

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 9 July 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Education Centre, the Lido, off Gordon House Road, Hampstead Heath, NW5 on Monday, 9 July 2012 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)

Deputy Michael Welbank (Deputy Chairman)

Xohan Duran

- Representative of People with Disabilities

Colin Gregory

- Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association

Michael Hammerson

- Highgate Society

Ian Harrison

- Vale of Health Society

John Hunt

- South End Green Association

Jamie Jenkins

- Heath Hands

Alix Mullineaux

- Marylebone Bird Watching Society

Helen Payne

- Friends of Kenwood

Mary Port

- Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee

John Rogers

- Ramblers' Association

Susan Rose

- Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Robert Slowe

- Representative of Clubs Using Facilities on the Heath

Ellin Stein

- Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee

Richard Sumray

- London Council for Sport and Recreation

David Walton

- Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath

Jeremy Wright

- Heath & Hampstead Society

Officers:

Edward Foale

- Committee & Member Services Officer, Town Clerk's Department

Sue Ireland

- Director of Open Spaces

Jonathan Meares

- Highgate Wood & Conservation Manager

Declan Gallagher

- Operations Service Manager, Open Spaces Department

Richard Gentry

- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager, Department of Open Spaces

Yvette Hughes

- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department

Jennifer Wood

- Water Management Communications Officer

Paul Maskell

- Leisure and Events Manager

Richard Litherland

- Group Building Surveyor

Paul Monaghan

- Assistant Director Engineering, City Surveyor's Department

Peter Snowdon

- Projects Director, City Surveyor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John Weston.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Hampstead Heath – Public Sex Environment Outreach Work (item 3).

The Constabulary Manager confirmed that there were ongoing discussions with the Terrence Higgins trust with regard to a litter picking exercise that was scheduled to take place in November 2012.

Update on the Hampstead Heath Flood Management and Water Quality Management Project

In response to a query from Jeremy Wright, the Director of Open Spaces advised that the offsite emergency plan had been developed and, although officers from the City of London had provided assistance, this was the responsibility of the London Borough of Camden.

ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Chairman amended the agenda order so that the “Flood Management and Water Quality Project - Communications Strategy” and the “Flood and Water Quality Management, Hampstead Heath - Progress and Procurement Structure Report” would be considered simultaneously prior to the Superintendent’s Update.

4. FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY PROJECT - COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that presented a Communication Strategy for managing all communications associated with the Flood Management and Water Quality project.

The Water Management Communications Officer made reference to the presentation that Members had received during a recent Consultative Committee visit. The Chairman advised that he had since received a range of comments and advised any further comments should be provided no later than Friday 13 July 2012.

In discussing the Flood and Water Quality Management paper, Richard Sumray suggested that one or more Members of the Consultative Committee should be involved in the tender process.

The Projects Director ran through the timetable for the appointment of the Design Team and advised that the appointment of a Strategic Landscape

Architect was currently out to tender. The Strategic Landscape Architect would not be a member of the Design Team, but would provide challenge and influence over the design process, and ensure that designs were as far as possible sympathetic to the overall project vision and objectives.

The Projects Director summarised the required Design Team services and advised that it had not yet been decided whether the appointments should lie with a single or multiple contractors. There were advantages and drawbacks from each. A key issue was that using a single contractor could cost the City more money, but this option also had the potential to reduce costs over the lifetime of the project. A single contractor also had the benefit of allowing a single point of contact for the Design Team and could facilitate a more joined up approach, particularly with the landscape architect and ecologist.

Susan Rose proposed the following amendment to the Water Management Stakeholder Group draft terms of reference:

To inform and assist the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee:

- iii) by providing views on the construction planning, timetable, logistics, communication strategy and implementation of the Flood Management and Water Quality Project works, *particularly the impact on the local community.*

Ian Harrison advised that he had believed that the terms of reference had implied the importance of factors that affect the local community, but agreed with Susan Rose that this should be amended to be explicit. Mary Port indicated that she agreed with the proposed amendment.

Susan Rose tabled a document that proposed to incorporate the following into the management plan:

- i) The impact of the proposed works on those local residents and those with access requirements.
- ii) Works impact management would be necessary to address possible loss of amenity, including: noise and dust pollution, disruption of local traffic, deprivation of parking facilities and risk to all users, but especially children and the elderly.
- iii) The use of a works impact management plan, appropriate professional expertise and a works impact management team.

Colin Gregory advised that he believed that the Communications Strategy provided an effective approach to explaining the existing risks, but believed it could better explain what would be done to address them.

Richard Sumray advised that the Communications Strategy should be improved to emphasise that the project would both maintain and improve the existing dams and stressed the need for a proactive, rather than reactive, strategy. He

emphasised the importance of explaining why actions were being taken in order to pre-empt any negative feedback.

Helen Payne advised that a project Facebook page could prove useful for updating stakeholders and obtaining feedback. Photographs and illustrations could be used to help stakeholders visualise what the project hoped to achieve.

Jeremy Wright advised that the Communications Strategy was an effective framework for moving forward, but emphasised the importance of proactive communications. He also advised that the ongoing conflict between the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 and the Reservoirs Act 1975 should be resolved in public discussions.

The Projects Director advised that Twitter and Facebook would be utilised for the Communications Strategy the project and would be managed by the Water Management Communications Officer. He also emphasised the independence of the Strategic Landscape Architect and advised that there would be opportunities for Members of both the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Water Management Stakeholder Group to provide briefing to the appointed person.

The Assistant Director advised that there had recently been a considerable amount of rainfall on the Heath, but there was currently no substantial cause for concern. There had been a minor leak close to the top of a dam on the Men's Pond directly above Highgate number one, however the water level had recently lowered and the leak had ceased. A specialist was now examining the cause of the leak and action would be taken to fix it.

In response to a question from Michael Hammerson, the Projects Director clarified that it was anticipated that if possible the Strategic Landscape Architect would be involved in the Contractor appointment process.

Alix Mullineaux indicated that she believed that there needed to be better communication with local communities regarding the project, particularly in the Kentish Town area. The Water Management Communications Officer advised that leaflets regarding the project had been delivered to 60,000 local households, which included Kentish Town. Social media and the Chairman's column in the Ham and High would also be used to disseminate information to the local community.

Ian Harrison advised that the Stakeholder Group would examine why the particular actions that would need to be done were necessary and precisely what the actions would entail. Each of these areas would be scrutinised in order to ensure correct action was taken. He also advised that the Group would discuss any relevant matters that were not mentioned within the terms of reference. He advised that, although it had been suggested that there should be a wider membership within the Group, if the membership were too large it could lose focus. He advised that he believed the Group should initially meet

privately, but he recognised that it may be beneficial to meet in public in the future and emphasised the importance of transparency.

BOTH REPORTS RECEIVED

5. FLOOD AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT, HAMPSTEAD HEATH - PROGRESS AND PROCUREMENT STRUCTURE REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that set out the progress made with several key appointments associated with the implementation of the Flood Management and Water Quality Project.

This item was considered earlier in conjunction with the previous item.

RECEIVED

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Hampstead Heath Management Team updated the Committee on the following matters:

- A visitor 1 sculpture was scheduled to be installed on 11 July 2012, and would be removed in November 2012.
- The National Grid gas works were progressing. Due to recent weather conditions, a temporary track had been placed over part of the Hampstead Heath Extension in order to aid vehicle use. One rugby pitch would be temporarily relocated. The works were expected to be completed by 15 November 2012. Works began at Cut Through Lane on 31 May 2012, with an expected completion date of 31 October 2012. Works were scheduled for Parliament Hill Fields in mid-September and were expected to last 22 weeks.
- There were the following on-going planning issues:
 - A new planning application was being proposed in Garden House, which featured a basement in the plans.
 - The Water House development had not yet submitted an application to the London Borough of Camden.
 - Proposed works to extend the East Heath Car Park had recently been approved.
 - A new planning application at Athlone House was expected in the near future.
- The legal dispute over the "Green to Gold" copyright had recently been settled out of court. The phrase could now be used until 2013.
- The Freedom Bill was likely to be enacted in the future and would revoke the City's power to clamp vehicles that did not comply with the Heath parking policy. Alternative measures were currently being investigated. Members noted that a decision regarding the matter may need to be made outside of the Committee cycle and members were invited to forward their comments to staff once details had been circulated.
- Massaria had recently been identified on trees in the City Gardens, Royal Parks and Stratford. Officers were currently seeking advice from the London Tree Officers' Association. In response to a question from Ellin Stein, the Conservation and Trees Manager confirmed that Massaria was likely to disfigure trees rather than kill them. A Massaria-

infected tree carried a higher risk of limb drop. Massaria had been identified on the Heath and the number of tree inspections would be increased in order to closely monitor the situation.

- Oak Processionary Moth had not yet arrived on the Heath, but had recently been located in Croydon and was known to be in the Richmond area.
- A Pekingese type dog had been killed by a Mastiff dog on 7 July 2012.

RECEIVED

7. **PROVISIONAL ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2013-14 - 2014-15**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor that set out a provisional schedule of cyclical projects being considered for Hampstead Heath in 2013/14 and 2014/15 under the umbrella of the "additional works programme".

The Group Building Surveyor advised that the report highlighted essential maintenance works and asked for any comments to be forwarded to staff by 13 July 2012.

RECEIVED

8. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLANS FOR THE SANDY HEATH PONDS AND THE SANDY HEATH AND FLAGSTAFF GORSE SITES**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that presented detailed management work plans for the Sandy Heath ponds and Sandy Heath and Flagstaff gorse sites.

Jeremy Wright commended the report. In response to a question from Robert Slowe, the Director advised that the work plans were available online. Richard Sumray advised that a condensed version should be circulated to a wider audience.

RECEIVED

9. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR PRYOR'S FIELD**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that presented a detailed work plan for Pryor's Field.

The Conservation Manager advised that a key objective of the plan was to inhibit the spread of invasive species in Pryor's Field. Members were invited to forward any comments to officers by 13 July 2012.

RECEIVED

10. **'WILD ABOUT HAMPSTEAD HEATH' PROJECT APPLICATION UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that reviewed the main aims and background informing the 'Wild About Hampstead Heath' project and the current progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund Application to support this project.

Richard Sumray commended the proposed use of volunteers. Jeremy Wright advised that he believed the Cornfield Meadows to be too small to house a Kingfisher Bank, however Alix Mullineaux advised that she believed that a kingfisher had settled in the area in the past.

The Leisure & Events Manager advised that there were regular meetings between Officers and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. In response to a question from Mary Port, the Operations Service Manager advised that fencing would cordon off the sparrow meadow north of the bandstand at Parliament Hill Fields following the National Grid Works. Fencing for perennial planting would be in place for one year to aid establishment. Annual meadows would be fenced off permanently.

In response to a query from Colin Gregory, the Conservation Manager advised that the proposed project would engage largely with schools from the more deprived areas to the south of the Heath, but would also engage with local schools in Barnet.

RECEIVED

11. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces that advised Members on the success in achieving Secondary Authority status for the control of dogs.

The Director of Open Spaces advised that the City had recently acquired secondary authority status, which meant it could enforce stricter dog control orders. This would be trialled in Burnham Beeches, and could be considered for use in Hampstead Heath. The Home Office was currently drafting a White Paper that proposed abolishing the status. Ian Harrison commended the City's obtainment of secondary authority status and advised that the measures should be used constructively on the Heath and well publicised.

The Chairman advised that, due to an erroneous internal memo, during a recent interview with the Ham and High he had advised that the City had failed in its attempt to acquire secondary authority status. This was not so.

In response to a query from Mary Port, the Director advised that the definition of an out of control dog was for the courts to decide.

RECEIVED

12. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

13.1 Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum Minutes

The Committee received the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Forum held on 21 May 2012.

RECEIVED

EXTENSION OF THE MEETING

At this point, the time limit for Committee meetings as set out in Standing Order 40 had been reached, but there being a two-thirds majority of the Committee present who voted in favour of an extension, the Committee agreed to continue the meeting.

13.2 Proposal to Hold Affordable Art Fair in June 2013

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that proposed to hold an event on Hampstead Heath for a 23 day period from 2 June 2013 to 24 June 2013, with the fair taking place between Wednesday 12 June 2013 and Sunday 16 June 2013. It also sought support to host similar events in 2014 and 2015.

Jeremy Wright commended the proposal. Ian Harrison supported the proposal but advised that there was scope to increase the charge for the event to be more in line with what other local authorities across London charged for similar events. Michael Hammerson queried whether it would be better to agree a three year contract in 2012.

RECEIVED

Members noted that the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath had recently undergone an operation and was consequently unable to attend the meeting. The Committee wished the Superintendent a speedy recovery.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 6 November 2012 at 7pm in the Hampstead Heath Education Centre.

The meeting ended at 9.04 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Edward Foale
tel.no.: 020 7332 1426
edward.foale@cityoflondon.gov.uk