

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 19/04/2021
<b>Subject:</b> Superintendents Update	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 &amp; 12</b>
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?	
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Open Spaces	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since January 2021.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the Heath Extension Playground Design Brief (appendix 2).
- Provide feedback on the concept of 'cycle bursts' utilising specific routes on the Heath to help reduce traffic congestion linked to the local school run, as set out in paras 14-16.
- Provide feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum (appendix 3).
- Provide feedback on the Annual Work Programme - Projects (appendix 5).
- Provide feedback on the draft Annual Swimming Review 2020/21 (appendix 6) as set out in para 31.

### Main Report

#### Coronavirus Emergency Response and Issues

1. On 22 February 2021, the Government announced the Roadmap out of Lockdown. In-line with the announcement the Tennis Courts, Bathing Ponds, Parliament Hill Fields Lido, Parliament Hill Athletics Track and Trim-Trail re-opened from 29 March 2021.

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.

### **Golders Hill Park**

4. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update on the following:
  - Waste & Recycling
  - Tennis Courts
  - Zoo & Butterfly House
  - Grassland management
  - Drainage
  - Accessible Car Park

### **Divisional Plan**

#### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act (HH5)

5. Five biodiversity display boards have been installed across the Heath, with a further board installed at the West Meadow on the Kenwood Estate. The boards have been installed in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society and the interpretation reflects the four seasons to provide information about habitats and species found on the Heath. A copy of the biodiversity interpretation is attached at appendix 1.
6. An Exhibition celebrating the history of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act will be installed at South End Green between 23 June – 8 August.
7. A partnership statement has been developed and #Heath150 will be used to promote events related to celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
8. A number of events are being planned, including a Community Fun Day (27 June 2021) organised by Heath Hands, and a marking of the bounds event (29 June 2021) organised by the City of London.
9. The Leisure & Events Manager is in discussion with the Heath & Hampstead Society in relation to events to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### East Heath Car Park (HH8)

10. Resurfacing works commenced on 6 April 2021. The works are expected to take 6/8 weeks. Parking is available at Jack Straw's Castle and the Lido Car Parks.

#### Playgrounds (HH9)

11. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update on the Divisional Plan playground projects at the Adventure Playground, Vale and Preachers.
12. The design brief for the Heath Extension is attached (appendix 2) and Members feedback is sought.

### Savernake Bridge (HH10)

13. The Operational Services Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

### Cycling (HH11)

14. Greater emphasis is being placed to providing cycle parking on the periphery of the Heath. The works at East Heath Car Park will include a cycle parking area with direct access to the adjacent shared use path. Camden Council are also installing cycle parking at the recently refurbished Savernake Bridge. Officers have met with Camden Council to discuss the possibility of providing dockless cycle parking zones and cycle parking stands through a Borough wide initiative to promote cycling. This would involve suspending Highway parking bays at specific locations.
15. The Green School Runs organisation have approached the City of London Corporation regarding school 'Park & Stride' initiatives involving the use of Heath Car Parks. This has been previously discussed with the Consultative Committee and the consensus was that emphasis should be towards improved public transport and non-car based solutions. This includes schemes such as walking buses and 'Cycle Bursts'.
16. In relation to 'Cycle Bursts' for school children, Officers from Camden Council have proposed that children and their parents/carers could use specific paths across the Heath to travel to School. The discussions are at a formative stage and Members views are sought. The routes currently being proposed include the footpath extending north of the Lido to join with the Broad Walk. A second route to provide a link from the Broad Walk to the shared use path that runs from East Heath to Spaniards. This could utilise Nassington Road, Tanza Road and Parliament Hill to minimise the impact on the Heath. The routes would be time limited to facilitate the morning and afternoon school runs. However, it is recognised that the wider impacts on the Heath particularly in relation to enforcing any scheme, additional signage, a code of conduct and the resource implications to manage a 'Cycle Burst' scheme will need to be carefully considered.

### Sports & Wellbeing Forum (HH17)

17. The draft Terms of Reference for the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum are attached at appendix 3. The draft Terms of Reference were discussed with the Sports Advisory Forum at their meeting on 15 March 2021. Further feedback, received after the Sports Advisory Forum meeting, is attached at appendix 4.

### Professional Dog Walking Licence (HH20)

18. Officers have developed an Expressions of Interest form to further inform the implementation of the Licencing Scheme for Professional Dog Walkers. Officers are also putting in place the online application process, ahead of launching the Licencing Scheme in October 2021.

### Forest School Licencing (HH22)

19. The Conservation Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

### Planning (HH26)

20. The Superintendent will provide an update on current planning applications.
  - Jack Straws Castle (2020/1828/P)
  - Murphy's Yard
  - 55 Fitzroy Park (2018/3672/P)

### **Annual Work Programme (AWP)**

21. The draft AWP Projects for 2021/22 are attached at appendix 5. Members feedback is sought.

### Branch Hill Pond (C&E-CW218)

22. The Highgate Wood, Trees & Conservation Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

### Implementation of the Recommendations of the Ponds and Wetlands Conservation Plan (CE-PR 5)

23. As part of the Ponds and Wetland Conservation Plan we are planning to begin implementing recommendation 8.2.1 and subsequent AWP item C&E - CW11. This involves the designation of sections of ponds as dog swimming zones and areas where dog swimming is restricted. Signage will initially be placed followed by floating booms similar to those already in place at Highgate No.1 Pond and the Vale of Health Pond.

### Dams & Spillway Maintenance (C&E-CW1)

24. Following the Reservoirs and Ponds bi-annual inspection on the 7 April 2021 further restoration works are required on the spillway between Model Boating Pond and Highgate Men's Bathing Pond to tackle compaction and erosion.
25. To address the compaction and erosion on the Model Boating Pond Dam Crest it is proposed to add a Hoggin (a finely sifted gravel containing a clay binder) surface along the crest of the dam. Following several attempts at top dressing and reseeded the grass has not provided a sufficiently durable surface on this popular route around the pond.
26. The Viaduct Pond spillway requires scarification, topsoil and re-seeding.

### **Cyclical Work Programme (CWP)**

27. The Operational Services Manager will provide and update on:
  - Traditional Playground toilet refurbishment project, which have been successfully completed.
  - Drainage works on the Lido field.
28. In relation to the Lido Leak, investigations have been on-going for a number of years. Non-invasive investigations and fixes to resolve the leak have been attempted but proved un-successful.

29. Further, more invasive investigative works to detect and fix the leak, commenced on 16 January 2021. Following excavations, leaks were detected on one of the pipes connecting the deep end outlets to the plant room filters. Works to replace and update the pipework and flanges have been completed and following checks, the filtration system is operating correctly. Re-instatement works are due to be completed on 15 March 2021. This project has been successfully undertaken during a challenging period. The City Surveyors Department have been instrumental in supporting and arranging these works. The Contractor worked through difficult weather conditions and maintained COVID-19 Secure working arrangements and thoroughly cleaned the premises before handing over to the team.

## **Events**

30. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update on events, including:
- Whitsun Fair - Event days: 29, 30, 31 May 2021. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 June 2021 (total of 8 event days). A longer Whitsun Fair is proposed taking account of the Easter Fair being cancelled.
  - English National Cross Country - 22 May 2021 event cancelled. Event organisers are considering dates in early November 2021 or March 2022.
  - Heart Walk - 11 July 2021.
  - Race for Life - 21 August 2021.
  - Summer Bank Holiday Fair - 28, 29, 30 August 2021.
  - Affordable Art Fair - Event days: 15 - 19 September 2021. Event set up 31 Aug -14 September, event Strike 20 September - 1 October.
  - Hideaway Cinema – 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 September 2021.
  - Zippos Circus – 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 October 2021.

## **Swimming**

31. The Bathing Ponds and Lido re-opened on 29 March 2021 following the end of the Third National Lockdown. An Annual report has been prepared and Members views are sought in relation to the discussion points set out in appendix 6.
32. Feedback from two of the Swimming Associations is referenced at appendix 7
33. The Gateway 2 Capital Project report for Safety, Access and Security at the Bathing Ponds and Lido is attached at appendix 8.

## **Learning Team**

34. In response to school closures and travel restrictions, the Learning Team developed a flexible learning programme which supported wellbeing and team building.
35. Following the easing of Covid restrictions on 29 March, the team have facilitated outdoor learning programmes for small groups. Working with family and community officers at Camden Council, the team have given priority bookings to local families who have struggled during lockdown, as well as children and their mentors from the charity Chance UK.

36. The Team have been working with the Early Years Intervention Team at Camden Council to plan some introductory sessions to the Heath and the One O'Clock Club, which will re-open from 12 April. The programme aims to engage families who do not currently feel confident to explore Hampstead Heath and introduces some simple outdoor activities that they can enjoy together.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

37. 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.
38. 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.
39. 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

40. The Director and Superintendent will provide a verbal update on the end of year position budget position for 2020/21.
41. A new page has been added to the Open Spaces pages on the website to seek donations towards funding two projects for Hampstead Heath.
  - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000)
  - Bird and mammal shelters (£5,000)
42. From 2021/22, in respect of Open Spaces (Local Risk Budget), income relating to donations and legacies to the Charities shall be ring-fenced and where necessary, carried forward in the relevant ring-fenced Charitable reserve for each Charity.

### Resource Implications

43. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the Heath open, safe, accessible and secure.

### Climate Implications

44. 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

45. No Impact.

### Risk Implications

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

### Equality Implications

47. No Impact.

### Security Implications

48. 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 – Biodiversity Interpretation Boards.
- Appendix 2 – Heath Extension Playground Design Brief.
- Appendix 3 – Draft Terms of Reference for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.
- Appendix 4 – Feedback received on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.
- Appendix 5 – Draft AWP Projects for 2021/22.
- Appendix 6 – Draft Annual Swimming Report 2020/21.
- Appendix 7 – Feedback received on the Draft Annual Swimming Report 2020/21.
- Appendix 8 – Gateway 2 Report - Capital Project for Safety, Access and Security at the Bathing Ponds and Lido.

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