



## Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum

Monday 15 March 2021, 5.30pm

Online

### Attending

Richard Sumray (Chair)	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Anne Fairweather	AF	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Karina Dostalova	KD	Deputy Chairman, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Nigel Robinson	NR	Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Camden
Eleanor Kennedy	EK	Parliament Hill Lido User Group
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Winter Swimming Club/ Heath & Hampstead Society
Sandy Nairne	SN	Hampstead Heath Croquet Club
Ella Mitchell	EM	Hampstead Rugby Football Club
Simon Taylor	ST	Hampstead Rugby Football Club
Robert Gibbs	RGi	Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society
Joseph Lowe	JL	Highgate Harriers
Natasha Cendrowicz	NC	Highgate Harriers
Richard Priestley	RP	Highgate Harriers

### Officers

Bob Warnock	BW	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, COLC
Colin Buttery	CB	Director of Open Spaces, COLC
Declan Gallagher	DG	Operational Services Manager, COLC
Paul Maskell	PM	Leisure and Events Manager, COLC
Richard Gentry	RG	Constabulary & Queen's Park Manger, COLC
Richard O'Mahony	ROM	Parliament Hill Keeper Team Leader, COLC
Kate Radusin(notes)	KR	PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, COLC

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<b>Apologies</b>	
	John Carrier, Brian Presley, Richard Caylor, Phil Cordingley, Rudolf Benjamin and David Walton.	
2.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting (19 January 2021) and Matters Arising</b>	
	Minutes agreed.	
3.	<b>COVID-19 Update &amp; re-opening facilities from 29 March 2021</b>	
	BW works have commenced to protect a number of the Heath's Veteran trees with fencing and dead hedging. Seed has been purchased and tractor mounted seeder has been hired to enable larger areas to be re-seeded. Ground restoration works at Golders Hill Park play area will be delayed until the autumn, in recognition that there will be a high demand for use of the playgrounds over the spring and summer months.	
	DG staff are focused on preparing facilities to re-open on 29 March. Sports pitches are being prepared for the coming season.	

	<p>PM the Swimming Team have been very busy preparing for opening. Risk Assessments have been updated and pre-opening checks of the one-way systems and social distancing measures that will remain in place. The Lido leak has been fixed, and the area is being restored ahead of re-opening. The Lido liner has been cleaned.</p> <p>EK huge thanks to the Team and all those involved in fixing the leak.</p> <p>RS what is the situation with ParkRun and group activities? PM ParkRun have announced events will resume on 5 June. It will be difficult to resume on the Heath due to the number of people visiting at the moment. A meeting with the Event Organisers is scheduled for next week. NR if digital marketing support is required, GLL can support. PM. The Heath's Comms Officer has a communication plan in place, but additional support from Camden would be helpful.</p> <p>RGi a local school have signed up for free angling sessions from June.</p> <p>RS in relation to the long-term changes and impacts of Covid, this should be considered in more detail at the next meeting of the Forum in July. BW Officers will work with the Clubs to build up information on the impacts.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Establishment of the Sports and Wellbeing Forum</b>	
	<p>BW a draft proposal has been prepared. Members views are welcome. The strategies referenced can be shared with Members. We have also received correspondence from the Swimming Associations.</p> <p>RS this is the most importance change the Forum since it was set up. Broadening the remit and making the Forum more strategic. The Forum needs to be strategic in order to function well and will not be dealing with operational issues or individual issues. An additional paragraph needed to representation, as although members will be representing individual organisations/sports, the Forum will be about looking at sports as a whole and this is what members will need to contribute to, rather than just their individual areas of expertise.</p> <p>ST fully support. Will schools be represented? RS important to have schools represented and would support this. JL welcome the proposals, having a strategic Forum is a good thing. In the purpose, could Capital schemes be referenced. The Chair arrangements proposed are a change, think an independent Chair is helpful. Can ParkRun be referenced. RS in relation to Capital, I understand it is intended to include and in practice we would want to look at potential priorities to develop a Capital strategy. It is important to look and plan ahead. In relation to ParkRun, we can't create a Forum that is too large as it will not function. The Swimmers have also asked for a significant representation, which we need to discuss. NC suggest dog walking be included. It would be helpful to have a dialogue with dog walkers. RS is there separate arrangements to dialogue with dog walkers? BW the Heath's Divisional Plan captures both dog walking and Capital schemes, so these elements are captured within the TofR. We will also be reviewing the High-Level Asset Management Plan, which will be discussed with the Forum. In the representation section, we have included Licenced activities, which would enable ParkRun to join discussions at particular meetings, and</p>	

representation for young people, schools, volunteers, disability, mental health and other target and underrepresented groups has also been referenced. Depending on the agenda, particular expertise could be brought into the Forum for discussion. Dog walking and walking are important physical activities on the Heath, and representatives could be brought in when this is a topic on the agenda.

AF having a more strategic look at sports has been on the agenda for a while. The dialogue with swimmers around the wider wellbeing benefits of cold-water swimming has led us to explore social prescribing, and it is clear that wellbeing cuts across many different sporting activities. When looking to move to a more strategic look, the proposal to have the Chair of the Heath Management Committee as Chair of the Forum is to add accountability and to give an opportunity for those involved in sports across the Heath an opportunity to speak directly to those managing the Heath. It is important to retain the knowledge and expertise of the current chair of the Forum, who is proposed as the Deputy Chair. It is around creating a balance of accountability and expertise. The Chair of the Heath's Management Committee currently Chairs the Swimming Forum. We want to bring all sporting and wellbeing activities together into a wider Forum to look holistically and health and wellbeing. During the last year, access to green spaces has been hugely valued, and people are missing being able to access the activities which contribute towards their mental and physical health. This is an opportune time to bring these elements together.

MH an independent Chair would be preferable. Has consideration been given to including so many more members, as there will be lesser opportunity for Members to speak and the agenda will balloon. Has consideration been given to the efficiency of the Forum? What is the intended role of the Swimming Forum in future and how will duplication be avoided?

BW the intention is to have a single Forum to have a wider strategic approach. Officers will continue to liaise across the facilities with Sports Clubs in relation to operation issues, and if there are particular topics relating to a facility, or which a Club want to raise, these can be brought through as representations.

AF hope we are moving towards a more stable time. A lot of the Swimming Forum discussions are around individual issues. These can continue to be discussed with the Team. Need to get a balance between swimming and all sports and to consolidate the opportunities for people to speak to the Heath Management Chair publicly and at a strategic level.

SN timely to move to a broader agenda. To have an overview of investment and Capital is important for all. There is commonality around increasing participation and involvement and how we can think in a broader way to get more people involved in sport and wellbeing activities. It is still important to celebrate the high points of sporting engagement and international competition.

RS co-ordination across sports should be referenced, as should international competition.

EK supports having an independent Chair of the Forum. Concerned around not having a Swimming Forum, as there is a lot of debate that takes place at meetings. There is a danger that the Sports & Wellbeing Forum agenda could be skewed towards swimming if there are not other opportunities for issues to be discussed ahead of the Sports & Wellbeing Forum meetings. Support having wider Swimming representation at the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.

RS a mix of views in relation to how the new Sports & Wellbeing Forum would operate, given the new Membership, which is being proposed, with potentially 5 new Members from Swimming, and how the Forum could be skewed. As opposed to maintaining a separate Swimming Forum.

RGi there could be multiple fishing representatives, noting the number of fishing ponds.

RS the question is around whether there is overarching representation for a Sport, or whether it is broken down to the different parts of the Heath.

ST a hierarchy is needed, with individual Forums which feed up into it. The new Sports & Wellbeing Forum is an ideal way to attract new sports and to attract young people in taking part. We have previously discussed Basketball as possible new sport on the Heath.

AF operational issues will be able to be discussed with Officers locally, and where issues are not able to be resolved, they can be brought to the Sports & Wellbeing Forum. There should also be the opportunity to discuss new sports and opportunities strategically. The Governance structure needs to make sense without the individuals concerned. So that if those individuals move on, roles are still filled.

The structure needs to be able to adapt to the changing demands of users. Managing the agendas will be key. There could be a rolling agenda, to rotate focus to different themes and issues throughout the year, rather than covering all sports and issues at each meeting.

RS there isn't overarching agreement on Membership. We have covered that Capital, and International sports should be covered, and the role of swimming. In regard to Chairing, this should be considered by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. On the issue of representation, there is a danger if there are too many members and the membership is skewed. Thinking strategically, and not just around the sports individual represent is key. If operational issues are discussed at the Forum, it will not be able to achieve what we have set out to do. Therefore, we need to be careful with membership, and it will not be possible for every organisation which uses the Heath to join the Forum. We need to ensure Members of the Forum think strategically in the broader sense.

RS what are the thoughts of the Forum around whether the Heath & Wellbeing Forum membership should be larger or smaller. Regarding Mental Health, the Camden and Islington Mental Health Trust should be asked if they would like to join to represent this area. There are no further views on the size of the Forum being expressed.

RGi think the Forum is full to capacity, could there be satellite groups? More is less.

RS there are different views on the size of the Membership and a concern that the size could lead to discussions which get dispersed, but on the other side, in broadening the remit of the agenda to include Mental and Physical Health, the Forum will have to be slightly larger in any case.

RS are there any views on including all of the Swimming Representatives requested?

JL would support as the venues are all very different. Could ParkRun be included in the Track Forum?

EK important to have all of the swimming venues represented in the new Sports & Wellbeing Forum. The agenda would need to be managed as there are other activities which take place across the Heath, other than swimming.

RS on balance, there is support for the additional swimming representatives.

	<p>RS there should be an annual cycle of meetings, so we know what we are discussing at each meeting for the coming year.</p> <p>BW we will reflect on the discussion and take an updated draft to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Health Connections</b>	
	<p>PM growing participation is a key avenue of work for the future. Especially for people who have problems in accessing the facilities. We have been talking to the Clinical Commissioning Groups at Camden and Barnet, as well as PAC to create a Health Connection. The Health &amp; wellbeing Forum will be essential to this work. We hope the Clubs will support mapping what is available on the Heath.</p> <p>BW this is an area of priority. We will need support from the groups using the Heath. The approach of Boroughs differs. Heath Hands is a key partnership to this initiative.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>2020-21 Swimming Annual Review</b>	
	<p>BW this is the first annual review. We have tried to look at the 2020/21 swimming season, the outcomes of the March 2020 review to provide an update on achieving these outcomes, and we are also looking ahead to the upcoming swimming season. There are a number of discussion topics set out in the review. It has been an unusual year, and we need a further year to stabilise the changes which were developed as a result of the March 2020 review.</p> <p>RS invite general feedback on the report.</p> <p>AF if there are views on the format of the annual review moving forward, in providing a clear overview of the swimming offer. We would look to report on an annual basis moving forward. It has been an odd year, which is why it is important to reflect on what we have been able to offer in between the National Lockdowns.</p> <p>RS are you optimistic on swimming moving forward?</p> <p>BW yes, particularly in relation to summer 2018 and 2019 where the facilities were overwhelmed, and staff were under immense pressure with the demand for swimming. We have been in a better position to facilitate swimming during Covid. The feedback from the Lifeguards over the last year has been very positive. As we come back to more open access swimming there are further challenges with managing the bathing load. We have Covid measures in place and hope to see more freedom as we progress through the year.</p> <p>EK the systems in place at the Lido worked incredibly well and the atmosphere at the facility was more relaxed and safer. A return to previous arrangements needs to be reviewed, as there is longevity with the systems put in place due to Covid.</p> <p>JL good report, lots of detail. Getting children active is important and getting the swimming tests back, especially for lane swimming at the Lido. In future, will a day ticket return?</p> <p>BW children swimming, we are waiting for further RLSS advice. Season Ticket holders will not have priority for access, but Season Ticket holders will continue to be well briefed around access arrangements. A day ticket is achievable moving forward.</p> <p>PM the running of the Duathlon will be guided by Government advice. We hope the event will return successfully in future.</p> <p>MH the swimming experience at the Bathing Ponds echoes the feedback from the Lido.</p>	

	<p>AF we are being transparent around what has happened over the last year, and what is proposed for the coming year. There will be further opportunities to feedback.</p> <p>RS the report demonstrates it is hard to understand the impact of the decisions taken in March 2020, and a further look in a years time is needed. It is positive the number of people who have been able to swim. The number of season tickets sold is positive. The survey is also positive. It is important to get young people swimming again, as has been outlined by JL. There have been no comments on the age of who qualifies for the free Morning Swim. I wonder how hot weather days will be handled, along with managing the non-bathing facilities. How can we prevent swimming in the other ponds? There needs to be further considered, given moving forward initially swimming numbers will still be limited.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>#Heath150</b>	
	<p>MH this Forum will not meet again until after the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on 29 June. The Heath &amp; Hampstead Society have considered the possibility of hosting a cricket match and an athletics competition as part of the celebrations.</p> <p>BW supportive of the proposals. We have developed a partnership statement and logo to help build momentum for the anniversary and celebrations. Heath Hands are arranging a Community event for 27 June, and we are looking at an event on 29 June to mark the boundary and to draw together the local community.</p> <p>AF we are keen to everyone to be involved in celebrating the anniversary. The more activities we can put on the better.</p> <p>JL it would be helpful to discuss this further at the Track Forum next week.</p> <p>NC the Highgate Harriers 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up in 8 years.</p> <p>PM will speak with individuals to see what we can do and put together a programme. We just need to be mindful of managing events in a Covid secure way.</p> <p>RS there could be a charity walk around the boundary to raise funds for the Heath charity and raise awareness.</p> <p>EM happy to be involved in putting on a touch rugby event.</p> <p>RGi the angling fraternity would be happy to support, and we have spare kit.</p> <p>RS if an email could be sent round to let members of the Forum know how to link in with the events.</p>	<b>PM</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Events</b>	
	<p>PM due to Covid we are taking a practical approach to considering event applications, being mindful it is difficult to pin down dates/times for events to take place at the moment. The Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests is cancelled for 2021, as participation from spectators is key to the event. The English National Cross Country is now looking at a November 2021 date. The Race for Life will hopefully be going ahead in August. Give it a Go will return in 2022.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Pro-Active Camden Update</b>	
	<p>NR PAC's immediate priority is to investigate the impact of the pandemic on the physical activity system in Camden. It is perceived the impact is greater on the voluntary and community sector organisations. This is very concerning, and further investigative work will be undertaken to assess this impact and to raise awareness of this within Camden. This will inform a strategy to support the voluntary sector in whatever form is required. Statistics have show that inactivity is increasing, we need to minimise this direction.</p>	

	<p>AF to what extent do you see the Heath as a delivery partner. What can we do to support this work?</p> <p>NR there has been great support from the Heath and PM's Team. The offer has diversified over the years. The use of parks has exploded during the Pandemic, is this sustainable? Do we need to market open spaces differently?</p> <p>RS there may be further phases to this work. It is important to recognise the squeeze on financing. The case will need to be made for sports and physical activity funding.</p> <p>RGi the restrictions on travel have also impacted on the increase usage of the Heath and parks. Once other leisure activities are available again, there may be a reduction in usage of the Heath.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	RS a helpful discussion has taken place in relation to the new forum. There is still some consideration to be given to the new membership. There is a value to the broader remit of the Health and Wellbeing Forum and the strategic purpose.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Upcoming 2021 Meeting Dates</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 July 2021, 5.30pm</li> <li>- 4 October 2021, 5.30pm</li> </ul>	