

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	11 February 2019
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on management and operational activities across the Heath since October 2018. The report format has been updated to align with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028 Outcomes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members provide feedback on the print version of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 (Appendix 1).
- Members provide feedback on the draft Divisional Plan 2019-2022 (Appendix 2).
- Members provide feedback on the draft Annual Work Programme 2019-2020 (Appendix 3).
- Members provide feedback on the plans to restore Constable's Branch Hill Pond (Appendix 4).
- Members provide feedback on the Adventure Playground concept design (Appendix 5).
- Members provide feedback on the proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Cafe Working Group (Appendix 6).
- Members provide feedback on the outline brief for the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond (Appendix 7).
- Members provide feedback on the draft Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Questionnaire (Appendix 8).
- Members provide feedback on the proposal to extend the lease for the Parliament Hill Bowls Lawn for a further ten years.
- Members provide feedback on the proposal to introduce BWV cameras for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.

Main Report

Management Framework

1. The Management Framework for Hampstead Heath comprises the Management Strategy, Divisional Plan and Annual Work Programme (AWP).
2. The Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 was approved in November 2018 by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee. The Strategy is being prepared for the website to be downloaded as an accessible PDF. A printed version of the Strategy is also being prepared and Members views and comments on the presentation of the document are sought (Appendix 1).
3. The three year draft Divisional Plan 2019-2022 has been re-formatted to reflect the outcomes in the Management Strategy. The projects are listed according to their primary Outcome and links to the other Outcomes are referenced. This will assist with monitoring progress, reporting on the impact of our work and to share and celebrate success. A transition document has been prepared which records the changes from the Divisional Plan 2018-2021. Members feedback is sought on the draft Divisional Plan 2019-2022 (Appendix 2).
4. The draft Annual Work Programme 2019-2020 establishes our commitments for the year and comprises of both Cyclical Work and Project Work. It is the mechanism for prioritisation, planning and delivery and demonstrates how our work contributes to the Outcomes of the Management Strategy. Members feedback is welcomed on the draft AWP (Appendix 3).
5. A review of the Annual Work Programme 2018-2019 will be prepared for Members to discuss at their meeting on 8 July 2019.

A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape.

Tumulus

6. Following the restoration of the fencing around the Tumulus through the City Surveyor's Cyclical Works Programme the Ranger Team are now implementing the project to re-provision the benches around the Tumulus.
7. Following careful excavation in the areas around the new bench footings, initial finds were viewed by the Member for the Highgate Society. Following his report, Historic England have attended the site and have agreed that the works can continue as no items of significance were found.
8. In addition, the oak tree crowns have been lifted to improve the visibility of the Tumulus.

Constable's Branch Hill Pond

9. The Superintendent is working in partnership with Redington and Frognaal Residents Association who have successfully secured funding for the restoration

of Constable's Branch Hill Pond on Hampstead Heath (Appendix 4). The Superintendent will keep Members informed as the project progresses.

Planning

10. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:

- Camden Eruv 2016/1436/P
- North Westminster Eruv 2016/2892/P
- Jack Straws Castle 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/P
- Garden House 2017/2885/P
- North Fairground Site 2017/4346/P
- South Fairground Site
- 55 Fitzroy Park 2018/3672/P
- The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P
- Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2018/1270/P

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

11. Nests continue to be found in oaks that are being worked on for safety, management and veteran tree work. The Tree Team are now equipped to remove these remaining nests prior to commencing works.
12. The Tree Team are currently working with Heath Hands to develop a pilot volunteer programme to assist with OPM inspections during 2019.
13. The Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager has worked with the City of London Procurement Service to ensure that arrangements are in place for both OPM spraying and nest removal for summer 2019.

Tree Inspections

14. Since October 2018 the Team have inspected five high risk zones, five medium risk zones and one low risk zone. This equates to a third of the 32 annual zone inspections.
15. As a result of the inspections a mature silver birch was removed from the west side of North End Road and Massaria infected branches were removed from London planes along the Gospel Oak railway line boundary.

Veteran Tree Works

16. Halo clearance has been undertaken around veteran oaks at Sandy Heath and South Meadow.
17. The Tree Team have successfully supported the Heath & Hampstead Society and the London Ancient Tree Forum by leading walks focusing on the Heath's trees. The walks took place in October and November 2018 respectively.
18. The Tree Team also led a 'Heath Staff Walk' in early October which focused on Autumn Tree Identification. The walk was well attended, and positive feedback was received from members of the public.

B: Improved quality of life for visitors.

Events 2019

19. The Sporting theme for 2019 will continue with #thisgirlcan. A report setting out highlights of the 2018 programme and the proposed 2019 Events Programme is included in this agenda pack.

Asset Management Plan

20. The Superintendent will provide an update on the draft High-Level Asset Management Plan for Hampstead Heath.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

21. The Superintendent will provide an update on current projects within the City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme.

East Heath Car Park

22. The City Surveyor has secured Planning Consent from London Borough of Camden for the car park resurfacing. Tendering is underway, subject to affordability and consent, works are scheduled to commence in summer 2019.

Adventure Playground

23. Following consultation with users of the Adventure Playground a concept design has been prepared (Appendix 5). Final technical designs are currently being prepared to enable the works to be tendered in February 2019. Subject to affordability and consents works are scheduled to commence in Autumn 2019.

Cafés

24. The cafés on Hampstead Heath are currently leased until January 2021. An engagement and consultation exercise will be undertaken in 2020 to inform the outcomes of the tender exercise. In line with the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018, greater financial investment in the café facilities will be sought in conjunction with offering a longer lease period.
25. The Superintendent will provide an update in relation to the Café Working Group. A copy of the proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Group is attached (Appendix 3).
26. The Superintendent will provide an update in relation to the Athletics Track Kiosk and Ice Cream Van pitches adjacent to the Heath.

Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

27. There are currently nine confirmed and three pending bookings for 2019, with number of viewings booked for 2020 ceremonies.

C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.

Highgate Men's Bathing Pond Accessibility

28. The Superintendent will provide an update in relation to the project to make the facility accessible. The outline brief is attached (Appendix 7).

Mobility scheme

29. The Hampstead Heath mobility buggy scheme operates from the Parliament Hill Fields Lido. The two existing buggies are reaching the end of their operational life and a procurement exercise has commenced to purchase replacement buggies, which are more suited to the open space environment.

Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park

30. The Superintendent will provide an update on a request to open the facility on weekends to facilitate Blue Badge holder parking. Currently the car park is open during the Park opening hours Monday to Friday.
31. The Superintendent will undertake an engagement exercise to consult with current users of the accessible car park and visitors to Golders Hill Park. A short questionnaire has been designed to facilitate this engagement (Appendix 8).
32. The Superintendent seeks Members feedback on the draft Questionnaire.

Licencing

33. The Superintendent is in the process of developing an engagement and consultation exercise with Heath users, the focus of this will be to support the development of a dog walkers code of conduct and a personal training code of conduct. This is to inform the introduction of a licencing schemes for commercial dog walkers and personal trainers. These measures will enable the City of London to better manage dog behaviour and those who utilise the Heath for their commercial operation.

Sports

34. The Superintendent will provide an update on Sports, following a meeting of the Sports Advisory Forum.
35. The Operational Services Manager has received a joint request from the Parliament Hill Bowls Club and the Hampstead Heath Croquet Club to extend the lease for the Parliament Hill Bowls Lawn for a further ten years.
36. The Superintendent seeks Members view on this proposal following an update at the meeting from the Operational Services Manager.

D: Greater number and diversity of people taking care of the Heath.

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

37. Over the winter months, the Heath Constabulary, with support from the Keepers and Rangers, have encountered a number of people sleeping out on the Heath. These individuals have differing needs and the Constables work with external outreach teams to support those individuals with an objective of moving them in to accommodation.
38. An estimated 6,000 – 7,000 people gathered on Parliament Hill on New Year's Eve. A combination of seven Keepers and Constables were on duty on the

evening. The crowd were well behaved with no incidents of crime or antisocial behaviour being reported. The following morning a team of staff cleared the litter from Parliament Hill, collecting an estimated 1/3 tonne of waste and recycling.

39. The Superintendent proposes that Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras be introduced for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary for the purposes of evidence gathering, safety and reduction of crime.
40. BWV cameras are designed to be overt, including a label on the device illustrating that it is a video and audio recording device. The BWV camera will be 'incident specific' and not indiscriminately record an entire patrol.
41. Studies have shown that the use of BWV cameras reduces abuse, both physical and verbal that Officers could be exposed to and it better enables Officers to perform their roles by providing a contemporaneous, irrefutable record of events.
42. The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager is leading this project and is working in partnership with the Epping Forest Constables. Members views on the introduction of BWV cameras are sought.

Local Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

43. On the 30 March 2019, the City of London Corporation marks 30 years as the custodian of Hampstead Heath. The minutes of the first meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting on 27 July 1989 are attached for Members interest (Appendix 9).
44. To mark this anniversary the following initiatives are being progressed:
 - All Court visit to the Heath will be arranged for June/July 2019. Members of the HHCC will receive invitations for the visit in due course.
 - A photographic display to form a Heath timeline of notable events and achievements over the last 30 years. This will be used across a range of media and events to promote the Hampstead Heath Charity and the Outcomes of the new Management Strategy.
 - Autumn tree planting. Members will be invited to participate in planting an orchard at the Athlone House Gardens.
 - The 2019/20 Hampstead Heath Events Diary will provide a platform promote this anniversary.
45. In addition, a range of merchandising is being considered to align with our waste & recycling strategy. i.e. re-usable cups and drinking bottles, as well as a re-useable bag. There is an opportunity to collaborate with the Heath Cafés to delivery this project.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Print version of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028
- Appendix 2 - Draft Divisional Plan 2019-2022
- Appendix 3 - Draft Annual Work Programme 2019-2020
- Appendix 4 - Plans to restore Constable's Branch Hill Pond

- Appendix 5 - Adventure Playground concept design
- Appendix 6 - Proposed draft Terms of Reference for the Cafe Working Group
- Appendix 7 - Outline brief for the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond
- Appendix 8 - Draft Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Questionnaire
- Appendix 9 - Minutes of the first meeting of the HHCC, 27 July 1989

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