

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	8 July 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 April 2019. The report format has been updated to align with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028 Outcomes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members give their views on the draft Annual Impact Report 2018/19 (appendix 1).

Main Report

Management Strategy

1. An annual report has been prepared for 2018/19 covering each of the four Management Strategy Outcomes, to demonstrate progress. The report reflects on what has been achieved and will set out the priorities we will be focussing on during 2019/20. Members feedback on the draft report in Appendix 1 is sought.

Management Framework

2. The Superintendent is developing the Measurement Framework (Appendix 2), to guide us in assessing our progress towards achieving the Outcomes and delivering our Priorities. This will inform future annual reports as we seek to communicate our impacts. This approach was discussed with Members in April 2018 and embedded into the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028.

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

Green Flag Judging

3. On Friday 6 June 2019, two Green Flag Judges visited the Heath to assess the site against the Green Flag standards. The results will be published in July 2019.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

4. The Cyclical Work Programme for 2020/21 forms part of the agenda pack.

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

East Heath Car Park (A DP5)

6. The Superintendent will provide and update at the meeting.

Planning

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

- Jack Straws Castle 2017/2064/P, 2017/2211/L, 2017/2171/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
- Jack Straws Castle – Change of use application
- Athlone House

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

8. Two rounds of spraying were undertaken in April. The Team are now commencing with nest removal with priority towards nests that are low hanging and/or in high footfall areas, playgrounds and facilities. Information about OPM has been placed at the main entrances to the Heath. OPM contractors will begin removing nests on targeted trees at the beginning of July through to the middle of August.

Storm Damage

9. A mature oak tree near to the drinking fountain at Cohens Field was destroyed by a lightning strike during a thunderstorm on the evening of 10 June. A Lime tree on West Heath fell in heavy rain and wind on 16 June.

The Listening Wood

10. The Tree Team have collaborated with the University College London to deliver a three-month Project. 15 trees across Golders Hill Park and Sandy Heath have been selected and a map has been created to allow members of the public to interact digitally with the trees, learning about their history with stories and poetry. <https://thelisteningwood.com/about>. The project has been extended and will now run over the summer until the Autumn.

Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial proposal – Kenwood Estate

11. Following Members discussions at the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on 29 April and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee on 5 June, the Chairman will write to English Heritage to convey the views of Members.

Grazing

12. A small trial based on grazing 5 sheep within the Tumulus enclosure is being planned for late August and early September of 2019.
13. The Heath & Hampstead Society have agreed to part fund the pilot.

14. A map showing the proposed locations for grazing is attached at appendix 3.

B: Improved quality of life for visitors.

Swimming

15. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

Playgrounds

16. The Superintendent will provide an update on the Adventure Playground, Preachers Hill Playground and the Vale of Health Playground.

Weddings and Civil Ceremonies

17. There are currently ten 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.

Licencing (A DP 6)

18. The engagement and consultation exercise in relation to the dog walkers code of conduct and the personal training code of conduct will commence shortly with a series of pop-up events, facilitated by an external consultant.

19. As well as a media/communications strategy, a questionnaire will be developed and the consultant will facilitate a number of workshops with stakeholders, these will support the delivery of the objectives of this project.

Forest Schools

20. The Superintendent will discuss with Members a recent enquiry to use the Heath on a daily basis for forest school activities.

Events

21. The Leisure and Events Manger will provide an update at the meeting on the following recent events:

- Affordable Art Fair
- Cancerkin Walk
- Spring Bank Holiday Fair
- Community Heath Festival
- #ThisGirlCan
- Race for Life
- Hampstead Summer Festival – Art Fair Day
- Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests.

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

Hampstead Heath Constabulary

22. The Hampstead Heath Constabulary are in the final stages of producing protocols and policies for the deployment of Body Worn Video Cameras (BWV). The Constables will be using BWV overtly within the next few weeks. The use of

BWV equipment has been evidenced to improve safety, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour as well as improving the delivery of services through improved efficiency, and better management of complaints and investigations.

23. The Constabulary Manager and Sergeants are in the process recruiting Reserve Constables. These Officers will support and increase the resources of the Constabulary especially during the summer months and for targeting specific priorities.
24. A Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) has been procured for the Constabulary. The PHEV will replace an existing diesel van. On a full charge the vehicle will be able to operate for approx. 50 miles using only electricity, dramatically cutting our current vehicle emissions.
25. The Constabulary continue to work closely with the Local Metropolitan Police Service and local partners including Camden Council and English Heritage. The Team regularly liaise with stakeholders regarding shared issues and attending relevant meetings such as Ward Panel Meetings.
26. The Constabulary continues to support the work of the Armed Forces and Medical Air Ambulance Services in assisting with the safety of helicopter landings on Hampstead Heath. Officers recently assisted at short notice and deployed to secure a landing site for the Welsh Air Ambulance Service who were bringing a critically ill patient to the Royal Free Hospital for a lifesaving organ transplant.
27. A group of eight vehicles with caravans were parked on the Heath overnight on the 11 June 2019. The Constabulary Manager served eviction notices on the morning of the 12 June 2019. The site was successfully cleared by the early afternoon.
28. The Constabulary continues to focus its enforcement strategy around the issues that most concern Heath users such as anti-social behaviour, dog control and cycling. The Team have recently targeted robbery offences, increasing their patrols in the Parliament Hill area.

Waste & Recycling

29. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

30th Anniversary

30. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Impact Report 2018/19.
- Appendix 2 – Measurement Framework.
- Appendix 3 – Map showing the proposed locations for grazing.

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