

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 25/01/2021
Subject: Superintendents Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since October 2020.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the Savernake Bridge outline design proposals (appendix 1).
- Provide feedback on the proposed Swimming arrangement for 2021, as set out in appendix 3.

Main Report

Coronavirus Emergency Response and Issues

1. On 4 January 2021, the Government announced a third National Lockdown for England commencing on 5 January 2021. Consequently, all sport facilities are closed. The public toilets, playgrounds and car parks remain open and the Cafés are providing a take-away only service.
2. The Superintendent will provide a further update at the meeting and will continue to monitor the Government Guidance.

Constabulary

3. The Constabulary Manager will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

Divisional Plan & Annual Work Programme (AWP)

4. The draft Divisional Plan 2021-24 and draft Ecology and Conservation AWP for 2021/22 are included within the Meeting Agenda Pack for discussion. The full AWP will be presented to Members for discussion in April 2021.

Savernake Bridge

5. The Divisional Plan Project to improve the Savernake Bridge entrance to the Heath is being undertaken in Partnership with the London Borough of Camden and Heath Hands. In relation to the works on the Heath, appendix 1 sets out the proposed concept design. Members views are sought.

Playgrounds

6. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update on the Divisional Plan playground projects.
7. Officers are working with a young local resident and her family to discuss opportunities to collaborate with the local community to refurbish the Heath Extension playground. The resident has written to the Chair to set out her vision for the playground on the Heath Extension (appendix 2).
8. Officers have engaged a Landscape Architect to prepare site drawings. An online meeting will then be arranged to develop a concept design in consultation with the local resident and Members of the local community .
9. The local resident has successfully developed a series of fundraising initiatives through her website and is committed to engaging with the local community to help raise funds to support the improvements at the playground.

Health Connections

10. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

Professional Dog Walking License

11. Following approval of the Licensing Scheme from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, Officers have received correspondence from a number of concerned Professional Dog Walkers and their clients/customers.
12. Officers and the Chair have met with representatives of the Hampstead Heath Professional Dog Walkers Association to discuss the implementation of the Licencing Scheme. Moving forward, Officers will continue to discuss the implementation of the Licencing Scheme with the Heath's Dog Walking Community.
13. Due to the impacts of the third National Lockdown, it is proposed to move the implementation date of the Licencing Scheme is revised to 1 October 2021.

Contractors & Maintenance

14. Works to repair sections of the perimeter fence enclosing the Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond have been completed. Further fencing repairs across the Heath have been delayed due to ground conditions.
15. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update at the meeting regarding current works in relation to gas compounds and pipe replacement.

16. The East Heath Car Park will be resurfaced, with works currently scheduled to start in February 2021. The Jack Straw's Castle Car Park will be available for parking during these works.
17. The Operational Services Manager will provide and update on:
 - Traditional Playground toilet refurbishment project
 - Lido drainage works at the back of the Lido.
18. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update on the Lido Leak repair project, which are due to commence on 18 January 2021.

Capital projects

19. Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting.

Planning

20. The Superintendent will provide an update on current planning applications which are being monitored.

Events

Highgate Harriers Night of the 10k Personal Bests

21. Scheduled for 5 June 2021. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update at the meeting, however it is likely that the event will be re-scheduled to 2022.

The English National Cross Country

22. Re-scheduled to 22 May 2021. The Leisure and Events Manager is awaiting further information from the Event Organiser and will provide an update at the meeting.

The Race for Life

23. Scheduled for 12 June 2021. The event organisers have asked the Leisure and Events Manager to hold an alternative date (9 October 2021) should the event need to be further re-scheduled.

The Affordable Art Fair

24. The event organisers have requested to reschedule the event to the Autumn and are considering a second 4 day event in addition to the Art Fair. The dates being considered are:
 - 15-19 September 2021 (event set up commencing 1 September, site cleared by 2 October).
 - 22-26 September 2021 (event set up commencing 8 September, site cleared by 9 October).

Zippos Circus

25. The event organisers have indicated their preferred event dates are 18-24 October, with the site cleared by 25 October 2021.

London Youth Games

26. The event is provisionally scheduled to take place on 20 November 2021.

Swimming

27. The Bathing Ponds and Lido re-opened on 2 December 2020 following the end of the second National Lockdown and closed on 5 January 2021, following the announcement of the third National Lockdown. Swimming remained popular throughout December and early January.
28. Draft proposals for the Summer Swimming Season have been prepared by Officers (appendix 3). The proposals take into consideration the on-going impacts of COVID-19 during 2021 and will be kept under review and adapted in line with changes to Government Guidance and Social Distancing Regulations.
29. As set out in the draft proposals (appendix 3) it is proposed to commence session swimming at the Bathing Ponds from Monday 29 March 2021. This is to avoid the facilities being overwhelmed during the Easter period, which falls in early April.
30. The proposals also set out the proposal to Lifeguards the Mixed Bathing Pond from 29 March 2021.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

31. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments.
32. The projects and works outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2020-21 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
33. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

Financial Implications

34. The Director and Superintendent will provide a verbal update on the in-year position budget position and the budget for 2021/22.
35. A report setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22 is included within the Meeting Agenda Pack.
36. A new page has been added to the Open Spaces pages on the website to seek donations towards funding Projects across the Open Spaces.

Resource Implications

37. At the time of writing, the Heath is currently operating only critical and essential services as a result of the third National Lockdown. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the Heath open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

38. The City of London launched its Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 and the strategy is now in implementation stage. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing the City of London's carbon emissions. This will be the main objective at Hampstead Heath in the short term, especially following the impact of exceptionally high number of visitors due to COVID-19.

Legal Implications

39. No Impact.

Risk Implications

40. There is a risk that works will be further impacted by COVID-19.

Equality Implications

41. No Impact.

Security Implications

42. Security implications are addressed in the emergency response to COVID-19 and are being monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Savernake Bridge Outline Draft Proposals.
- Appendix 2 – Letter from local resident.
- Appendix 3 – Draft 2021 Swimming Proposals.

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