



Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum
Parliament Hill meeting room
10 June 2019, 6.30pm

Members:

Richard Sumray (Chair)	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Karina Dostalova	KD	Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Anne Fairweather	AF	Deputy Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club, H&HS
Joseph Lowe	JL	Highgate Harriers
Jon Parry	EK	Parliament Hill Lido Users Group
Richard Caylor	RC	Parliament Hill Bowls Club
Brian Presley	BP	Parliament Hill Bowls Club
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Hampstead Heath Tennis Coach
Sandy Nairn	SN	Hampstead Heath Croquet Club
David Walton	DW	London Heathside Athletics
John Carrier	JC	Camden CCG
Josef Thomas	JT.....	Community Sport & Physical Activity Officer, Camden

Officers:

Bob Warnock	BW	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, City of London
Declan Gallagher	DG	Operational Services Manager, City of London
Paul Maskell	PM	Leisure and Events Manager, City of London
Richard O'Mahony	ROM	Parliament Hill Keeper Team Supervisor, City of London
Kate Radusin (notes)	KR	PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, City of London

ITEM	ACTION
1. Apologies	
Nigel Robinson, Natasha Cendrowicz. Eleanor Kennedy, Simon Taylor, Ella Mitchell, Robert Gibbs, Richard Gentry.	
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (10 September 2019) & Matters Arising	
<u>Tennis online survey:</u> RG noted that due to staffing changes at the LTA this has been on hold, however COL are re-engaging with the LTA to progress. (Action carried forward to the September meeting).	RG
<u>Bowling and Croquet Licence:</u> BW a draft licence agreement for 1 year has been drafted. An additional document is being prepared to align the bowling and croquet offer with the Management Strategy Outcomes.	DG
<u>Additional Croquet Lawn at Parliament Hill:</u> BW the proposal has been incorporated into the Asset Management Plan for Hampstead Heath which was agreed by the Hampstead Heath Management Committee on 5 June 2019. The Project will be progressed through the feasibility study for Parliament Hill.	

3a.	Minutes of the Swimming Forum (12 March 2019)	
	<p><u>Men's Pond Incident:</u> BW following a fatality incident on 1 June, the facility had been closed to the public while Police investigations took place. The facility was re-opened on 8 June. There followed a discussion about the incident and PM confirmed that CoLC were supporting the family of the deceased and the Lifeguards who were on duty. JP noted that he had attended the facility as it was being closed to the public on 1 June, and noted that this was sensitively handled by the staff on duty.</p> <p><u>Lido Leak:</u> PM confirmed that the liquid sealant fix had not been successful. The City Surveyors Dept are currently investigating the options for replacing the leaking pipe, however it was expected that this would require further works and excavations on site following the summer season.</p> <p><u>Turnstile:</u> PM confirmed that works were due to commence in mid-June 2019.</p>	
3b.	Minutes of the Track Forum (4 April 2019)	
	<p><u>Track Surface Repairs:</u> BW repairs have been undertaken to fix a crack on the inside lane. Installation of a time loop has been facilitated by CoLC and paid for by Highgate Harriers. A Capital Bid will be necessary to fund the resurfacing of the athletics track. . It was noted that funding was not yet secured and was linked to the Fundamental Review that the City of London Corporation was undertaking.</p> <p><u>Infield Repairs:</u> ROM the Parliament Hill staff have undertaken localised repairs, following cracks opening up on the infield due to the dry weather. It was noted that the whole track facility was gradually moving/slipping towards the railway line.</p> <p><u>Lighting:</u> JC raised a query about lighting along the ball path. BW noted that there had been an increase in robberies in January/February and that as a result extra Constabulary Patrols had been arranged to coincide with Track nights. Bulkhead lighting on nearby buildings has been timed to coincide with Track evening activity.</p> <p>DW noted that this was an issue at Finsbury Park, and that low level lighting had been installed. Parents were also being encouraged to bring children to the venue, or for children to travel in groups for increased safety. BW confirmed that CoLC had worked with Highgate Harriers to encourage a similar approach.</p>	
4.	Fundamental Review	
	Discussed under item 3.	
5.	City of London Corporate Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2023	
	<p>KD introduced the report to the Forum and asked Members for their feedback.</p> <p>RS the report is demonstrably poor. The Outcomes are bizarre and are already in place, for example we are already holding 'world class' events on the Heath. The Outcomes should show what needs to be changed.</p> <p>AF the report reads to be Square Mile centric but is supposed to cover the Open Spaces as well.</p>	

JC the report reads well but does not consider; financial feasibility; management viability; public acceptability.

SN engagement is key, I do not sense engagement within the Policy so far. p7 'our success measures' the Square Mile is listed first, I didn't think that this was a key ethos.

BW the Outcomes are not expressed as Outcomes. When writing the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy, we did a lot of work to ensure that the Strategy Outcomes were measurable.

RS reading the Policy it is not clear what will be different in 2023? The City of London has always had a role in supporting sports bids, such as the Olympics. What will be done to support and bring in more world class events? Community cohesion – again is it not explicit what will be done to achieve this. People having access is mentioned, but the conflicts that arise, for example between cyclist/pedestrians/runners at Hampstead Heath is not mentioned. Cycling is actually promoted in the Policy.

JC the operational implications of the Policy need to be considered.

KD the report does not clearly set out how the limited resources available will be prioritised.

DW a Strategy is usually longer than 4 years, 10 being the norm. The Policy is Square Mile centric, and I am surprised that Sport England have signed off on the report. It would be useful to understand the role that Sport England had in the writing of the Policy.

AF asked Members what changes they would like to see over the next 4 years?

RS excluded groups included and participating in sports.

JL the Policy is an incoherent read and feels as though it has been produced to tick a box. The plan looks to be to do not much at all, and this is reflected in the Outcomes.

SN if the City of London's aspiration is to have access for all, then a start would to be assessing the existing assets and infrastructure for sports to ensure it is fit for purpose and meets 21st Century standards.

PM success though participation is not covered in the Policy.

BW safeguarding and ensuring the existing facilities, such as changing rooms, are fit for purpose and accessible to users is key.

RS working together with the London Borough of Camden is important and makes sense. Camden are currently tendering their sports facilities with a focus on outreach.

	<p>JT Camden are targeting and working with hard to reach residents. We have only 5 centres, so we are considering how to bring centres to the residents that cannot access them.</p> <p>RB the Heath is a feeder for many sports, for example promising young tennis players who are initially coached on the Heath would be encouraged to progress their skills are more intensive or specialist facilities. The Heath was the place that initially inspired them to take part in the sports activity in the first place.</p> <p>RS the Policy does not cover the Open Spaces and what is already being done to support families and girls in particular to get involved in sports.</p> <p>MH the wording of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 includes the preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The legal definition of recreation includes sports.</p>	
6.	Review the Membership of the Sports Advisory Forum	
	<p>PM 181 groups have been identified who use the Heath for Sports activities. A large percentage of usage related to schools and social use.</p> <p>KD suggested that groups could be invited to participate, as there were sports which are currently not represented on the Forum.</p> <p>DW my role on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee is to represent the Clubs on the Heath. However, consultation, which is key to the role, has not been forthcoming.</p> <p>JC there could be an item on the agenda for Clubs to raise issues, or for a spotlight to be given to a different sport at each meeting.</p> <p>SN an annual open meeting could be held for all to attend where questions could be raised and updates given by CoLC.</p> <p>RS schools should also be represented. PM confirmed that a school's representative was invited to meetings but had not attend for some time.</p> <p>RS sports where there are no representatives need to be identified. BW an annual meeting can be considered.</p>	<p>PM/DG BW</p>
7.	Upcoming Events	
	<p><u>#ThisGirlCan week</u>: PM a range of sessions have been organised and the initiative is being supported by the Highgate Harriers, Hampstead Rugby Club, Bowls Club and Croquet Club. Volleyball, Football and British Military Fitness sessions will also be on offer.</p> <p><u>Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests</u>: PM the event will be able to view on the BBC red button. World Class Athletes will be taking part in the event.</p> <p><u>Give it a Go!</u>: PM a meeting with Camden has been arranged for next week, and the event has been advertised via Camden's newsletter to residents. Many of the Heath's Clubs are supporting the event again this year.</p>	

8.	AOB	
	<p>RS the discussion on Priority 4 should be put back to a future meeting.</p> <p>ROM the Bowls and Croquet green is being manged in house by CoLC staff.</p> <p>KR 2020 meeting date options have been circulated. Members are asked to feedback on their availability by the end of the week.</p> <p>PM the IAAF have awarded the ENCCA with a Heritage plaque to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made towards cross country running. Only 6 plaques have been awarded and the ENCCA have indicated that they would like their plaque to be housed at the Heath.</p>	
9.	Dates for 2019 meetings	
	Monday 16 September 2019, 6.30pm Parliament Hill meeting room	