

Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report for Queen’s Park Charity 2020/21

1. Objectives and Activities

The City of London protects and manages, by charitable trust, almost 11,000 acres of open spaces within and around the capital for the benefit of local communities and visitors.

Queen’s Park is a 30-acre (12ha) site which opened in 1887. Situated in northwest London between Kensal Green, Brondesbury Park and Kilburn, it is bounded by Harvist Road to the south, Chevening Road to the north, Milman Road to the west and Kingwood Avenue to the east. The Park forms the focus of a neighbourhood which developed from around 1895 consisting of late Victorian and Edwardian houses. The Park lies within the London Borough of Brent and the surrounding streets are in a Conservation Area. The Park was initially called Kilburn Recreation Ground and has been known as Queen’s Park since the naming of the Park by Royal Command in the Jubilee year of 1887, in honour of Queen Victoria.

Acquisition: Queen’s Park comprising 30 acres of the site of the Royal Agricultural Show held in Kilburn in 1879 together with Highgate Wood was acquired in 1886 by the City of London Corporation from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under the provisions of the Highgate and Open Spaces Act 1886.

Administration: Formerly administered by the Corporation’s Coal and Corn and Finance Committee 1886 -1966, Queen’s Park is now managed by the City of London Corporation through the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee. The Queen’s Park Consultative Group (QPCG), which comprises Members from local groups (including the Queen’s Park Residents Association), local Ward Councillors and a school’s liaison contact.

The purpose of the QPCG is devising and implementing the City Corporation’s policies and programmes of work in relation to Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park in accordance with the provisions of the Highgate Wood and Kilburn Open Spaces Act 1886.

The purpose of the Charity is:

‘the preservation in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation of the open spaces know as Highgate Wood, Highgate and Queen’s Park Kilburn for the use by the public for exercise and recreation.’

Explanation of Aims and objectives for the year including the changes or differences it seeks to make through its activities

The activities of the Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Kilburn charity are guided by its Charitable Objective, as stated above, and are developed within the framework of the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan 2018-23, the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2021-22 and the Queen’s Park Divisional Plan 2021-24.

The contribution which Queen’s Park makes towards supporting the aims and objectives of these is set out in section 2.

2. Achievements and Performance

The key priorities for 2020/21 were:

- Development of policies and procedures linked to the City of London (Open Spaces) Bill, including Licencing Schemes for Professional Dog Walkers, Forest Schools and Fitness Trainers.

Achievement against the key priorities for 2020/21 were:

- A Policy has been developed for the application of Forest Schools that wish to make use of the open spaces. Queen's Park has not received any requests for Forest School applications.
- Unfortunately, the development of Licencing schemes for Professional Dog Walking and Fitness Training have been impacted by the pandemic during 2020/21.

Other achievements during 2020/21 were:

- The Queen's Park Team have ensured that the Park has remained open and accessible throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Woodland Walk has been closed and during the Spring 2021, the Queen's Park Team will be undertaking works to promote the recovery of this area from the impacts of increase visitor numbers.
- Pests and Diseases continue to be managed through planned inspections by the Arboricultural Team.
- Two weddings were able to proceed late summer 2020 on the Bandstand.
- On 13 September 2020, the Park Manager permitted a Fairground Organ to play in the Park from 10am – 4pm. As Queen's Park Day was not able to proceed due to the pandemic, this was appreciated by Park visitors, on what would usually be the business day of the year.

In June 2020 a new swing was installed in the Sand Pit Area. This was part funded by the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association (QPARA) and the City of London Corporation. An online funding link has been set up, to seek further donations to support the redevelopment of the Sandpit.

Unfortunately, the review of the Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan has been impacted by COVID-19. Therefore, this work will be carried forward to 2021/22.

Performance Measures for 2020/21

1. To support the Open Spaces Department, by increasing tennis participation.
 - Achieved
2. Achieve budgeted income and expenditure targets for Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity. Income from events and café rental is reduced this year. The café tenant is in discussion with the City Corporation regarding the current rental arrangement.
 - Outturn to be confirmed

3. To maintain Green Flag Award, Green Heritage Accreditation and London in Bloom awards during 2020.
 - Achieved
4. The City of London Corporation adopted a new Climate Action Strategy in October 2020. The Strategy aim is to reach Net 0 by 2040 and there will be a range of measures implemented to achieve this including increasing carbon sequestration and storage across the Open Spaces alongside biodiversity enhancement and resilience measures. Queen's Park will contribute to these measures with continued work to improve and conserve existing woodland and grassland.
 - Ongoing

Plans for Future Periods (2021/22)

The proposed overarching priorities, which will guide our objectives and activities from April 2021, are:

- COVID – 19 Impact Recovery Programme.
- Refurbishment of the Queen's Park Children's Sandpit and improve provision of equipment in the Children's Play Area.
- Consult on, finalise and implement the Queen's Park Woodland Walk Management Plan.
- Deliver the tender for the Queen's Park Café.
- Consult on the Cyclical Works Programme for the Queen's Park Toilets, CWP Project Queens Park - Toilet Block – Refurbishment.
- Review of the Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan.
- Develop a Park Activity Plan to gain understanding of who currently visits the Park.

Performance Measures for 2021/22

- To support the Open Spaces Department, by maintaining tennis participation.
- Achieve budgeted income and expenditure targets for Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity. Income from events and café rental is reduced this year. The café tenant is in discussion with the City Corporation regarding the current rental arrangement.
- To maintain Green Flag Award, Green Heritage Accreditation and London in Bloom awards during 2021.