6. Discussion on presentation and wellbeing programmes on the Heath

A conversation ensued from the above presentation, and the main points were:

- a. Members would like to get involved to help out with planting and conservation, advertising this to their respective groups and members who are keen to participate.
- b. Groups can propose ideas for planting projects and volunteering at operational meetings and Officers will assess feasibility and capacity.
- c. Heath Hands to consider the management plan and consider which conservation projects they could communicate to particular groups and collaborate on in future.

ACTION: (COL) to create an annual report to summarise the sports, events and activities held on the Heath each year and their impact on wellbeing.

7. Updates from City of London Corporation:

Officers gave an update on the various facilities on the Heath:

a. Lido and Ponds

- i. PJ raised that the Lido during winter is increasingly popular, with up to 400 swimmers a day in winter. The sauna continues to be a very popular draw.
- ii. Women have been transferred to Mixed Pond for refurbishment works.
- iii. Electrical works at the Lido led to its closure for 10 days.
- iv. Work undertaken to the terraces at the Lido, as well as a planning application for more PV panels on the roof.
- v. Funding has been secured for roller shutters on observation huts at the Men's and Mixed Ponds.
- vi. Men's Pond jetty and diving board have been refurbished and reinstated.

b. Athletics Track

- i. Track refurbishment: a 12-month review and inspection has been carried out and it has passed successfully. It was noted lanes one and two have more wear and tear as is expected and is typical; we are looking into encouraging runners to use the other six lanes more.
- ii. UK Athletics donated money for a new hammer net installed recently.
- iii. Officers are looking at funding to repair the shotput area.
- iv. Officers have ordered new starting blocks and hurdles and are trying to source a new container on track to house equipment.
- v. We have retained TrackMark certification until 2029.
- vi. As previously mentioned, there will be no Night of the 10,000m PBs this year, but this will hopefully return in 2026.
- vii. Highgate Harriers rep. raised the application for 5000m event taking place on 4 July that they had submitted in October, which was being reviewed by officers, expressing concern in the review timeline and asking for clarity on new sports event applications so that they can be submitted with sufficient time for Officer review and, if approved, event planning to occur, which officers will provide.

c. Cricket

- i. Officers have been liaising with Capital Kids Cricket (CKC) in West Ham Park and Whitechapel in East London, to engage local kids in cricket, with potential to introduce on the Heath.
- ii. It was mentioned there is West Hampstead Cricket as well as quite a lot of cricket clubs locally with junior teams. We should leverage these too, including liaison with Canons Cricket Club.
- iii. DB mentioned she has contacts here and would be happy to get involved to connect and amplify.

d. Events update

- i. There will not be the events Night of the 10k PBs or GIAG in 2025, but it is hoped both events will return in 2026.

ACTION: (Events Manager) to ensure that the event application form(s) captures necessary information to review event proposals and the process is reviewed to ensure that necessary information is obtained, in sufficient time, to ensure that approved events can proceed with all necessary timescales for successful delivery.

ACTION: (CW) work with Camden on Cricket outreach.

8. Agenda for next meeting

It was decided that one or two of the following would be chosen:

- i. GIAG 2026: Further discussion required as decided in respective agenda item.
- ii. Sporting events on the Heath: How events are applied for and proposed.
- iii. Supporting the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy: How do groups and users support delivery?
- iv. Wellbeing: Return to this topic with updates from clubs to support the overarching development of the Heath strategy.

9. AOB

- a. The Chairman and Superintendent thanked the Forum for the lively discussion in the first of the newly oriented Sports & Wellbeing Forum, reflecting that the focus allowed for important issues.
- b. Defibrillators – a member brought up that one is required on the Heath Extension. Our defibs don't appear on the national list because then they become public-use defibs and there is not only process around offering these to the public in terms of access and maintenance, but in the event of an emergency it could be that these are not available, and there is the risk they are not returned or are vandalised.

ACTION: (CW) to consider the provision of public-use defibrillators.

Date of Next Meeting: 6 November 2025

Meeting ended: 20:00

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committees: Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – For Discussion Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park Committee – For Decision	Dated: 16 September 2025 21 October 2025
Subject: Appointment of the Member of English Heritage to the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park Committee	Public report: For Discussion/Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides statutory duties 	N/A
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:	The Town Clerk
Report author:	Zoe Williams Town Clerk’s Department

Summary

Approval is sought for the appointment of a new external Member of the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park Committee, nominated by English Heritage, to represent the Kenwood lands.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

- a) That Simon Cranmer, nominated by English Heritage, be appointed as a Member of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

Main Report

Background

1. Victoria Stone, the previous Member nominated by English Heritage as the owner of the Kenwood lands, stepped down from her role as Interim General Manager at Kenwood on 28 May 2025. As a result, a vacancy is now available on the Management Committee. English Heritage have expressed their desire to fill the vacancy.

Current Position

2. Under Article 8(3)(c) of The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989, one Member of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee shall be appointed from among persons who are neither Members nor employees of the City Corporation and "...after consultation with the owners for the time being of the Kenwood lands."
3. Subsequent discussions have taken place with the representative of English Heritage, Simon Cranmer, and he is willing to take on the role if this meets with approval.
4. There is a statutory framework for the appointment of external Members and the terms of reference delegate authority to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee to exercise all of the City Corporation's powers and duties relating to Hampstead Heath.

Proposal

5. Following consultation with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, that Simon Cranmer, nominated by English Heritage, be appointed as a Member of the Management Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Financial implications – None.

Resource implications – None.

Legal implications – Contained within the body of this report.

Risk implications – None.

Equalities implications – None.

Climate implications – None.

Security implications – None.

Zoe Williams

Governance Officer

Town Clerk's Department

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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee	Dated: 16 September 2025 21 October 2025
Subject: Assistant Director's Report	Public report: For information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	- 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:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director, Environment Department
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 meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (17 June 2025) and last meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee (16 July 2025).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note all paragraphs of the report

Main Report

Report format

1. The Assistant Director's Report aligns with the four strategic themes and ten priorities of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy. Additional matters of interest and importance are covered in an "Additional Relevant Matters" section if and as needed.

We protect and conserve the Heath

Priority 1: A mosaic of natural habitats is maintained and flourishes

2. The Hampstead Heath draft hedgehog report, which is being funded by the City Bridge Foundation, has been received from Zoological Society of London (ZSL). This report provides an evaluation of the local hedgehog population based on data collected dating back to 2018 when the first survey was carried out. The report will show how the hedgehog population has changed since 2018 and identify future conservation measures to protect this species. A previous report by ZSL was received in 2021 as part of the London Hogwatch project, following another survey of Hampstead Heath that same year. The final version of the report will be circulated when available later this summer.
3. An alder moth caterpillar was found in the Cohen's Field area this week which is a new record for Hampstead Heath or the vicinity. We will be able to add this to our Hampstead Heath moth record which is now estimated to be over 400 species. Officers are also very excited about a sighting of a purple emperor butterfly last week at the Ladies' Bathing Pond jetty. The Heath's Senior Ecologist is now surveying the area to identify possible breeding sites on nearby willow trees, upon which they lay their eggs. There have been several sightings over the years, but they are an elusive species. There is a point near Spaniards Road where males can sometimes be observed flying in the canopy, which is where they find mates.
4. The Conservation Team has commenced their summer grassland management programme, cutting on the Heath Extension and Cohen's Field. The grassland cutting maps have been updated to identify specific plant species or micro habitats that we want to avoid disturbing. 26 common spotted orchids have been

recorded on the Heath Extension which is a similar number to 2024. This year the weather conditions are more favourable for the cutting and baling operations, which in damper summer periods have proved problematic.

5. The Conservation Team has acquired a new tractor-mounted cutting deck, which is being utilised to maintain the amenity areas along the Highgate pond chain, the sunbathing meadows at the Model Boating Pond and Men's Pond, and East Heath and the Vale of Health.
6. The Team has also undertaken bramble control in the gorse compartments above the Vale of Health, managed bracken on Sandy Heath, and addressed sapling growth on Cohen's Field, the Heath Extension and South Meadow. Additionally, a follow-up cut was performed on bramble and thistle areas across the Heath that were treated last autumn.
7. The Team has dedicated efforts to removing Himalayan Balsam from stream lines on both the Highgate and Hampstead pond chains. Completing this task prior to seed dispersal is essential for controlling the further spread and establishment of this invasive non-native species.
8. The planning application for the works to remove the Model Boating Pond Island causeway received no objections and has been approved by Historic England Archaeology who have no objection to the proposal. Planning permission is hoped to be received from Camden Council in August. A contractor has been sourced to do the work and they are currently awaiting confirmation of planning approval to commence the work, which they estimate will take three weeks to complete.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) on Hampstead Heath

9. The Conservation team has installed ten small leaky dams on the Heath Extension and the allotment stream line along the edge of Cohen's Field. The dams are constructed of light brash materials and Heath Hands volunteers were involved in the work. We have also requested that a City Surveyor's contractor install a small number of surface water deflectors along the newly repaired section of pathway next to Hampstead No. 2 Pond at East Heath, funded by City Surveyor's Department.

We protect and conserve the Heath

Priority 2: Heritage aspects and landscape character are maintained

10. The heatwave and warmer weather in June and July have resulted in the Heath being very busy. Summer tasks include litter picking, cleaning the toilets and grass cutting the amenity, fine turf and sports areas. All the cut areas are bordered by long grass to ensure it flourishes and provides an important habitat.
11. The Conservation Team has carried out tree lifting along main pathways and cleared tree arisings following tree failures in South Meadow and the Vale of Health.

Hill Garden and Pergola

12. Structural repair and timber-strengthening works continue to take place on the Hill Garden and Pergola, with weekly surveys being carried out. The under-croft and mock window painting is complete. The perimeter railings, which border the kitchen garden, have been repaired, and the Gardening Team has cleared the foliage and plants that were causing extensive damage to a section of the red brick pergola columns.
13. The Hill Garden shelter has been repaired and repainted. Repairs were carried out to rectify damage caused by water ingress, including a new ceiling. Other works include repairs to handrails, brickwork and masonry. The bench that was removed and refurbished off-site has been reinstalled.
14. Additional funding has been secured to replace the Belvedere Roof. This area may need to be closed locally whilst remedial works are carried out to ensure the work is not disrupted and visitors are safely diverted elsewhere.
15. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Pergola is planned to be commissioned in the autumn by the Heritage Estate Section (HES) in City Surveyor's Department, and funded by a £60,000 budget recently secured from the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP).
16. The CMP will provide an in-depth understanding of the Pergola's history, heritage significance, and current issues and opportunities, while proposing a policy framework to guide decision-making. Additionally, it will include a detailed Maintenance Plan, outlining key activities, their recommended frequencies, and the responsible parties to ensure consistent and sustainable care of the Pergola.
17. Expected to be completed by summer 2026, the CMP will be an essential tool for planners, funders, and officers to support informed decision-making, funding

strategies and resource prioritisation for the Pergola's long-term care and maintenance.

We protect and conserve the Heath

Priority 3: A balance is maintained between visitor activities and the conservation of natural, built and heritage values

18. The Tree Team has been continuing its cyclical tree inspections on roadside trees at various locations. The team has removed a number of London plane branches affected by Massaria disease along the Gospel Oak fence line, and several dead trees along the northern boundary of Sandy Heath. Additional dead trees have been removed at Golders Hill Park and Gospel Oak. The recent very high temperatures have contributed to a number of tree and branch failures at various locations, including the remaining hybrid black poplar between the Men's Pond and the Highgate No. 1 Pond, and two ash failures on the Heath Extension. We have similar tree failure records in the tree failure database from previous summer heat waves, including the record-breaking temperatures in July 2022, and Officers will carefully manage this issue going forward as climate change progresses.
19. The Tree Team has continued its work managing oak processionary moth (OPM), which now focuses on monitoring high use areas for low OPM nests in trees, and removing those that pose a danger to the public. The team has continued its work recording and monitoring OPM parasitoid species and their impact on the OPM lifecycle and numbers of nests.
20. Work will commence in the next two weeks at the Downshire Hill entrance, next to the Hive, to install a root barrier to protect a neighbouring property from alleged subsidence caused by two trees belonging to Hampstead Heath. The work has been commissioned by the City Corporation's Insurance Team. The installation will be completed over a period of two weeks.
21. The Tree Team has started a programme of soil decompaction at Golders Hill Park focusing on a small group of veteran trees that have highly compacted rooting zones. The areas treated are being cordoned off to allow soil recovery and will then be monitored over the next two to three years.
22. Members of the Tree Team attended a two-day International Biodiversity of Pollards conference at Burnham Beeches on 25 and 26 June, presenting in the field to 200 delegates on the practical aspects of pollard management and associated biodiversity.
23. Planning permission has been granted for new photovoltaic (PV) panels to be installed on the roof of the Lido. This project is due to commence in

September/October 2025 and will ensure PV panels are extended across the remaining roof spaces.

The Heath enriches our lives

Priority 4: Improved physical health, mental health and emotional well-being

24. The football and rugby season finished on the Heath Extension on 4 May 2025. A survey was carried out to assess the condition of the football pitches on the Heath Extension in December 2024. The report highlighted the scope of renovations and made some recommendations. Discussions are now underway with Middlesex Football Association and the local football clubs who use the Heath Extension to improve the football pitches.
25. The cricket season commenced on 10 May and runs until 21 September 2025. Regular maintenance is carried out on the pitches and squares. Weekly games are being booked and from the end of May to the end of July. Over 60 games of cricket have been played by local cricket clubs at Parliament Hill Fields.
26. The bowling and croquet season runs until 28 September 2025. Both the bowling and croquet clubs have played regular games and held several competition matches. The clubs will be having open days for members of the public to try the sports, and to grow their membership.
27. The tennis courts at Parliament Hill and at Golders Hill Park continue to be well used and busy throughout the summer months, with evenings and weekends fully booked. This summer (May, June and July) saw Parliament Hill tennis courts booked for an average of 2896 hours per month, up from 2628 hours last year, which is approximately a 10% increase. Golders Hill Park tennis courts were booked for 780 hours per month on average over summer, up from 656 hours average last year, which is an 19% increase.
28. Parliament Hill Athletics Track continues to be well used by many clubs, schools, colleges and universities for athletic meetings, PE sessions, sports days and training sessions. The summer sports and athletics season has been successful. The track was booked every weekday from May through to the end of July with school sports days and training sessions, with over 8000 pupils from over 40 different schools participating, including Camden Schools Sports Association.

29. Highgate Harriers hosted the Southern Athletics League Athletics meeting in June, and nearly 300 athletes from six different clubs participated in track and field events. In July, the Highgate Harriers hosted the London 5000m event, which is a club distance event. Nearly 300 athletes participated with over 1000 spectators. On Sunday 20 July, the Highgate Harriers hosted the Middlesex Youth League Athletics Meeting, and over 200 young athletes competed.
30. With warmer weather and heatwaves in June and July, the swimming facilities have been very busy. There has been an increase in the number of swims and income for the first three months of 2025-26, compared to the previous year.
31. A lot of repair work and maintenance was carried out at Parliament Hill Lido and the paddling pools in June. Repairs and maintenance tasks were also carried out on the paddling pool, so it could be opened for the May half-term.
32. The Ponds Accessibility Project has been completed at the Mixed, Ladies' and Men's Ponds. The final snagging list included repairs to the sliding door at the Men's Pond, which has now been completed.
33. The Ladies' Pond aeration system has been installed and is working well, which helps with water quality and addressing algal blooms. Work is being planned to install new aeration systems at the Men's, Mixed and Hampstead No.2 Ponds.

Ponds access

34. On 16 April 2025 the Supreme Court delivered its judgment in the case of For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers [2025] UKSC. The Supreme Court decided that the terms "man", "woman" and "sex" in the Equality Act 2010 refer to a biological man, a biological woman, and biological sex. The Court went on to emphasise that trans people have the separate protected characteristic of gender reassignment under the Equality Act which protects them from unlawful discrimination and harassment.
35. Following this ruling, and in line with other service providers, the City of London Corporation has committed to a careful review of our access policies and will be engaging and consulting with users of the swimming ponds and other stakeholders via a public consultation.
36. Members previously agreed to carry out a consultation exercise on the access arrangements at the bathing ponds following the Supreme Court judgment. A specialist consultation consultant has now been retained to support the City

Corporation with this exercise over the Summer/Autumn period. This will ensure that everyone's voice is heard and enable us to make properly informed decisions about the impact of current and potential future arrangements, while meeting our legal duties.

37. We recognise the sensitivity surrounding this debate and the complexities concerning access arrangements at Hampstead Heath's swimming ponds. In considering the way forward, we have taken, and will continue to take, specialist legal advice.

38. Members previously decided that the current access arrangements at the bathing ponds, which has been in place since 2019, should remain unchanged pending the outcome of the consultation exercise and consideration of the results by the appropriate Committees.

39. The following temporary signage has been erected at the Ladies' Pond: "Those who identify as women are welcome to swim at the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond. The Ladies' Pond is open to biological women and trans women with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment under the Equality Act 2010. The City of London is preparing a public consultation on the future admissions policy at the Ladies' Pond." Equivalent signage has been erected at the Men's Pond.

40. As has been widely reported in the media, Sex Matters have now initiated judicial review proceedings against the City Corporation regarding the access arrangements at the Ladies' Pond and the Men's Pond. The claim is being robustly defended with the assistance of leading counsel. The threatened injunction is not being sought by Sex Matters, but they have applied for the proceedings to be expedited. Any developments after the time of writing (1 September 2025) will be updated verbally at Committee.

41. Our priority remains to ensure that we provide a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

The Heath is inclusive and welcoming

Priority 5: Increasing social inclusion

42. Golders Hill Park Zoo celebrated its 120th anniversary in May. A joint event between the Zoo and Learning Teams was held during half term, which coincided with BIAZA Love Your Zoo week. A representative from BIAZA attended, as the event featured in their comms. Activities were fun, inclusive and diverse to attract

a wide age range of children. The event was well attended, and both teams received a lot of positive feedback.

- 43. The Golders Hill Park Zoo Team is in the process of recruiting new volunteers, and they are busy hosting summer placements for students. Several veterinary students join the Team each summer through to the end of September.
- 44. The Lido has taken 15 school bookings in July for their end-of-term school outings, involving 30 children per booking.
- 45. Dost is a registered charity that offers young refugees and migrants opportunities in London, helping to establish community, equipping them with skills and connections. Dost has liaised with staff at the Lido and visited the outdoor swimming pool twice; 24 young refugees had the opportunity to swim at the Lido at a discounted rate.

The Heath is inclusive and welcoming

Priority 6: Diversity and equality

- 46. The sandpit area at Golders Hill Park remains closed to the public, but as previously noted, the NCIL funding application for £65,000 to Barnet Council was successful. Officers have met with Barnet Council and progressed the necessary paperwork. Officers are working with Procurement to appoint an external contractor, so the work can commence as quickly as possible. The new sandpit and play equipment will be accessible, inclusive and welcoming and will meet play safety standards. Officers are grateful for this new partnership with Barnet Council and look forward to continuing to work together.

Together we care for the Heath

Priority 7: Increased sense of collective ownership and personal responsibility &

Priority 8: Visitor behaviour is pro-environmental

Learning Team Update

- 47. April to July 2025 was a busy and productive time for the Natural Environment Learning Team. The Team facilitates children and young people to connect with nature through active learning in our green spaces, as nature connection in

childhood is the foundation for pro-environmental behaviours in adulthood.

Participation included:

- a. 5,274 school students participated in outdoor learning programmes, including orienteering, eco-art and habitats
- b. A total of 8,138 people participated across two play centres
- c. 15 City Corporation secondary school students have participated in a 'Green Changemakers' project at the Adventure Clubhouse, researching, designing and creating a bee and butterfly bank, and collaborating with inspiring role models from the Environmental Resilience Team and Heath Hands
- d. 153 young people participated in the youth programme; groups included Pentland Pupil Referral Unit and the East Africa Collective.

48. Heath Hands has provided an update on their work as a separate report entitled "Heath Hands Activity Update."

Together we care for the Heath

Priority 9: People treat the Heath and other visitors with respect

Unauthorised party on West Heath

49. As previously reported to this Committee, an unauthorised party took place on West Heath on 14 June 2025, with activity - including set up, the party, and dispersal - occurring from 9.30am to 8.00pm. This was the ninth such event to be organised by Act Up London. While the event itself was promoted online with its details kept secret, City Corporation Officers learned of the intended date in March and worked with the Metropolitan Police to coordinate a response and presence. The Metropolitan Police and Officers attempted to communicate with the organisers in advance. These attempts were ignored, but acknowledged on the day of the party when Officers responded.

50. It is estimated that 500 people attended the party in this wooded area of the Heath, which is not a permitted event site under the Heath's event policy. The party resulted in significant health and safety risks - exacerbated by the party's organiser being visibly and significantly intoxicated. Officers experienced verbal abuse and theft of Officer and security contractor equipment (Constabulary vehicle keys and contractor body camera). Significant litter was left, the Charity lost income due to having to close Jack Straws Car Park, and additional expense to the charity was incurred due to overtime and redeployment costs.

51. To protect the Heath, the public, and Officers, Officers will be seeking an injunction to prohibit future occurrences of this unauthorised party. Additional information will be shared with this Committee in due course.

West Heath

52. In mid-August, Officers hosted a tour of West Heath followed by a discussion about various challenges and health and safety matters related to this area of the Heath, including the proliferation of its use as a public sex environment - including during daytime hours, the increase in drug use that has occurred, the proliferation of related sexual detritus, and the accompanying abuse that Officers and the public have experienced in recent years. In attendance were NLOS Officers, Officers from Camden Council, and representatives from the National Health Service, Heath & Hampstead Society, Change, Grow, Live – Camden's contractor for sexual health outreach, and the Metropolitan Police Service.
53. The walking tour reviewed the situation on West Heath, including its use as a PSE – including during daytime hours in front of the public and staff, a parallel proliferation in the use of drugs, the proliferation in creation and accumulation of clinical waste (sexual detritus and used needles in the hundreds), and the verbal abuse and threats to officers and members of the public by those using the spaces as a PSE and/or for drug use. The work of City Corporation Officers to date was discussed. The complexity of the situation was acknowledged by all.
54. This was the second stakeholder meeting on this topic and reflected expanded attendance from the initial meeting in May. The Metropolitan Police committed to patrol the public highways where illegal drug use has been observed. Officers will be meeting to determine appropriate next steps and will continue to discuss the situation with stakeholders to continue a partnership-based approach and seek to address these health and safety risk in the most appropriate way possible.
55. Two additional security guards from Parkguard have been stationed at the Lido from 23 May to 14 September 2025 to assist staff with crowd control and anti-social behaviour. A third security guard has been assigned on very busy days, when temperatures exceed 30 degrees, to assist with control of the Lido borders and illegal entry over the walls and through the cafe.
56. So far this year, Lifeguards and Swimming Stewards have reported 25 incidents at the Lido and Ponds of customers having been abusive or aggressive towards

them. Officers continue to report these incidents through appropriate internal channels. Last year, there were 10 officially reported incidents of ASB reported between June and August, ranging from verbal to physical abuse. These reported figures, however, are likely to be lower than the actual number due to underreporting. A new reporting system for all swimming staff has now been put in place making it easier to report any issues, accidents, incidents or near-misses

57. Several overnight trespassing incidents have occurred at all three Bathing Ponds, including the Lido and Cafe, which have been subject to vandalism and theft. During these break-ins, there is often damage to property, theft, and litter. To date, the swimming staff have been able to ensure that areas are made safe before opening the next morning.

58. Filming has taken place across the Heath, including at the Men's Pond for a feature film. Several regular swimmers from the Men's Pond were used as extras, and the Pond remained open for public swimming during the filming.

Together we care for the Heath

Priority 10: Responsible management

59. Hampstead Heath has retained its Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Award status. Judging for the London in Bloom awards took place on 26 June 2025 in Golders Hill Park and the Hill Garden and Hill Garden Pergola. The results will be announced in autumn of 2025.

60. Golders Hill Park Zoo attained BIAZA (British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums) Accredited status in May for demonstrating world class standards with a mark of "excellence." The Zoo is among the first to be accredited in the new scheme launched by BIAZA. The comprehensive accreditation process and standards go beyond the UK/Ireland's zoo licensing inspection. It recognises the best zoos and aquariums in the country, which demonstrate the best in animal care and work to create a better planet for animals and people.

61. On the 24 May 2025, DEFRA released the new standards of modern zoo practice. The standards must be met to ensure compliance with the Zoo Licensing Act, which covers animal welfare, public safety, conservation and education. These standards will not be enforced until May 2027, giving collections the required time to make the necessary changes. As part of the new standards, DEFRA have reviewed all the risk categories and recategorised some species. A notable change is the recategorization of red deer from a 'Category 2'

to a 'Category 1' animal. 'Category 1' animals require firearms and trained personnel to be on site because the contact between the public and any individual animals is likely to cause serious injury or be a serious threat to life, based on hazard and risk of injury, toxin, or disease, irrespective of the age and vulnerability of the visitor. For this reason, Officers will need to relocate the three red deer at Golders Hill Park to another facility.

62. With the new changes to the DEFRA standards of modern zoo practice, this will mean relocation of the red deer and greater focus on maintaining high standards of animal welfare, so a full review is needed of the planned income generating activities.

63. Officers are also reviewing the lemur and the wading bird enclosures at the Zoo. Designs and costs are being obtained from zoo build specialists, as the enclosures need to be aesthetically pleasing to ensure the best possible welfare for the animals, whilst also ensuring visitor experiences are enhanced. This will enable the team to plan and welcome new species into the Zoo in line with the Zoo's Collection Plan.

64. The welfare of the collection is of paramount importance. The wading bird enclosure requires significant remedial work, so it has been agreed to move the nine birds to Birdworld in Surrey. The birds will undergo pre-movement tests to ensure they are in good health, and a professional animal transporter will be used to facilitate the move.

65. A lot of identified works were scheduled in the Cyclical Work Programme for Golders Hill Park and the Heath. This includes drainage works around the Zoo, electrical works, and renovations to the staff yard and buildings. Additional security measures such as CCTV and external lighting have been completed. Repairs and renovations to the paths are planned to start in the autumn.

66. Renovations to the toilet blocks at Golders Hill Park are due to be completed at the end of August. Full renovation works have included extensive roof repairs and internal decorations as well as repairs to the limited-access disabled toilet. The toilets adjacent to the Zoo and the temporary portaloos in the disabled car park will remain available for visitors until the toilet renovation is complete.

67. The "limited-access disabled toilet" was already not compliant with governing standards to qualify as accessible due to the physical limitations of the space, but it will remain to be reserved for those with RADAR keys given its near-compliant

dimensions. The walls of this toilet have been waterproofed and boarded to provide a base to fix items, which has meant the internal size of the building has now been further reduced. The toilet dimensions are now 1420mm by 1880mm, and compliant dimensions are 1500mm x 2200mm. Suitable signage has been installed to ensure that the nature of the space is appropriately communicated.

68. The new leisure management system (LMS) planned for the swimming operations continues to be progressed, with technological features and integration being advanced. The project is on track to support season ticket and pay-as-you-go swimming in September. Implementation of the booking system is on track for the start of the 2026 season. Training is scheduled for frontline staff to learn how to use the new system in July and August. Consultation with the swimming user groups is being planned. Replacement kiosks for Swimming Stewards are required at the Men's and Mixed Bathing Ponds to accommodate the new hardware that is necessary for the LMS. Planning permission is being sought, and procurement of the kiosks is underway.

69. Routine sampling was carried out at the end of May at the Heath Extension changing rooms, and the results confirmed the presence of Legionella again. Despite having completed a bypass and installing dumping valves previously, the types of showers do not pull water through the shower units; the showers need to be physically pushed on to turnover the water, and this needs to be carried out at least three times a week once the Legionella has been cleared. Disinfections and resampling will continue until the Legionella has been cleared.

Cafe remarketing

70. Following approval and instructions from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee, the three cafes on the Heath are being remarketed, inviting proposals from all interested parties, including existing operators. As a registered charity, we have an obligation to ensure that we are achieving the best overall outcome for the Hampstead Heath charity itself and our visitors when we lease our spaces commercially, which requires us to competitively remarket the café space in the building.

71. All cafes at North London Open Spaces, including the three on the Heath, are currently operating under tenancies at will, which are not meant to be long-term arrangements. This remarketing process will provide greater clarity and long-term security for our café operators and the Heath charity. supporting investment in the sites and enhancing the visitor experience. We are doing this with a

specialist agent to promote the sites more widely, reaching beyond our usual channels, and to ensure as many suitable operators as possible are aware and able to express interest.

72. The remarketing is not a purely profit-driven process. Consideration will be given to numerous criteria, including café concept, menu and food offer, environmental management, community and social value, management approach, experience and references, as well as the financial offer and overall strength of the business plan. This approach has been informed by the previous process and experience in 2016, and it benefits from the work done following that process to ensure the evaluation reflects several important factors, noted above.

73. The remarketing process began in mid-July. Once concluded, Officers will review the submissions with the agent and prepare recommendations for consultation with Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and decision of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee. As the next committee meetings are not until 2026, it is likely that an additional, extraordinary meeting in 2025 will be required. Officers will liaise with the Chair, Deputy Chair, and Town Clerk regarding an additional date.

Additional relevant matters

74. One of the Zoo apprentices passed his Level 2 Animal Care and Welfare apprenticeship with distinction and will be moving on to his Level 3 Keeper and Aquarist course in the autumn.

75. Recruitment is underway to fill the position of Head Gardener for Golders Hill Park, Hill Garden and Pergola.

Events Update

76. Race for Life (8 June 2025): Race for Life returned to the Heath with a stronger turnout than in previous years. This remains a valued community event that combines fitness, fun and fundraising in the fight against cancer.

77. Run for Your Life (July 2025): We were pleased to partner once again with Jubilee Hall Trust for this inclusive community event. Run for Your Life is a joint effort between the City Corporation, Jubilee Hall Trust and the Royal Free Hospital, promoting health and well-being through participation at all fitness levels. This year marked the first time that proceeds from the event — along with

those from the upcoming September duathlon — will support the Royal Free's new cancer prehab and rehab programme.

78. Kite Flying Festival (22 June 2025): This unique and much-loved annual event, delivered by the Heath & Hampstead Society and supported by Heath Hands, took place once again on Kite Hill. The event attracted significant turnout despite high temperatures. This event remains a highlight in the Heath's annual programme.
79. Survivors Children's Concert (17 May 2025): This celebratory event, showcasing the resilience and creativity of children and young people, occurred in May. Last year's location near the Lido caused operational challenges, and the relocation to the Parliament Hill Bandstand in 2025 proved a more suitable setting that enabled increased attendance and positive feedback.
80. Highgate Harriers 5K (4 July 2025): Highgate Harriers piloted a summer evening 5,000-metre track event aimed at club runners looking for a sociable, high-quality race. Some highlights were the participation of Olympic gold medallist Alex Yee, and drawing an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 2,000 spectators and runners.
81. Bandstand Concerts (Summer 2025): Despite budget reductions, Officers have maintained a vibrant summer programme by inviting bands to perform free concerts on a voluntary basis. Thanks to strong local support, several artists have agreed to play for free, attracting large audiences, including during the Kite Flying Festival Sunday, and the series continues through August. Free concerts resumed at the bandstand in Golders Hill Park this summer from 22 June to 20 July 2025. The concerts are well attended, taking place on Sundays from 3:00 – 5:00pm. Bands have also played at the Parliament Hill bandstand and attracted good numbers. One of the standout moments of the season was the performance by *Dandelion* and involving over 20 young musicians from a wide range of backgrounds. Their vibrant, youth-led performance brought a fresh energy and diverse audience to the bandstand.
82. Filming: Officers continue to host and oversee filming activities on the Heath as a way to generate income. Recent activities include a two-day shoot and a music video shoot. Further opportunities are being explored and entertained where appropriate.

Update from City Surveyor's Department

83. In furtherance of supporting Members' understanding of the work being done by the City Surveyor's Department (CSD) on Hampstead Heath, CSD will continue

to provide an update on delivery of the Cyclical Works Programme in the Assistant Director reports to the Committee (Appendix 1).

84. The next CWP bid will be submitted to Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Finance Committee in October 2026. Approved funds will then be available from 2027-28. This will coincide with Year 4 of the current CWP programme (running from 2024-25 to 2029-2030), and any additional funding approved is likely to further increase investment for North London Open Spaces' property portfolio (including Hampstead Heath) in Year 4 and Year 5 of the current CWP programme.
85. Members are advised that the City Surveyor has ambitious plans to deliver c. £2.0m of works in Year 2 (2025-26) of the current CWP programme across Hampstead Heath. This will include works to paths and fencing at various sites, a refurbishment of the Heathfield House complex on Archway Road, and a refurbishment of Kenwood Cottage.
86. In response to queries regarding how projects are prioritised within the CWP, Members are advised that works are prioritised using a structured scoring system aligned with the Corporate Property Asset Management Strategy and the Climate Action Strategy. Projects are assessed based on statutory compliance, health and safety risks, heritage impact, and sustainability. Those under £10,000 or related to statutory inspections are automatically funded, while others are scored and ranked. The process ensures that funding supports the most critical and strategically aligned works across the City Corporation's portfolio.
87. Members should note that the phasing and prioritisation of the CWP remains fluid in accordance with changing priorities, health and safety concerns and operational constraints.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

88. This report furthers strategic aims of the updated Hampstead Heath Management Strategy and the Corporate Plan.

Financial implications

89. Hampstead Heath charity is incurring considerable cost in the ponds consultation, including the cost of specialist external legal advice and the cost of the consultant performing the consultation. These costs are not currently budgeted for.

Resource implications

90. A number of the workstreams mentioned above are new (eg, ponds consultation) or more expansive and time consuming than when the 2025-26 business plan was developed. Reforecasting of the five-year business plan will occur later this year.

Legal implications

91. Officers will be seeking an injunction as noted in paragraph 52, which requires a court order. NLOS Officers will liaise with colleagues in the Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department on this matter.

Risk implications

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

Equalities implications

93. No implications.

Climate implications

94. Some climate benefits will be delivered as part of the works being managed by the City Surveyor's Department.

Security implications

95. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register. Obtaining an injunction as noted in paragraph 52 will improve security on Hampstead Heath.

Conclusion

96. This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last meeting of the respective committees.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: City Surveyor's Department Cyclical Work Programme Report

Bill LoSasso

Assistant Director (Superintendent)

North London Open Spaces

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City of London - City Estate CWP - Year 1 Overview

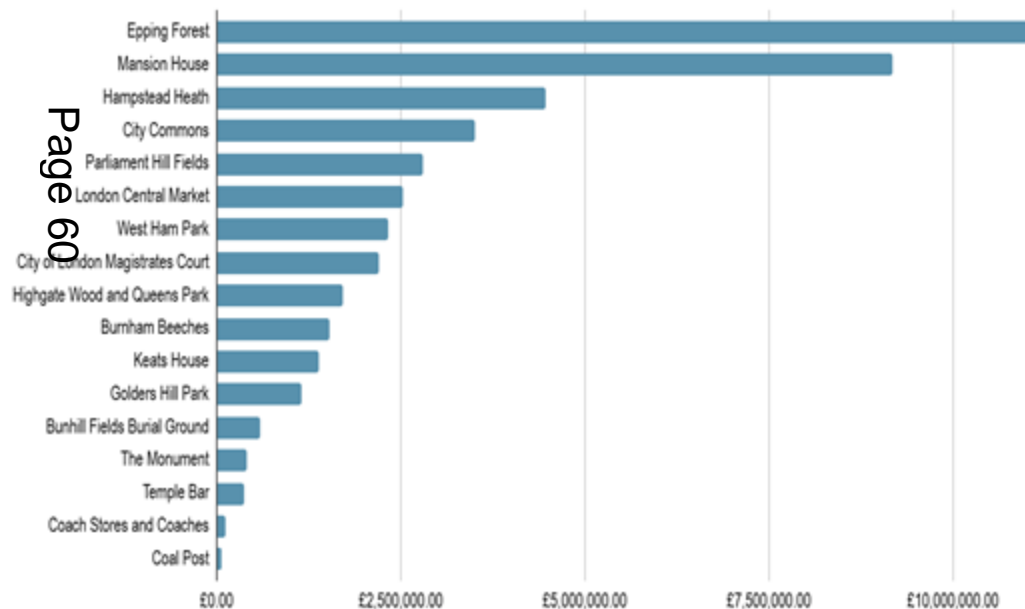
Author: Solomon Meredith



City Estate - Portfolio breakdown



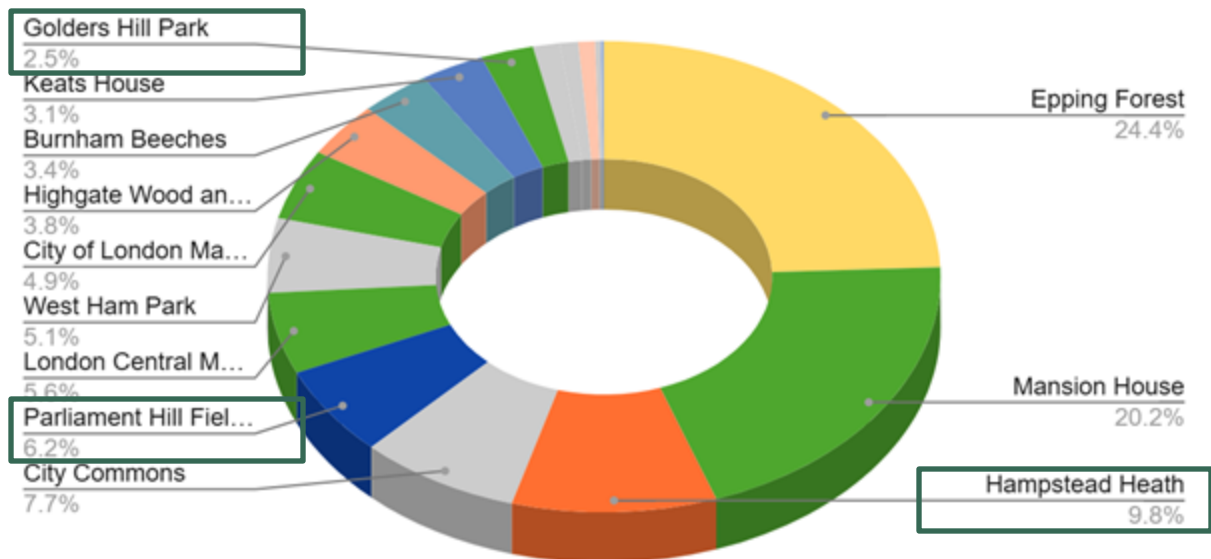
Breakdown of £45,409,850



Epping Forest	£11,063,500.00
Mansion House	£9,183,500.00
Hampstead Heath	£4,463,100.00
City Commons	£3,507,500.00
Parliament Hill Fields	£2,804,400.00
London Central Market	£2,535,000.00
West Ham Park	£2,319,500.00
City of London Magistrates Court	£2,202,500.00
Highgate Wood and Queens Park	£1,711,350.00
Burnham Beeches	£1,529,500.00
Keats House	£1,393,500.00
Golders Hill Park	£1,154,500.00
Bunhill Fields Burial Ground	£586,000.00
The Monument	£398,500.00
Temple Bar	£362,500.00
Coach Stores and Coaches	£125,000.00
Coal Post	£70,000.00
City Estate total:	£45,409,850.00



City Estate - Portfolio breakdown



21.07.2025



City Estate portfolio - Year on Year forecasting / spend profile

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Revenue	£2,633,200	£9,317,800	£7,619,650	£7,659,700	£15,482,500
Capital	£90,000	£623,100	£1,094,000	£645,000	£1,415,500
Year on year total	£2,723,200	£9,940,900	£8,713,650	£8,304,700	£16,898,000
Bunhill Fields Burial Ground	£57,000	£14,500	£444,000	£982,000	£586,000
Burnham Beeches	£40,000	£251,500	£179,000	£695,500	£363,500
City Commons	£648,000	£1,344,500	£750,000	£441,000	£406,500
City of London Magistrates Court	£79,000	£501,500	£589,000	£648,000	£605,000
Coach Stores and Coaches	-	£43,000	£29,500	£9,500	£43,000
Coal Post	-	-	-	-	£70,000
Epping Forest	£331,400	£2,124,600	£3,033,000	£1,000,500	£4,595,000
Hampstead Heath	£148,500	£1,036,750	£817,750	£885,350	£964,250
Golders Hill Park	£240,000	£157,500	£65,500	£231,000	£460,500
Parliament Hill Fields	£92,000	£809,000	£546,900	£664,000	£669,500
Highgate Wood and Queens Park	£138,000	£194,500	£268,500	£586,850	£653,500
Keats House	-	£37,500	£118,000	£762,000	£476,000
London Central Market	£247,500	£905,000	£311,000	£133,000	£878,500
Mansion House	£566,250	£1,049,000	£1,244,000	£695,000	£5,645,250
Temple Bar	-	£362,500	-	-	-
The Monument	£133,550	£133,550	£26,000	£66,500	£46,500
West Ham Park	£2,000	£976,000	£291,500	£504,500	£435,000

City Estate - Year 1 PERFORMANCE



City Estate	Totals
Year 1 forecast	£2,685,700.00
Year 1 actuals (spend)	£3,112,806.91
Year 1 commitment	£1,597,009.03
Year 1 Commitment & Spend	£4,709,815.94
Current difference (forecast vs actuals)	£427,106.91

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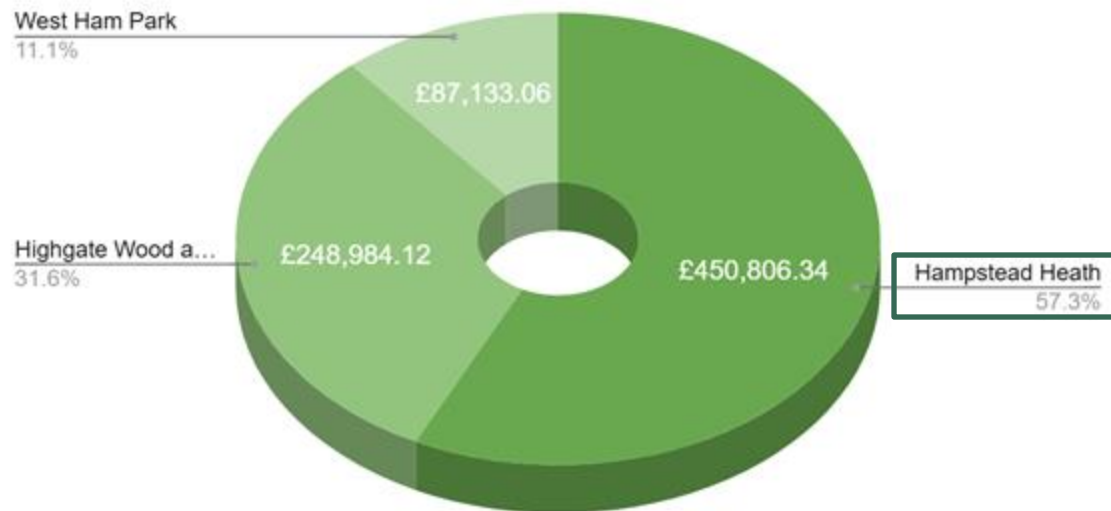
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NILOS - North London Open Spaces





City Estate - Year 1 NLOS performance (24/25 Spend)





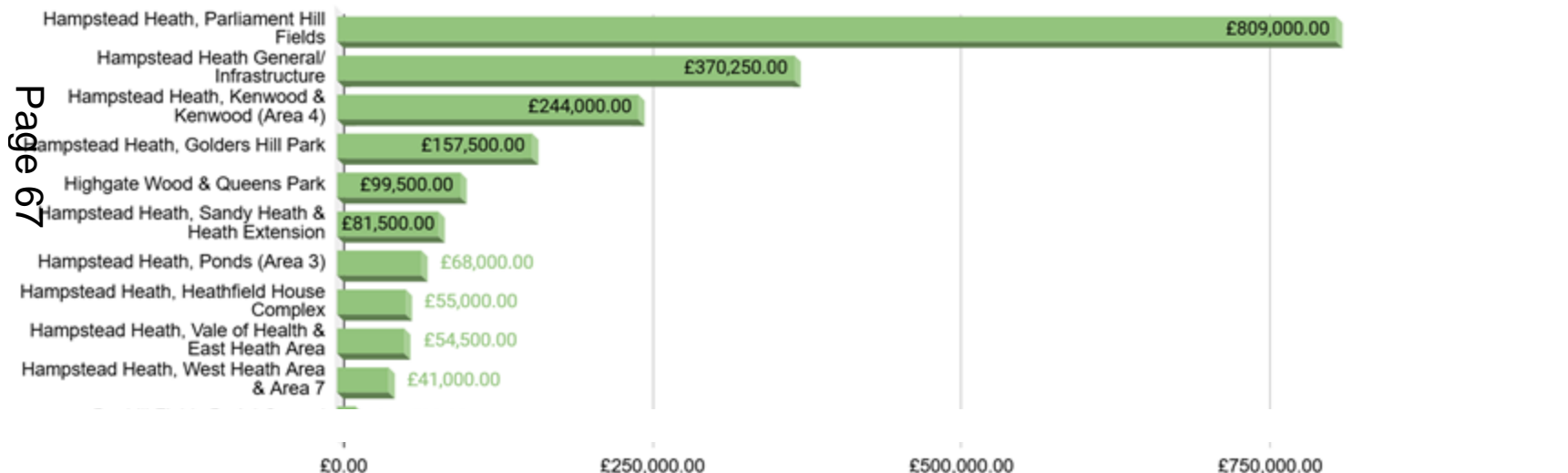
City Estate (NLOS) - Year 2 – Project Highlights

- Fencing overhaul across various sites (£90,000)
- Path resurfacing across various sites (£90,000)
- Programme of works to Archway Road and Heathfield House Complex (£900,000)
- Vale of Health Bothy & WC works (£150,000)
- NLOS staff lodges refurbishment (£350,00)
- Golders Hill Park WC refurbishment (£300,000)
- Golders Hill Park staff yard package of works (£150,000)
- Ongoing works to Golders Hill Park Zoo (TBC)



City Estate (NLOS) - Year 2 forecast

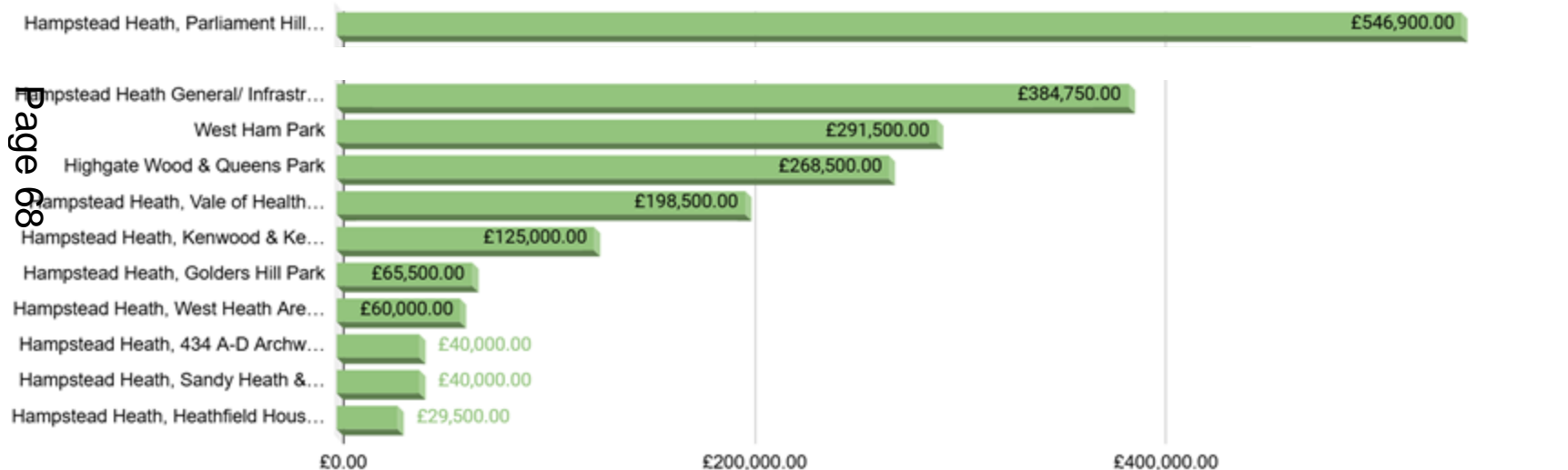
Year 2 (NLOS) Forecast





City Estate (NLOS) - Year 3 forecast

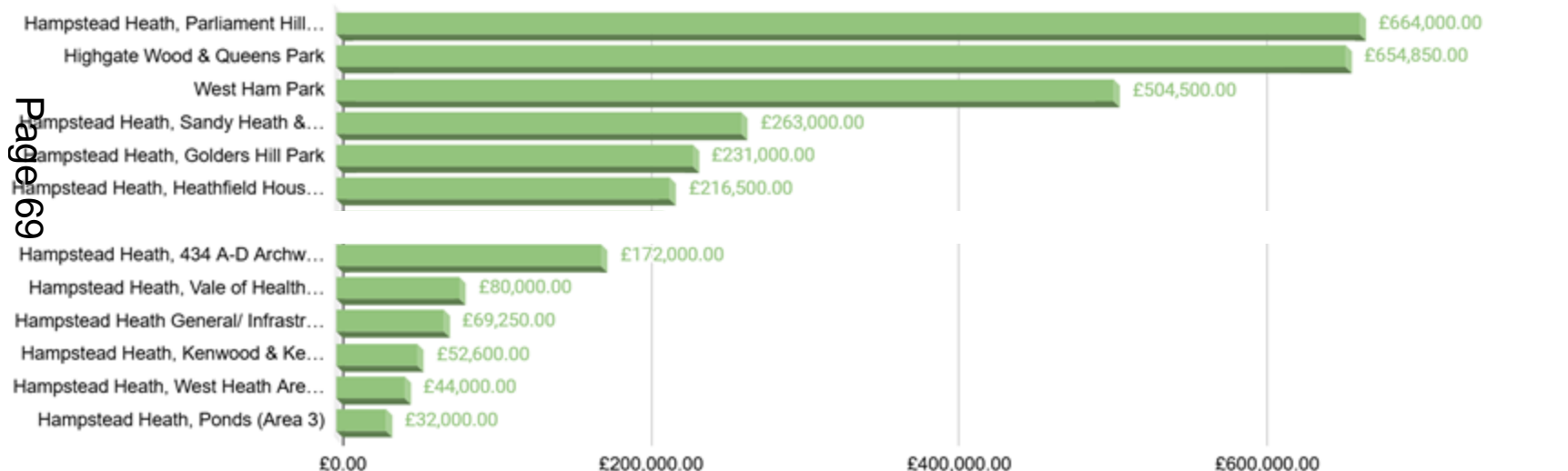
Year 3 (NLOS) Forecast





City Estate (NLOS) - Year 4 forecast

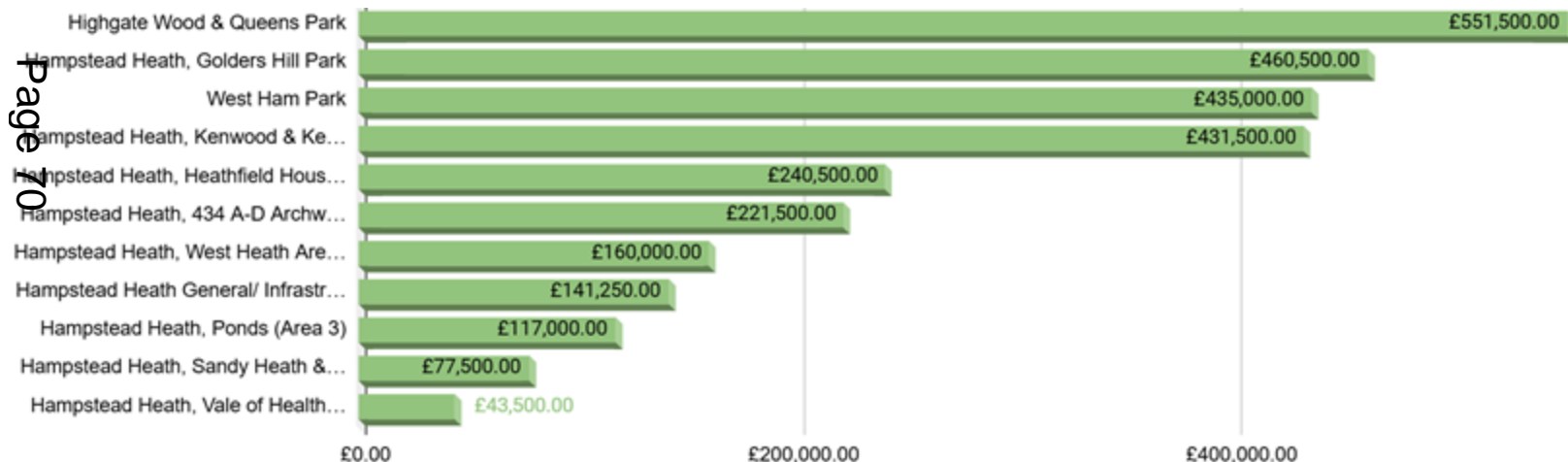
Year 4 (NLOS) Forecast





City Estate (NLOS) - Year 5 forecast

Year 5 (NLOS) Forecast





Heath Hands Activity Update

Timeframe: 1st May to 30th June 2025

Report to: Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee – September 2025 meeting

Heath Hands overview

1. Heath Hands is a registered charity delivering conservation, community, learning and wellbeing programmes across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and at the Kenwood Estate.
2. This short report summarises the charity's main activities on NLOS during the above timeframe according to its strategic and charitable objectives and Strategy and pursuant to the Partnership Agreement signed with the City of London Corporation through until 2029.

Highlights

3. The first two months of the financial year has been a busy period for volunteering groups with 26 schools, 23 corporate and 8 community groups as well as the launch of drop-in garden volunteering at the Hive after work or school and on weekends for public.
4. Following the resumption of our wildlife monitoring programmes (grass snakes, butterflies and dragonflies) in April, we launched a stag beetle monitoring project in the Parliament Hill area in June.
5. Two paid work experience (providing entry-level posts in the outdoor sector) Activity Assistants recruited to assist with weekend programme delivery and planned opening of interpretation space at former tennis hut at Parliament Hill.

Strategic Objectives

6. The Heath Hands' Strategy (2021 - 2030) provides strategic direction and outlines our aims and objectives and priorities through 2025/26. This report outlines below our work in furtherance of these four strategic aims (Community, Conservation, Learning, and Wellbeing) since our last report to this committee.

Conservation

7. Practical conservation and garden volunteer sessions running across all parts of Hampstead Heath, led by CoLC Ranger and Garden teams, with 134 sessions and 1,451 hours.
8. Wildlife monitoring in full swing with five reptile, two butterfly and two dragonfly transects and a new stag beetle monitoring scheme this year.
9. Around Parliament Hill, our efforts to improve biodiversity are continuing, with work since April progressing on creating a new wildlife pond to complement the nearby wildflower meadow and hedgerow projects and the creation of a new butterfly and bee bank at the Adventure Playground in collaboration with the CoLC Learning Team.

10. This year our Hedgehog Friendly Heath project is continuing with support for a hedgehog survey at Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood in June 2025 in collaboration with CoLC and



ZSL's London Hogwatch, and we will be supporting CoLC and ZSL during August's National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme at the Heath Extension.

11. Corporate volunteering bookings popular, with 23 companies out since start of April completing tasks agreed with the Heath's Ranger and Conservation teams, focusing on maintenance, litter picking, fence line and ditch management, projects around the Hive.
12. Work progressing to develop a plant nursery at the Hive to support our gardening projects.
13. New drop-in gardening sessions successful, providing an opportunity for people to volunteer informally, after school/ work or at weekends and attracting a different audience. Work focusing on horticultural and conservation tasks around the Hive.

Community

14. To engage different audiences and bring new visitors to the Heath we collaborate with a range of local organisations. Our Community Newsletter now reaches over 550 organisation and members of the public - more info: www.heath-hands.org.uk/community-activities
15. Recent activities have included outings for Young Barnet Carers, Families for Peace (Ukrainian refugees), Umoja Health Forum, Woodcraft Folk, 7th St Pancras Guides with summer activities planned for the Regent's Park Estate, GOAL Youth Club, Eco Judaism, Kentish Town City Farm and more.
16. Our volunteers supported the delivery of Golders Hill Park Zoo's 120th anniversary celebration and the Kite Festival organised by the Heath and Hampstead Society and CoLC.

Learning

17. Our free weekend family-friendly weekend nature interpretation sessions attracted over 400 participants in May and June, with a focus on bugs, pond dipping and pollinators.
18. Refurbishment works on the former Tennis Hut at Parliament Hill being undertaken, which will enable us to start opening on a regular basis as a public information and nature interpretation base in late July.
19. Since the start of May, our staff and volunteers have delivered public walks on bird ID, pollinators, wildflower meadows, conservation management and tree identification.
20. We have run 26 Heath Friendly School sessions during the summer term, with age groups ranging from 5 to 17 and over 860 young people involved.
21. Our youth volunteering programme active until June with 113 hours contributed, and Work Experience week for Acland Burghley school planned in July 2025.

Wellbeing

22. Our free health and wellbeing programmes including three weekly health walks, regular walks for Mind in Camden, social prescribing and forest bathing workshops are continuing.
23. Development of new partnership with youth mental health providers, The Hive, Camden with activities planned over the summer.

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