

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 19 October 2020

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held
on Monday, 19 October 2020 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Mathew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Cindy Galvin (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)

Officers:

Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces & Heritage
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Service Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John Etheridge (represented by John Hunt), Steve Ripley, Harunur Rashid and Sharleen McGee.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

In response to a query concerning the refusal of telecoms monopole and cabinets outside Ivy House, the Superintendent confirmed that the application was still being considered by the Local Authority and Members would receive an update when the outcome was received.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) meeting held on 9 September 2020 were received.

5. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 30 September 2020 were received.

Members were advised that the Forum intended to further consider the balance of sports provision across the Heath, noting how many people were using the Heath and engaging in sports and recreation during lockdown. The Chair confirmed that the future remit of the Sports Forum was being reviewed with the Chair of the Forum and the Superintendent.

6. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Members received an oral update from the Chair concerning the City Corporation's Governance Review. Members also noted Lord Lisvane's report and a note on the relationship between the HHHWQPC and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

The Chair stated that Lisvane's report was a comprehensive review, in terms of scope, and also included a review of the Standing Orders. A major review point was the number of Committees which was higher than the number of Members. It was acknowledged that some areas were addressed in more detail than others, with the Open Spaces as a whole considered in much less detail.

The Review recommended the disbandment of a number of Consultative Committees, including the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, and the merger of the four Open Spaces Grand Committees into one overarching Committee. The Chair emphasised that the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989 had not been considered and that Lord Lisvane had not fully understood the implications of the legislation.

The Chair stated that this was the start of the process and was keen to keep Members involved in the process and share their views on the recommendations.

Members made the following comments:

- The Chair and Deputy Chairman stressed their view that Consultative Committees and Groups were very helpful and had an important role in terms of accountability and local engagement.

- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) regarded the report to be highly bureaucratic and Square Mile centric with radical proposals made without proper analysis. The implications of disbanding Consultative Committees had not been thought through and the values of consultation was not considered which is unacceptable. It was highlighted that the City Corporation was outwards as well as inwards facing and for the last 30+ years had been good at engaging with and listening to the local community.
- A Member (Highgate Society) echoed the views of their fellow Member and felt that Lord Lisvane should have spoken to Members of Consultative Committees as part of the process to establish what their take on their role was. Members were in agreement that the role of Consultative Committees was vital, and their views added value and validated decisions.
- The view of the Heath & Hampstead Society was highlighted by a Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) quoting the Chair who was cited in the Ham & High saying: "The legal position is that the Hampstead Committees are established by ministerial order. They can't be amended unless by another order. The Society would oppose unconditionally, and by every means at its disposal, the suggested abolition of the Consultative Committee".
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) noted that the 1989 Order was not mentioned at all in the Review which was the whole basis for the Heath being passed to the City Corporation, with stipulations for a representative group of Members representing local associations, sports interests and so on. There was also no reason given for the abolition of the Consultative Committees other than the fact that there were too many committees which Members did not feel justified the reasoning for the recommendation.
- The Chair thanked Members for their comments and agreed that these views would be shared within the ongoing review process. The next steps would be for Members to review the recommendations; however, the timeline was yet to be drawn up. It would be flagged when the recommendations around the open spaces were being reviewed in further detail. The Chair saw opportunities within the review process for the Committee to streamline their work and ensure they were representative of all Heath users.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood), noted that open spaces are hugely important to the City, and workers, as has been demonstrated over the last few months. Arguably open spaces should not see any reduction of resources but should be pushed to the front of the agenda.
- The Deputy Chairman confirmed that Members appreciated the Consultative Committee process as a very valuable forum for

consultation. Members agreed to do all they would to represent the shared views of the Consultative Committee.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent regarding Hampstead Heath and the following comments were made:

- The Superintendent was conscious of staff fatigue after a difficult year and thanked all staff for their ongoing support and hard work. Thanks, was echoed by Members of the Committee.
- In relation to the Constabulary, Members were informed that there was a recognisable change in how open spaces were being used with more people gathering in them socially. Gatherings as large as 80-100 of mainly young adults were experienced at the Heath throughout the summer and the four E's approach of Engage, Explain, Encourage, Enforce continued to be used. The Constabulary continue to engage with the MET who have provided ongoing support to enforce Government Guidelines where needed.
- The Superintendent updated Members on four planning applications:
 - **The Water House.** The works have now completed.
 - **The Garden House.** The City Corporation has responded to Camden Council regarding the applicant's Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme condition 8.
 - **Jack Straws Castle.** It was confirmed that Camden Council have refused this planning application.
 - **Telecoms Mast (outside Ivy House).** The Planning Inspectorate is still to determine the appeal.
- The Superintendent noted that discussions with the Remembrancer were ongoing to submit a response to the Government White Paper on the future of the planning system in England.
- Officers confirmed that the tender of Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park during summer 2020 had been impacted by Covid-19. The brief would be updated, and a further tender process would take place.
- The Director of Open Spaces provided an overview of the Open Spaces picture advising that Covid-19 had significantly impacted all Departments in terms of increased costs and a loss of income with the overall City Corporation deficit estimated to be over £20m for the current financial year. It was noted that Officers were working hard to reduce this figure, e.g. Hampstead Heath had an anticipated deficit of £500k at the beginning of the lockdown but the Team have worked hard over the summer to get income streams back up and running, and to identify

efficiencies where possible. These efforts have reduced the anticipated deficit considerably Officers were working to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

- The Director stressed that despite the tireless work of Officers, all Open Spaces were vulnerable before the pandemic and would remain vulnerable pending a likely second wave and lockdown, which would impact upon income streams and may further increase costs. The City Corporation is working to be more efficient in 2021/22 with target efficiencies of 12% of Local Risk Budgets, which equated to £525k. Fundraising opportunities and grants continue to be investigated to support the Heath charity and the Team were working hard to ensure that core services continued to be provided to a high standard.
- The Superintendent added that this would be tackled through a series of projects and programmes which were consistent with the Divisional Plan. This would include work on licensing, events and fundraising opportunities and a further catering offer at the Heath Extension. A fees and charges report would be prepared for Members to consider at their January 2021 meeting.
- In response to a query from a Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) concerning whether spending would be deferred until next year. The Director confirmed the Capital Programme had been affected with a number of projects now on hold pending review. The Department was now grouping and prioritising all of its projects to make bids more successful. Longer term impacts on the budget were being considered, as delaying projects to balance the budget would not be sustainable in the long-term.
- With regards to fundraising, a Member (Highgate Society) noted that the Heath was surrounded by wealthy property owners and suggested approaching them for possible donations as the Heath greatly added value to them and the value to their homes.
- The Director noted that a lot of people did not understand that the Heath was a charity and a communications approach was being developed to push this idea. It was hoped that by making the process easier for people to make donations, this would increase particularly in light of the Heath's affluent locals.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) felt a more holistic view was needed to promote the charity and requested that the Committee receive a report on the charity as a whole. It was acknowledged that charities were really struggling and therefore the approach needed to be right. It was suggested that the Superintendent become the Chief Executive of the charity. Members were reminded that a full City Corporation Charity Review was currently underway which included the Heath.

- Following an enquiry by a Member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) regarding possible central Government Covid support, the Director confirmed that funding was available for Local Authority functions, so whilst the City Corporations Open Spaces within the square mile were eligible, the charity activities at the Heath did not fulfil a Local Authority function, and were subsequently not entitled to Local Authority support. As an employer, the Furlough scheme was available for staff unable to undertake their core role.
- A Member (Highgate Society) wished to understand the intensity of use at the Heath and Highgate Wood by Forest Schools, i.e. the number of schools, where within the open spaces they operated and the amount paid, etc. The Superintendent advised that a short-term approach was currently in place, but a new process was being worked up in line with the dog walking licensing scheme providing a more specialised approach, which would include input from the Heath's ecologist..

RESOLVED – That Members provide feedback.

8. **DRAFT HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS AND WETLANDS PLAN**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces providing an update on the Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Plan.

Members were advised that a scoping report was submitted for Members views in April 2018, to outline the proposed approach to preparing this plan, and what should be included. The document picked up the significant pond management issues including long-term options for desilting, ecological impacts and climate change. The City Corporation Climate Action Strategy, which was approved last week, was also referenced. Moving forward, open spaces would play a key role in achieving the Strategy objectives.

The Superintendent sought wider discussion and engagement with Members on the draft Ponds and Wetland Plan and Members were encouraged to provide written comments by 2 November 2020. This feedback would be incorporated into the final Plan to be considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in November 2020.

The following comments were made by Members:

- A Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) noted that the Society fully supported what they regarded to be a well written proposed plan and felt that PR guidance would be beneficial.
- A Member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) felt that the safety of wild waterfowl should be prioritised over dogs access to swimming, noting there had been several incidents over the summer where swans and other wildfowl had been attacked by dogs swimming in the ponds. A result of Covid-19 was an increase in dog ownership. Having wild waterfowl on the Heath would only be possible if dogs were properly controlled. Members agreed more could be done to protect

wildlife and it was recommended that Wildlife Legislation be used to assist rules concerning the proper control of dogs. It was noted that the dog walking code of conduct will soon be in place.

- A Member (South End Green Association) noted that dogs were swimming over to the Boating Pond island, which needed to be protected. It was suggested that the southside path be fenced off, so visitors only used the path via the dam. Officers confirmed that there were aspirational plans to remove the causeway to the island.
- A Member (Marylebone Birdwatching Society) noted that the injury to swans from angling, as a result of entanglement in hooks and lines, was reported at the Sports Forum, but was not included within the Plan. Members were advised that the Ranger Team continued to work with a Swan Protection Group to protect swans at the Heath and were addressing dog and angling concerns. It was noted that the swan population had increased.
- In response to a query by a Member (Highgate Society) concerning the biodiversity of the ponds and new species, Officers confirmed that some new invertebrate species had been sighted (willow emerald dragonfly), following Heath Hands surveys in 2017 and 2018.
- A Member (Highgate Society) noted that water quality was potentially being affected by pollution from oil and tanning lotions used by swimmers. Officers confirmed that chemical issues were being assessed including the impact of insecticides used in some flea treatments.
- Members welcomed a report on the environmental impact of recreational users followed by a public education programme.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) supported the Anglers Association, who have recently joined the Sports Forum, and hoped that a strengthened relationship with the Association would deal with any concerns by anglers.
- It was noted that the common gull mentioned in the report was actually not very common in London, compared to the black headed gull, and was undergoing a slow decline in the U.K.

RESOLVED – That Members views are sought in relation to the approach, content and recommendations covered in the draft Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetland Plan (appendix 1).

9. **2020 SUMMER SWIMMING SEASON**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces providing an update on the 2020 summer swimming season at Hampstead Heath which was impacted by Covid-19 and the commencement of the Winter Swimming Season.

The following comments were made:

- The Chair noted that over 120k visitors had been swimming over the summer since the Bathing Ponds and Lido reopened following lockdown with social distancing. Over 1,000 people took part in a swimming survey to give their views, including how safe and secure they felt and the ticketing process.
- The Superintendent noted that the BBC were on site today to film a positive story at the Lido around a long term study, which many of the Lido swimmers had been involved with, concerning how cold-water swimming could hold a clue for a dementia cure.
- In line with the outcomes of the Swimming Review, the wristband season tickets have been introduced and over 1,900 have been issued. Contactless payments were also working well, and the Stewards were doing a great job of sharing information and supporting the Covid secure arrangements. A review of the 2020 Summer Swimming Season would be presented to Members of the Management Committee in November 2020 followed by a report at the end of the current financial year to capture the full year impact.
- The Superintendent stated that the Heath Team have done an amazing job managing swimming which was a huge Team effort. Positive feedback was received from swimmers who have been happy to be able to get back into the water, in particular since 20 September when facilities have been operating with a capacity cap.
- In response to a query from a Member (Heath and Hampstead Society) concerning the negative letter in Heath & Ham requesting the preservation of free open swimming, the Chair confirmed that the issues had been responded to and many were addressed within the Swimming Review. It was highlighted that many lidos and open water venues had not reopened this summer, and the City Corporation had supported the work to open facilities and make them Covid secure.
- A Member (Friends of Kenwood) emphasised the very responsive Twitter swim feed over the summer, which was done very well. Members saw social media as a great tool to interact with users.
- Officers responded to a query concerning unauthorised swimmers advising that this was a clear safety concern, and this was being deterred using extra signage and patrols. It is also included in the Model Boating Pond recommendations within the Pond and Wetlands Plan.
- It was noted the Serpentine Swimming Club had received 2,000 application requests per week whilst the Bathing Ponds were closed, which highlighted the increased popularity of open water swimming. It was acknowledged there would be a real knock-on effect on other open swim venues if there were no Heath Bathing Ponds.

- In response to the swimming survey, a Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) emphasised the effect of swimming on mental health the importance of wellbeing, and the relationship between active recreation and wellbeing in swimming and all sports which needed to be built on. It was also noted that the survey results, which may be linked to the respondents, showed a lack of diversity, with few BAME swimmers responding to the survey. Members agreed more work, particularly targeting BAME groups, was needed. The Chair confirmed that there had been engagement with the Black Swimming Association. There have also been engagements over the summer to work with migrant children and refugee children, who often have a fear of water, working with organisations to facilitate swimming in the Lido, which has been very successful. Improving diversity remained a priority and more work would follow.

RESOLVED – That Members provide feedback on the Summer Swimming Season.

10. REVIEW OF THE 2020 EVENTS PROGRAMME & PROVISIONAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE 2021 PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning the significant impact Covid-19 has had on the 2020 Hampstead Heath Events Programme and setting out the events currently scheduled for 2021, taking account of possible further impacts which could arise as a result of Covid-19.

Members were advised that only two events took place in 2020 as planned. The South of England Cross-Country Championships on 25 January 2020 was well attended with record numbers of participants in the youth event. Zippos Circus on 10-15 September 2020 was impacted heavily by the Government restrictions and ticket sales were very low.

It was hoped more events would be able to go ahead in 2021. Plans regarding the March National Cross-Country Championships were struggling and the London Games and Park Run would also likely be impacted. Negotiations were ongoing concerning the day change for the Showman’s Guild and Affordable Art Fair. Members hoped these events could go ahead safely.

The following comments were made by Members:

- A Member (Highgate Society) noted that given the current conditions, it is important Members backed the proposed extra events which would aid enjoyment of the Heath and contribute towards revenue.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Provide feedback on the principle of the Showmen’s Guild of Great Britain extending the traditional Easter Fair as set out in paragraph 23;
- Provide feedback on the principle of adding a second event after the Affordable Art Fair in April/May 2021;

- Provide feedback on the proposed 2021 Events Programme (appendix 1).

11. REVISED TENDER TIMELINE FOR THE PARLIAMENT HILL CAFÉ, GOLDERS HILL PARK CAFÉ AND PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS LIDO CAFÉ

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing an update on the proposed revised timeline for the tendering of the Parliament Hill Café, Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café and the Golders Hill Park Café.

Members were informed that the leases for the Parliament Hill Café, Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café and Golders Hill Café were due to expire on 12 January 2021. However, due to Covid-19 and the subsequent impact on Officer workload, the tenders for the cafés had been delayed.

Feedback had been provided by the Café Working Group, who had concerns regarding the lease extension to the existing tenants which was not regarded as a long enough time period. They requested that this be further extended, with the tender process being delayed by two or three years. They also asked for reassurance that the current leases, which have been extended, terms and conditions would not be changed, and Officers provided assurance on this point. Concerns were raised around the proposed timeframe of the consultation being held during the winter and the possible impacts on this of any further lockdowns. It was also felt that future tenders should ensure that the cafes remained affordable to the local community.

A Member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) noted that the procurement exercise began in 2015 which was a significant time ago. Officers confirmed that a decision was made after the 2015 exercise to offer the current leaseholders with an extension of 3+1 years, taking the leases to January 2021. The tender was due to take place in 2020 but the impacts of Covid delayed the process by a year. A new process would be used going forward which would include significant local engagement.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Provide feedback on the proposed revised timeline, as set out in paragraph 7;
- Note the feedback and recommendations from the Golders Hill Park Café User Engagement - outcome report (appendix 1).

12. FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath concerning the authorisation of Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for byelaw offences and certain other offences under the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018.

Members supported the proposal to seek authority to set the amount of the fixed penalty pursuant to the Open Spaces Act 2018 for a relevant offence at £80, with a reduction to £50 if the penalty is paid within 10 days.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Discuss the delegation of authority to the Director of Open Spaces and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park to authorise Officers to issue FPNs and require a name and address where there is reason to believe that a person has committed an offence, pursuant to the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018;
- Discuss the amount of the fixed penalty for offences within Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park in respect of which an FPN may be issued under the Open Spaces Act 2018 being set at £80.00 with a reduction to £50.00 if paid within 10 days.

13. ADDITIONAL TREE PLANTING - PARLIAMENT HILL AREA OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out proposals received from the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum for additional tree and hedge planting across the Parliament Hill area of Hampstead Heath.

Three proposals were submitted by the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum (DPNF) for tree planting opportunities both along the eastern boundary of the Heath and along the Broad Walk. Two main options were offered by the Heath's Tree Officer: 1) a formal approach including avenues and a natural approach including groups of trees or 2) the planting of groups of trees in clusters of three's, five's and seven's along the Broad walk. Members saw this as a good opportunity to contribute to increasing carbon capture and biodiversity for the area.

A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) supported the tree planting but was concerned that planting in the area shown in Figures 2 and 3 would impact on leisure and recreation use in the area, which was currently being used as an overspill area for clubs and schools, e.g. school PE classes, rugby and football coaching and quidditch games.

Officers confirmed that the figures provided reflected the eventual size of the trees after 40+ years when they had increased in size. It was agreed that both could co-exist, and the trees could be positioned to not interfere with the recreational use of the area.

The Superintendent advised that the next steps were to include plans in future Annual Work Programmes (AWP), with the first phase in the 2021/22 AWP. It was noted that there was a sponsorship opportunity to plant trees at a cost £335 per tree plus planting and aftercare costs.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

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

14. DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DOG WALKERS AND LICENSING SCHEME FOR PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing Members with an update regarding the introduction of a Code of Conduct for Dog Walkers and a Licensing Scheme for Professional Dog Walkers to regulate this commercial activity using the powers available through the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018. The Superintendent now seeks wider discussion and engagement with Members on the draft Dog Walkers Code of Conduct, Professional Dog Walker Application Form and accompanying Terms & Conditions.

The Chair thanked Members (Friends of Kenwood, Marylebone Birdwatching Society, Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Heath & Hampstead Society) for their feedback throughout development of the scheme which hit the news this week. Members were advised that their feedback would be included in the final versions of these documents for consideration by the HHHWQPC at their November 2020 meeting. Following approval, the licences would be implemented and go live in April 2021.

A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) noted that there was nothing regarding the number of times a dog walker could come onto the land per session. Officers confirmed the finer detail of the terms and conditions would be worked out before being presented to the HHHWQPC including the implications of the am/pm session and how this impacted dog walkers and their income. Members regarded four to be a sensible number.

A Member (Vale of Health Society) queried why the low limit of 20 licences had been set. A Member (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) advised that 20 licences equated to 800 professional dogs per day whereas 30 licences would be 1,200 professional dogs. During discussions, it was considered most appropriate start smaller on the side of caution and increase if appropriate.

A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) queried if the Code of Conduct would state that dogs should be kept on leads in all sports areas. It was previously discussed and considered not to be practical for the Heath or the Extension. Officers confirmed the wording used was around dogs being under control and not on a lead. Signage could be used at sports pitch areas to remind dog walkers.

In response to a query with regards to there being no limit on the number of dogs a non-professional walker could walk. Officers confirmed that all dogs

needed to be kept under control and all dog walkers would be monitored with the potential for the implementation of further limitations if necessary.

With regards to the suggested excluded dog walking areas in Appendix 1, a Member (Highgate Society) felt that this list needed to be exhaustive and include all temporarily fenced off environmental areas.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Provide feedback Draft Dog Walkers Code of Conduct (Appendix 1);
- Provide feedback on the Draft Professional Dog Walkers Licence Application Form (Appendix 2);
- Provide feedback on the Draft Professional Dog Walkers Licence Application, Terms and Conditions (Appendix 3);
- Provide feedback on the proposal to limit the number of dogs for a Professional Dog Walker, as set out in paragraph 16 and 17;
- Views are sought from this Committee on the maximum numbers of dogs that can be walked under one person's control (para. 3);
- Views are sought from this Committee on the number of licences which can be issued for AM and PM sessions (para. 30).

15. **VOLUNTEERING UPDATE**

The Committee noted a report from Heath Hands providing Members with the volunteering highlights since volunteer programmes began a phased reintroduction from mid-June.

Members were advised that it had been a successful year despite the impact of Covid-19 and over £30k was raised for Heath Hands services. Significant interest from volunteers had been received but the reduced groups in light of Government guidelines meant that, for now, new volunteers could not be taken on.

The Chair gave thanks to all Heath Hands volunteers for their continued hard work and support, including with litter picking during lockdown.

A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) questioned why more volunteers could not be taken on to work in more groups of six across sites as this was great for people's health and wellbeing. Member were advised that projects were slowing being reintroduced and it was hoped more volunteers could be brought in over time.

16. **HEATH & HAMPSTEAD SOCIETY PROPOSAL REGARDING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH ACT**

The Committee noted the proposal submitted by the Heath & Hampstead Society for Nature Appreciation Display Boards on Hampstead Heath to

celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the 1871 Act. The following comments were made:

- The Chair encouraged a broader discussion on how the 150th anniversary of the 1871 Act could be celebrated noting that only smaller events were likely to be possible during Covid. The Chair felt this was an opportunity for the broader story of the 1871 movement for the Heath's protection to be told.
- The Heath & Hampstead Society were pleased by the positive response to its proposals for special display boards providing information about the Heath's natural history and protection and welcomed further ideas. It was noted that English Heritage also supported the idea and were in discussion with the society.
- A Member (South End Green Association) suggested including quality bird sounds via QR codes to an app next to pictures on the display boards. Members agreed an interactive board would make it more special.
- A Member (London Council for Recreation and Sport) highlighted the already strained budgets at the Heath and voiced caution against expensive celebrations. It was suggested that fundraising opportunities be explored to celebrate the anniversary.

RESOLVED - *With two hours having elapsed since the start of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order No. 40 the Committee agreed at this point to extend the meeting by up to thirty minutes.*

- A Member (Marylebone Birdwatching Society) supported the proposal and suggested including information about flowers and butterflies.
- A Member (Highgate Society) remarked that only a limited amount of information could be presented on a board and considered a larger permanent display shown in an information centre plus a booklet/leaflet to be more informative. The Deputy Chairman added that this highlighted the need for a visitor reception and learning centre at the Heath.
- The Superintendent noted that there were good venues, e.g. the cafés and Heath Extension, to share this information and materials plus the public website.

RECEIVED.

17. QUESTIONS

Storage

A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) enquired if the old Victorian gate and sign previously on Parliament Hill was still in

storage and if there was an opportunity to bring them back to the Heath or be offered to a museum. The Superintendent confirmed that they were still in storage and there was an opportunity to explore reintroducing them when the tennis hut was removed.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 25 January 2021 was noted.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

Chairman

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