

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 29 October 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 29 October 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Katherine Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anne Fairweather, Ray Booth, Cindy Galvin, Dr Gaye Henson (Dr Frances Tatnall attended to represent the Marylebone Birdwatching Society), Ellen Solomons (Lorna Kerr attended to represent the Vale of Health Society), Ellin Stein, Harunur Rashid, Steve Ripley and Richard Sumray.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018 were approved as a correct record subject to the addition of "and moths" to bullet three under Item 10 noted by a Member representing the Highgate Society.

A Member noted that it was previously agreed that whilst Members would not be named in the minutes, but their Society would be reflected. The Town Clerk agreed to go back to this style of minuting.

4. **ACTIONS SHEET**

Members noted the various outstanding actions and the update provided thereon.

The Chairman advised that all actions were complete or covered on the agenda except Action 1 to identify a representative to represent people with a physical disability which was still being progressed by the Superintendent and Town Clerk. It was noted that the Chairman and Superintendent had attended a meeting with representatives from Mencap to discuss the organisations future role in representing Heath users with a disability. Members were invited to contact the Town Clerk to suggest organisations which could help to fulfil this role.

5. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 5 September 2018 were received.

A Member (London Wildlife Trust) requested that a copy of the report on Oak Processionary Moths (OPM), which is being prepared by the Director of Open Spaces, be shared with Members of the HHCC. The Chairman explained that the costs for OPM were currently being covered by the Superintendent's operational budget. The Superintendent stated that he was happy to share any information and progress regarding OPM advising that natural control options were being researched such as a parasitic fly that stops the breeding stage of the moths.

In response to a request from a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association), the Town Clerk agreed to bring the personalised gavel presented to the HHHWQPC at their meeting on 5 September 2018 by past Chairman Mr Welbank, to the next meeting of the HHCC, so Members could view it.

6. **DRAFT HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 10 September 2018 were received.

Members were advised that discussions focused primarily on the Management Strategy, the proposed 2019/20 sports fees and charges, the 'This Girl Can' event theme and upcoming sports events. There was broad support for the proposed 2019/20 sports fees and charges at the meeting. A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) noted that it had been agreed to continue with the 'This Girl Can' event theme for a further five years and that the Heath Clubs were in agreement that their role in progressing and supporting the scheme was key.

RECEIVED.

7. **DRAFT HAMPSTEAD HEATH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018-2028**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the draft Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (formerly Plan) 2018-2028 and the following points were made:

- The Chairman advised that the draft Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 would be presented to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee for approval on 28 November 2018 so this was an opportunity for the Committee to give final input into the Strategy. Members were encouraged to provide comments via email following the meeting up until mid-November.
- Members were advised that there were four Outcomes, 11 Priorities and 41 Commitments.
- The Superintendent noted that there was still some duplication from the foreword to the text within the Strategy which will be addressed in the final version.
- The Superintendent confirmed that an online consultation was still running through the website.
- Members were advised that a reference to the status of the 2007 Management Plan would be incorporated by explaining the importance of the Transition Plan (Towards a Management Plan for the Heath 2007–2017 - A summary of progress to date) which was presented to Members in July 2018. This will be updated and presented to Members in early 2019.
- The Superintendent noted that a Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) had provided feedback in relation to the role of the Heath Sports Clubs and organisations and queried that Priorities 4 and 5 have shared Commitments.
- Priority 11 was edited following advice from a former Chairman that gender-neutral language should be used throughout the Strategy.
- The Superintendent advised that the Comptroller and City Solicitor had assisted by drafting the Legislative Framework for the Strategy which incorporated the new City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018.
- With regards to the role of the Strategy in helping to resolve conflicts, the Superintendent confirmed that the 10-year strategy sets out the aspirations which will guide day-to-day decision making. There may be situations where a judgement call has to be made about which factor to prioritise. However, all four themes are important and will need to be considered carefully when deciding how to act.

- In response to a query from a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) regarding whether future drafts of the Divisional Plan would take account of the Outcomes and Priorities from the Management Strategy and address specific aspects, the Chairman advised that links between the different plans and the Management Strategy would be made and they would become clearer when they are aligned. The Superintendent explained that the Divisional Plan would be aligned with the Outcomes in the Strategy.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) queried where policies, e.g. veteran trees and the Golders Hill Park Zoo, could be accessed once agreed. The Superintendent confirmed that the website was the most appropriate place to provide links to these documents.
- With regards to Commitment 41 under Priority 11: Responsible Management, a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) suggested adding that the City of London Corporation would take appropriate action if necessary as it was the responsibility of the Corporation to enforce responsible management. The Chairman suggested reordering the list so that the Commitments did not end on a negative point. The Superintendent noted that there was a further reference to the Corporation's powers under the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 under Priority 3.
- A Member (Highgate Society) noted under the parameters of the Heath Vision (p33) that "together we care for the Heath"; however, he felt that not all people did care for the Heath and the aim was to strive to encourage everyone to care and learn from each other. The Superintendent agreed to strengthen the wording in the introduction of the Theme.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) felt the wording in paragraph in the foreword after the bold sentence required a change in tone.
- In response to comments from a Member (London Wildlife Trust) regarding Commitment 1 under Priority 1 concerning natural habitats and the reference to the 2009 General Botanical Survey, which was nearly 10 years old and could prove restrictive in the future. The Superintendent advised that the reference was to bring reassurance around the distribution of trees, scrub, grassland and heathland.
- Following a comment from a Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) regarding conflict resolution which he felt should be a priority and come to the Committee, especially matters with competing issues (e.g. the Model Boating Pond access arrangements), the Chairman agreed and confirmed that indeed the function of the HHCC was to address any arising conflict.
- A Member (Highgate Society) stated that Commitment 2 under Priority 1 was vague and inarticulate and should be amended to reference the Heath's heritage and archaeology.

- A Member (Highgate Society) noted that the Legislative Framework (p49-52) was very helpful and suggested the information could be attached as a standing item on future agendas.
- The Chairman stated that she was pleased with the Strategy and the comprehensive and inclusive approach that has been taken to formulate the Strategy presenting a clear focus for the next ten years.
- The Chairman thanked the Committee for their feedback on the Strategy and invited Members to provide additional written comments.

RESOLVED - that:-

- Members provide feedback and comments on the draft Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028;
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 28 November 2018.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent and the following points were made:

Annual Work Programme

- The Operational Services Manager advised Members that waste and recycling had proved a significant challenge over the summer.
- Fires have been a concern across the Open Spaces this summer, particularly after the recent grassland fire at Epping Forest. The Operational Services Manager advised that water bowsers had been on standby at strategic locations around the Heath.
- Members were advised that staff had worked extremely hard to keep facilities open over the busy summer period. Members thanked all staff and volunteers for their hard work.

Planning

- **The Water House, Millfield Lane, 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent advised that he was involved in the Community Working Group.
- **Parliament Hill & William Ellis School, 2018/1270/P.** The Superintendent advised that Officers were liaising with the constructor in relation to the protection of trees.

- **South Fairground Site.** Members were advised that the appeal hearing against the Planning Enforcement notice issued by London Borough of Camden had been set for December 2018.
- **North Fairground Site, 2017/4346/P.** Members were advised that following non-determination of the case by London Borough of Camden, an appeal hearing has been set for February 2019. Officers will continue to work with representatives of the Vale of Health Society and the Heath & Hampstead Society.
- **Jack Straws Castle, 2017/2064/P.** The Superintendent advised that London Borough of Camden is still to determine this application.
- **Garden House, Vale of Health 2017/2885/P.** Members were advised that London Borough of Camden had not resolved this application.
- **Wallace House, Fitzroy Park 2017/4301/P.** Members were advised that planning approval was granted.
- **55 Fitzroy Park 2018/3672/P.** The Superintendent advised that the City of London would oppose the development taking account of the likely impacts on the character of Hampstead Heath, as well as risks to the hydrology of the Highgate chain of ponds.

Constabulary

- The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager advised that since 1 April the Constabulary had responded to 1,100 incidents at the Heath with 849 resulting in a stop and account, formal warning or penalty charge, 7 arrests were made, and 26 criminal offences reported to the Metropolitan Police Service. There were 40 instances of vulnerable missing persons.
- With regards to medical emergencies, first aid was given on site on 21 occasions. It was noted that trained staff were available to use the defibrillators on site.
- Members were advised that the Lido had been the biggest challenge during the summer period and a stewarding company were employed to manage the entry queue. Staff had to deal with some difficult members of the public and especially when the Lido was at capacity and queue had been closed. There were also issues with people swimming in non-swimming ponds which were unsafe and not lifeguarded. The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager noted that the Team were continuing to develop measures to deal with these issues for next summer.

Swimming

- The Superintendent advised that there had been a two-week closure of the Kenwood Ladies' Pond for maintenance.
- An accessibility audit has been undertaken at the Highgate Men's Pond, to assess the options for providing step free access to the facility. The Superintendent is engaging with an architect to resolve technical issues in relation to how disabled swimmers can access the water. Designs have also been drawn up for Part M compliant changing facilities and a storage area.
- In response to a query from a Member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) regarding reconfiguring the access points of the Men's Pond, the Superintendent explained that the aim was for Lifeguards to be positioned to ensure they had a line of sight towards people coming into the facility as there currently was no view of who enters.

Events

- The Leisure and Events Manager advised Members that the Hampstead Heath Officer Events Group had met on 17 October to consider upcoming events. The Group discussed three of the major events that had applied for 2019 including the Race for Life, Affordable Art Fair and Night of the 10k Personal Bests. The Officer Group were satisfied that the events were aligned to the criteria set out in the Events Policy and sought views and feedback from the Consultative Committee.
- Members were advised that the 2019 events programme and a report capturing all 2018 events would come to the Committee in February 2019.
- A Member (Highgate Society) raised a point made at the Highgate Wood Consultative Group that the document was too much for a small activity and might be put off by the process. The Superintendent advised that the website would be structured to select a smaller or more in-depth application depending on the size of the event.

Open Spaces Organised Sports Licence Application Form

- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) felt that the application timescale offered was generous.
- Members agreed that reference to payment by cheque was outdated and should be updated to include a reference to alternative payment methods.

Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

- Members were advised that since publication of the agenda, 13 ceremonies had taken place this year and eight were booked for 2019.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members provide feedback on the proposed events for 2019;
- Members provide feedback on the Sports Licencing Scheme (Appendix 2).

8.1 Appendix 1 - Divisional Plan Q2 update

Members noted the Divisional Plan 2nd Quarter Update and the following points were made:

- The Superintendent advised that two new columns had been added and that the updated three-year Divisional Plan would come back to the Committee in February 2019 with projects presented by year.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) noted that the Veteran Tree Policy had been relocated to the Annual Work Programme (AWP) but felt that its status needed to be retained within the Divisional Plan as the guiding document, so it was not lost. He felt there was a difference between completing a project and an ongoing, evolving project. The Chairman suggested mirroring the Project Sub Committee's approach of updating Members on a project before moving it. The Superintendent explained that business as usual projects were reflected in the AWP but agreed to provide regular updates on these projects to ensure Members were kept up-to-date.
- In response to a query from a Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) regarding the progress of licensing commercial dog walkers, the Superintendent advised that a project plan was in development which would also involve consultation with dog walkers. This would also involve discussions with Epping Forest and The Commons.
- A Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted that they had Googled a number of dog walking companies and on average each company charged £10p/h per dog, with each walker taking up to 20 dogs on every walk. Members were surprised by the fees charged by professional dog walkers and recommended that the Superintendent charge commercial walkers proportionately.
- In response to a concern regarding the knock-on effects for Kenwood, Members were advised that English Heritage were involved in the conversations regarding dog walkers and licenses.
- A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) raised the significant health impact caused by dog waste, particularly for sport, noting a case of a young girl who needed to undergo leg amputation following a leg wound becoming infected from dog faeces. Members noted that it was impossible for walkers with a number of dogs to pick up after all of them. It was agreed

the serious health implications needed to be highlighted to all dog walkers and the number of dogs each person could walk at one time would need to be capped. The Superintendent confirmed that the licensing scheme would restrict the number of dogs being walked by commercial dog walkers; however, no decision would be taken in advance of engagement taking place.

- Members were concerned that dog walking companies would avoid licensing all of their walkers by simply swapping the dogs throughout the day.
- The Chairman thanked the Committee for their feedback and support to the approach being taken in relation to licencing commercial dog walkers.
- Regarding Divisional Plan Project 3.4, the Superintendent advised that a Play Strategy had been drafted and would be coming to the HHCC for discussion. The Superintendent highlighted the move towards natural play and use of natural materials (e.g. timber, hollowed wood) across the Heath's play facilities. This would help children transition from playing in the traditional facilities to the wider Heath.
- Members agreed that natural play was important, noting that fallen trees were hugely popular with children. A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted that bright colours were not good for all children, particularly those suffering with hypersensitivity.
- In response to a query regarding how the Zoo Strategy would be implemented, the Operational Services Manager advised that a Project Board was set up to review and redevelop the Golders Hill Zoo. He noted that £10k would be invested annually into the project from the Superintendent's Local Risk Budget, and this would be further supplemented by money raised from filming at the site. The first project undertaken involved improvements to the donkey enclosure. In year two works would be focused on improvements to the deer paddock. The Chairman requested that the Committee receive regular updates on the ongoing project.

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8.2 Appendix 2 - Open Spaces Organised Sports Licence Application Form

Members noted the draft Open Spaces Organised Sports Licence Application Procedure.

Members were advised that the licence application form covered sports activities that do not require formal facilities, e.g. pitches, courts or tracks. Licences for school sports days, charity matches, charity fun-runs, sponsored walks and runs, personal fitness training and group exercise classes would also be applied for via this form.

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9. FEES AND CHARGES 2019/20 & 2020/21

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the proposed fees and charges for sports and services provided at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park for 2019/20 and the proposed fees and charges for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies for 2020/21. The following points were made:

- The Superintendent advised that the sports fees and charges had been discussed with the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum on 10 September 2018. Feedback from the Forum, particularly in relation to Tennis Season Ticket charges, has been considered and is reflected in the proposals presented to Committee for discussion.
- It was noted that fees relating to Event Hire were included.
- A Member queried whether the proposed cost of day tickets for swimming were too expensive for families on a low wage. The Chairman advised that the costs had been benchmarked against other similar public swimming venues in London. It was noted that concessions were available for low income families and was explained in the report.
- The Chairman highlighted that a monthly season ticket was available and would offer significant savings for those visiting the facility regularly over the summer season.
- In response to a query regarding swimming fees, the Chairman advised that a project to improve signage was currently underway. The Superintendent noted that online season ticket purchases and contactless payment options were in development, and it was hoped this would improve payment compliance and season ticket purchases dramatically.
- It was suggested that payment points be located next to the Lifeguards.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) recommended indicating onsite how much is spent on the facilities as an encouragement to people to pay.
- Members were advised that the busy summer period had brought significant learning for the future.

RESOLVED - that:-

- The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group and Queen's Park Consultative Group discuss the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;

- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and Queen's Park Consultative Group be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their meeting on 28 November 2018.

10. **QUESTIONS**

There were three questions:

Draft Kentish Town Planning Framework

A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) advised the Committee that Camden Council had prepared a draft planning framework for Kentish Town and encouraged Members to send their views to help shape the future of the area. It was noted that public consultation on the Draft Kentish Town Planning Framework would run until 7 December 2018. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate information to the Committee.

Graffiti on the Savernake Road bridge

The Chairman advised that a question was raised by a Member (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee) in absentia regarding graffiti on the Savernake Road bridge. The Operational Services Manager explained that Camden Council were responsible for the bridge and that the area had been cleared up two years ago. However, an increase of graffiti in the area had occurred following the deaths of three local graffiti artists. The Operational Services Manager agreed to notify Camden Council and speak with Heath Hands to see if they could assist.

Harry Hallowes land

In response to a request for an update on the Harry Hallowes land, Members were advised that the new owner had been written to regarding his legal obligations to manage Japanese Knotweed weed. The Superintendent stated that the Committee would remain updated of any news regarding the land.

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

The Chairman thanked Heath Staff and volunteers for their hard work over the busy summer period and this was echoed by the Committee.

The Chairman advised Members that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee Dinner would take place on 6 February 2019 at the Apothecaries' Hall and invites would be sent to Members in early December 2018.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 11 February 2019 at 7.00pm was noted.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chairman

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