

QUEEN'S PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP
Wednesday, 13 June 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group held at 103 Salusbury Road, London, NW6 6RA on Wednesday, 13 June 2012 at 11.45 am

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Barbara Newman
Virginia Rounding
Councillor Michael Adeyeye
John Blandy
Cllr James Denselow
Helen Durnford
Annalisa Saba
Paul Stratton

Officers:

Edward Foale	- Committee & Member Services Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Esther Sumner	- Policy Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Richard Gentry	- Queen's Park Manager, Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Michael Welbank and Deputy Dennis Cotgrove.

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

There were no declarations.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Peter Hardwick for his service as a Member of the Group and welcomed Virginia Rounding to her first meeting.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Children's Play Area (item 4).

The Queen's Park Manager thanked the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association (QPARA) for helping to progress the replacement of play area equipment.

Beehives (item 4).

The Queen's Park Manager advised that the honey produced on site was available at the Queen's Park Café.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - QUEEN'S PARK**

A report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing an update on management and enhancement matters that had taken place in Queen's Park since the last meeting in November 2011, was considered. The Queen's Park Manager guided the Group through the report and during the discussion, the following was noted:

Sport and Recreation

- The Queen's Park Manager advised that leaflets would be produced to advertise various events, including Sunday walks, ping-pong, football and general exercise.
- The Queen's Park Farm currently received approximately 170,000 visits per annum and the Play Area received approximately 235,000 visits per annum. In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that these figures were comparable to the number of visits to similar sites across London and undertook to report these figures to a future meeting.
- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that tennis coaching would continue in the winter. Furthermore, the ping pong tables currently in Queen's Park would be placed in the tennis courts over winter and continue to be available for use.
- There had recently been an outdoor film screening in the park, which unfortunately had a low turnout due to poor weather. Three further screenings were scheduled for the summer.
- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager clarified that both primary and junior schools used the park for sports day events. There was no charge for local schools' use of the park. Requests were managed on a first-come first-served basis and it had not been necessary to reject any bookings so far.

Conservation and Heritage

- Officers were currently progressing the tender process for the Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan. An update would be provided at the next Group meeting.

Landscape Management

- Due to recent weather conditions, a Lime tree had recently fallen near the Queen's Park Café.
- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that the possibility of offering pitch and putt users a wedge instead of a 7 iron would be investigated.

Management

- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that the reduction in staff would mean the shift pattern and rota would be amended. The winter workload was low as compared with the summer. During the summer seasonal staff would be employed when necessary. The Queen's Park Manager clarified that it was not anticipated that compulsory redundancies would be necessary and he expressed that he believed all objectives would remain achievable.

Temporary Hosepipe Ban

- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that due to recent weather conditions the water tank was reasonably full, but currently remained unlikely to overflow. Members noted that the hosepipe ban was scheduled to be lifted on 14 June 2012.

Visitor and Community

- A byelaw road show would be held in the future in order to better inform park visitors and users, three events would be held over three days. In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that they had not previously approached the local press regarding similar events, but they would consider doing so on this occasion.
- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that assisted cycling for young children would be permitted as long as the assisting adult was personally not cycling.

Queen's Park Café

- In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager clarified that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee had unanimously decided not to tender the Queen's Park café lease. This was largely because surveys had indicated that visitors were generally satisfied with the services and standards of the café and concerns regarding the standard of the toilets had been resolved over the previous eighteen months. The Chairman advised that the toilets were managed by the City and were not the responsibility of the Queen's Park Café management.
- In response to concerns expressed by several Members of QPARA, the Queen's Park Manager advised that there had been a history of leaseholders regularly moving on after only a short period of time and the City was concerned the building could become unoccupied. The Chairman had read all comments listed in the online petition regarding the future of the café and believed the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath was taking measures to ensure these concerns were addressed.

Representation on the Joint Consultative Group

- The Group responded favourably to a Member's suggestion that it may be beneficial to have a representative from "One Voice Community," a local group which represented disabled people, on the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group. The Queen's Park Manager undertook to investigate this possibility.
- The Queen's Park Manager advised that a further consultation would take place before any additional Members were invited to sit on the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group.

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5. QUESTIONS

In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that the play area would cost £370,000 in total, split into three building phases. The purchase of play equipment on the first phase would cost £80,000. The City had so far allocated £64,000 over two years to the project. The Group noted a donation of £10,000 from QPARA and thanked the Association for its generosity. The Director of Open Spaces advised that the City was currently managing a number of capital projects and due to the budget reductions it was currently not possible to allocate any additional funding to the Queen's Park play area.

In response to a Member's query, the Director advised that she believed the project did not fit with any current City Bridge Trust campaigns and that it consequently may be difficult to obtain a grant. In response to a Member's query, the Director advised that it may be possible to provide facilities for fundraising events in Guildhall, but a formal application would need to be raised with the Remembrancer.

In response to a Member's query, the Queen's Park Manager advised that progression to the end of phase two of the project would cost £200,000. The play area had been designed to be built in its entirety and there was a risk that, if the project finished at the end of stage one or two, the area could look unfinished. A Member suggested that the project could be broken up into smaller phases in order to make fundraising more manageable. The Queen's Park Manager undertook to submit a report on the matter to the November 2012 meeting of the Group.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 21 November 2012 in Guildhall at 12 noon.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm

Chairman

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