

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date: 19/10/2020
Subject: Additional Tree Planting – Parliament Hill Area of Hampstead Heath	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Discussion
Report author: David Humphries	

Summary

This report sets out proposals received from the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum for additional tree and hedge planting across the Parliament Hill area of Hampstead Heath.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the options set out.
- Provide views on the two options linked to Project 17, as outlined in paragraph 19.

Main Report

Background

1. The adopted Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum - Neighbourhood Plan (DPNP) - March 2020, makes reference to has greenways (green corridors) as a as noted within chapter 7, p65, Environment & Sustainability (appendix 1).

Current Position

2. Representatives of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum (DPNF) met on site with the Heath's Tree Officer, Conservation Manager and representatives from the Heath & Hampstead Society in late July and early August.
3. The purpose of the site meeting was to discuss Project 17, as set out in the DPNP (appendix 1).
4. The site meetings began at the Swains Lane entrance to the Heath, taking in the line of London planes along Highgate Road and other recently planted trees in the area then on to the Broad walk from the bandstand to the Hive, looking at the tree cover in that locality.

5. The DPNF proposed planting additional London planes (exact numbers not agreed) to act as long-term replacements for the mature trees along the road (appendix 2, Figure 1). The Conservation Manager does not support this proposal and will provide an update at the meeting. Establishment of an additional line of London Planes will be problematical, necessitate pruning of the existing trees and could increase the incidence of Massaria branch failure.
6. The DPNF also proposed an avenue of trees to be planted along the Broad Walk (appendix 2, Figure 2 & 3).
7. Within the last 5 years the City Corporation has undertaken additional tree planting in the eastern side of Parliament Hill. Young oak and lime trees have been planted across from the northern end of the London plane line and fruit trees incorporated into the orchard on the eastern side of the Petanque area.
8. The establishment of young trees in this part of the Heath has been a challenging due to ground conditions and vandalism.

Options

9. There are tree planting opportunities both along the eastern boundary of the Heath and along the Broad Walk. Discussion at the site meetings centred on 2 main options.

Option 1

10. A formal approach including avenues and a natural approach including groups of trees.
11. Benefits would include:
 - Naturalising the broad walk, extending the green corridor.
 - Habitat for wildlife.
 - Provision of additional shade in hot periods.
 - Addition of carbon capture and storage.
12. The Heath's Tree Officer proposes that selective individual trees could be added to the area opposite the London plane line.

Option 2

13. Alternatively, groups of trees in clusters of 3's, 5's & 7's, could be planted along the Broad walk. These trees would add to the green corridor of the existing trees planted around the north east corner of the Athletics Track. This proposal has been looked at in previous Management Plans but not been implemented.
14. It is proposed that planting would consist of native species to include oak; field maple; hornbeam; small leafed lime; wild service; Dutch Elm Disease resistant elm; alder; sweet chestnut.
15. Consideration will need to be given to land drainage in the vicinity of the Athletics Track. The longstanding finish line for National and Southern Counties Cross Country Championships will also need to be considered.

16. These proposals would require the purchase of up to 25 Trees from bio-secure local nurseries and bought in at 160/180 mm girth of the tree at 1m height. Trees of this size cost between £250/300 plus transportation, planting and aftercare. Planting and maintenance would need to be programmed into the Annual Work Programme.
17. Project 17 also relates to *Opening up views*: Removing more metal railings and hedging, to open out views and access and encourage the rural feel of Hampstead Heath. The Superintendent will provide a verbal update on this aspect at the meeting.
18. Project 18: ACVs: The Forum recognises the importance of the pubs to the vibrancy of the Area and to generate footfall for other businesses in the Area. The Dartmouth Arms has already been designated as an Asset of Community Value, but the Forum would support the designation of the other pubs in the Area as ACVs. We also support the designation of both the Lido café and Parliament Hill café on the Heath as ACVs.
19. The Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café has been designated as an Asset of Community Value by Camden Council on the 20 May 2016 <https://opendata.camden.gov.uk/widgets/84z2-jixf>
20. Members views on the two options linked to Project 17 are sought.

Strategic Implications

21. Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: Outcome A's three priority objectives focus on habitat conservation and enhancement, heritage and landscape character, and maintaining a balance between nature conservation and heritage value and visitor activities. B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.
22. The proposals also meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2018-19 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives
23. This proposal contributes towards the achievement of the two aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).

Financial Implications

24. A fully costed proposal will need to be prepared and considered within the context of the Annual Work Programme.
25. A joint application between Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest has been submitted to the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The application

incorporates tree planting projects. The Superintendent will provide an update on the progress of the funding application at the meeting.

Conclusion

26. The City Corporation consider that additional tree planting would be a benefit to the long-term strategy of maintaining tree cover within the Parliament Hill area.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Letter from Chair of the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum.
- Appendix 2 – Planting proposal diagrams.

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