

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	Date(s): 26/05/2021
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 Decision
Report author: Bob Warnock, Superintendent	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since February 2021.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Members approve the Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22 (appendix 1).
- Members approve the Highgate Wood Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22 (appendix 2) and the Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24, (appendix 10)
- Members agree the Queen's Park Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22, (appendix 3) and Queen's Park Divisional Plan 2021/24, (appendix 11).
- Grant Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve the application for the Interim Injunction Order.
- Members agree to retain the current four dog limit for Professional Dog Walkers and to support the implementation of the Licencing Scheme as set out in paragraphs 35-41.
- Grant Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve the Queen's Park Sandpit Capital Project Gateway 2.

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 (Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park and Queen's Park), Bathing Ponds, Parliament Hill Fields Lido, Parliament Hill Athletics Track and Trim-Trails (Parliament Hill and Highgate Wood) re-opened from 29 March 2021.
2. Ground restoration works across the sites have been embedded into the Annual Work Programmes for Hampstead Heath (appendix 1), Highgate Wood (appendix 2) and Queen's Park (appendix 3). The first phase of these restoration works have commenced, and further works are programmed for the autumn.
3. The Superintendent will provide a further update at the meeting and will continue to monitor the Government Guidance.

Hampstead Heath Update

Constabulary

4. The Constabulary are in regular contact with the Metropolitan Police and partners including Camden and Islington Community Safety Teams. Weekly update meetings with these partners take place, reviewing the Police and partner response to issues across the two Boroughs which includes Hampstead Heath in Camden.
5. Although there is a reduction in incidents of groups gathering on the Heath gatherings are still a concern. With changes in usage of the open space and the potential for increased visitor numbers, the Constabulary will focus their resource on managing anti-social behaviour. Concerns have been raised by members of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association regarding the usage of the Heath Extension, particularly in the evenings. Evening patrols are scheduled by the Constabulary team and the Local Policing Team have been engaged with, seeking their support in response to these concerns.
6. There is good progress regarding the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices, internal consultation with the Constabulary team has taken place. It is planned to have the Fixed Penalty Notices in operation on the Heath by October 2021.
7. Constabulary Officers are regularly using Body Worn Video Cameras. The Constabulary Manager will bring a report on the usage and success of this equipment to your Committee on 29 September 2021.
8. The Constabulary are up to a full complement of staff with two Fixed Term Contract staff recently joining the Team. In recent months we are continuing to support staff members suffering from long COVID symptoms and staff being absent from the workplace due to shielding. This has had an impact on resource availability.
9. As COVID restrictions are being lifted, the Constabulary are refocusing their attention on priority issues, for example dog control, cycling and anti-social behaviour.

10. Drones - The Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance (appendix 4) has been updated to reflect the Air Navigation Order 2016, which was amended in December 2020 with changes coming into effect on 31 December 2020.
11. Changes include, categorises of Risk, Section 4 of the Drone Guidance 2021, weight of drone in the Open (low risk) Category Section 5 of the Drone Guidance 2021 and the requirement of Drone Registration, Section 6 of the Drone Guidance 2021.
12. The City Corporation will continue to monitor the use of drones on the Heath. If necessary, the City Corporation will consider applying for additional powers to restrict the use of drones on the Heath, enforceable by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.
13. Interim Injunction Order - The City Corporation are seeking Counsel's advice on an application for an Interim Injunction Order against persons unknown at Hampstead Heath. Preparation work is being carried out in parallel with colleagues at Epping Forest. The Injunction would provide the City Corporation with additional powers in response to anti-social behaviours committed which may cause harassment, alarm or distress to its visitors. The first hearing of the Corporation's application in respect of Epping Forest will be heard in the High Court on Wednesday 19 May 2021.
14. Prescribed areas within Hampstead Heath are being considered, and the Order is likely to cover the following; (i) the organising, attending and participating in unlicensed music events and / or raves (ii) the playing of loud music, (iii) lighting fires, fireworks, barbecues, (iv) threatening, using or engaging in abusive behaviour.
15. The Interim Injunction Order will be sought pursuant to section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972.
16. The Constabulary Manager will provide a verbal update at the meeting in relation to the Interim Injunction Order.
17. Members are asked to grant Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve the application for the Interim Injunction Order.

Divisional Plan

18. Updates on the Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan projects are set out below.
19. 150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act (HH5) - 2021 marks a very important year for Hampstead Heath as it is the 150th anniversary of the passing of the Hampstead Heath Act. The Act marked the beginning of the protection of open spaces as sanctuaries for nature, people and communities.
20. 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 5.

21. A number of events are being organised to mark the anniversary, including an outdoor exhibition celebrating the history of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act. The exhibition will initially be installed in Aldgate Square from Wednesday 2 June – Tuesday 15 June 2021. The exhibition will then move to Hampstead Heath from Wednesday 23 June to Sunday 8 August 2021, located at East Heath.
22. On Sunday 27 June a Community Fun Day is being organised by Heath Hands. Activities will be based at the Parliament Hill Bandstand and will include a kite flying event organised by the Heath & Hampstead Society.
23. On Tuesday 29 June, which marks the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act passing into law, visitors will be encouraged to visit the areas of the Heath which were saved in 1871.
24. A partnership statement has been developed and on social media, #Heath150 will be used for all events which make up the 150th anniversary celebrations. For more information on the #Heath150 events programme please visit: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath.
25. East Heath Car Park (HH8) - Resurfacing works commenced on 6 April 2021. The works have progressed well and are on programme to finish by the end of May. Parking is available at Jack Straws Castle and the Lido Car Parks.
26. Playgrounds (HH9) - The Capital Project to refresh the Adventure Playground is progressing on schedule. The construction works have been completed and the playground will remain closed until 1 June to allow the grass seed to establish. The Playground opening will coincide with half term holiday club activities at the Adventure Clubhouse.
27. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funded works to refresh the Vale of Health Playground have been completed. The design has integrated elements of natural play and staff have worked alongside the contractors to install large logs and plant a willow tunnel. A further Project at the Preaches Hill Playground also funded through the CIL grant will commence shortly.
28. The design brief (attached at appendix 6) to refresh the Heath Extension playground received positive support from Local Stakeholders, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC). The Project Board will reform to discuss the Concept Design and to develop the fundraising strategy. An estimate of £40,000 is being sought through grants and donations to fund this Project. An additional donations page for the Hampstead Heath website is being prepared.
29. Savernake Bridge (HH10) & Cycling (HH11) - 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. Camden Council have commenced a consultation, see appendix 7.
30. The Chair and Superintendent recently met with the Green School Runs organisation regarding their school 'Park & Stride' initiative. The Chair outlined

the Heath position around maintaining car parks to facilitate visitors resorting to the Heath. The importance of the income generated from the car parks in supporting the Hampstead Heath Charity was also discussed. Officers will continue to progress non-car-based solutions, which include schemes such as walking buses and 'Cycle Bursts'.

31. Officers from Camden Council have submitted a proposal around children and their parents/carers could use specific paths across the Heath to travel to School. 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 Road. This could utilise Nassington Road, Tanza Road and Parliament Hill to minimise the impact on the Heath.
32. The proposal indicates that the routes would be time limited to facilitate the morning and afternoon school runs. This proposal develops the concept of 'Cycle Bursts', which has previously been discussed with Members. 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 scheme will need to be carefully considered. Following feedback from the HHCC, further discussions with Officers from Camden will be held to establish what support is available to develop a pilot scheme on the Heath. Officers will consult Members of the HHCC and this Committee in relation to the proposed pilot scheme.
33. Sports & Wellbeing Forum (HH17) - It is proposed to broaden and re-focus the remit of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum to form a new Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum. This Forum will take a strategic approach to develop outcomes for physical and mental health and wellbeing in accordance with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018 - 2028. The scope will include supporting capital investment, developing partnerships to promote Health Connections including Social Prescribing and the Heath's role promoting local, national and international events. This innovative approach will be informed through wider engagement with Heath's representatives for sports, health and wellbeing and guided by relevant strategies including:
 - The Corporate Plan 2021-22, and specifically - 'Contribute to a flourishing society' and 'shape outstanding environments'.
 - City of London Corporation Sports and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-25.
 - Relevant Local Authority Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
 - The GLA, Sports England and London Sports ambitions to make London the most physically active City in the World.
34. The revised Terms of Reference (see appendix 8), have been discussed with the Sports Advisory Forum and the HHCC. Feedback on the draft Terms of Reference have also been received from the Kenwood Ladies' Pond, Highgate Men's Pond, Highgate Lifebuoys and the Mixed Pond Swimming Associations. It is proposed to launch the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum in July 2021. The initial meeting will focus on the Divisional Plan Project - Health Connections (HH18) as well as setting the forward agenda plan, which will inform Members participation at Forum meetings for the year ahead.

35. Professional Dog Walking Licence (HH20) - Members agreed a Code of Conduct for all Dog Walkers and a Licencing Scheme for Professional Dog Walkers in November 2020. The introduction of the Code of Conduct and the implementation of the Licencing Scheme has been delayed due to Covid-19.
36. Members approved the Licence fee as part of the Fees and Charges 2021-22, report, which was considered at the February 2021 meeting. It was also agreed that a pro-rata fee would be applied to part-time Licences.
37. Following feedback from Professional Dog Walkers and the Hampstead Professional Dog Walking Association (HPDWA), Officers have amended the Terms and Conditions to remove the AM and PM timed slots to enable 40 'all day' Licences to be granted. Officers will also update the Terms and Conditions to enable Licences to be exchangeable within a Licenced Company to facilitate part-time walkers, sickness and annual leave.
38. Officers have launched an Expressions of Interest (EOI) to further inform the implementation of the Licencing Scheme for Professional Dog Walkers (Professional Dog Walker Licence - Expression of Interest (office.com)). The EOI will enable Officers to assess which areas of the Heath are currently being used by Professional Dog Walkers and the frequency of use. In relation to the granting of Licences, the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018, sets out that:
 - (6) The Corporation must refuse to grant a licence if, in the opinion of the Corporation—
 - (a) the applicant is not a fit and proper person to hold a licence; or
 - (b) activity carried on under the licence would (whether individually or taken with activity under licences already granted) cause annoyance to persons making recreational use of the open space, restriction of access for such use by them or other material injury to the amenity of the open space.
39. The HPDWA have written to the Chair of the Committee (appendix 8) seeking to remove the cap on the number of Licences, and to increase the number of dogs a Professional Dog Walker can walk to five, with two dogs on lead at any one time.
40. Officers do not support increasing the number of dogs a Professional Dog Walker can walk and recognise a cap on the number of Licences granted remains critical to ensure this commercial activity does not cause annoyance to persons making recreational use of the open space, or cause material injury to the amenity of the Heath.
41. Officers note that in approving the scheme, Members stipulated that the number of the Licences issued should be kept under review. Officers will use the information gathered via the EOI to determine if a zoned approach to granting Licences would enable more than 40 full time equivalent Licences to be granted without impacting on the amenity of the Heath.

42. Therefore, it is proposed that Members agree to retain the four dog limit for Professional Dog Walkers and to support the implementation of the Licencing Scheme as set out in paragraphs 35-41.
43. Forest School Licencing (HH22) - A cap has been placed on new applications. Further monitoring to evaluate the impact of Forest School activity on the Heath is required to establish if further licences can be issued for 2022.
44. Planning (HH26) - The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications.
 - Jack Straws Castle (2020/1828/P)
 - Murphy's Yard
 - 55 Fitzroy Park (2018/3672/P)

Events

45. Unfortunately, the Affordable Art Fair event organisers have confirmed that the proposed 2021 event will not take place. A 2022 event is being considered.
46. The Leisure and Events Manager is in discussions with ParkRun regarding a potential return of events from 26 June 2021.
47. The current provisional 2021 events programme is set out below:
 - 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.
 - Hideaway Cinema - 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 September 2021.
 - Zippos Circus - 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 October 2021.

Swimming

48. 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 forms part of the meeting agenda pack.
49. The Gateway 2 Capital Project report for Safety, Access and Security at the Bathing Ponds and Lido has been approved under Urgency. A report of actions taken is included with the meeting agenda pack.
50. The Resource Allocation Sub Committee considered and approved the Gateway 2 report at their meeting on 12 May 2021.
51. The Project Sub Committee considered and approved the Gateway 2 report at their meeting on 17 May 2021.

Learning Team

52. In response to school closures and travel restrictions, the Learning Team developed a flexible learning programme which supported wellbeing and team building.
53. 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.
54. 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 re-opened on 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.

Highgate Wood Update

55. Following discussions with the Highgate Wood Consultative Group (HWCG) at their meeting on 21 April, the draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021-24 is attached at appendix 10.
56. An update on the Highgate Wood Divisional Plan projects are set out below.
57. Planning (HW15) - The Superintendent and Highgate Wood Manager have engaged with the London Borough of Haringey regarding a housing development proposal (Cranwood) in Muswell Hill which will border the Wood. The main concerns are around light pollution and potential impacts on the Wood's bat population. A number of mature trees on the site boundary may also be impacted. Moving forward, the Wood Manager will continue to liaise with the Design Team regarding the application. The Superintendent and Highgate Wood Manager have also lodged an objection to a proposed development in Lanchester Road, which has potential to cause damage to a number of trees of high conservation and heritage value in close proximity to Highgate Wood.
58. Forest School Licencing Scheme (HW13) - Forest School activities resumed in March 2021. Short Term Licenses for two Forest Schools have been issued.

Queen's Park Update

59. Following discussions with the Queen's Park Consultative Group at their meeting on 21 April, the draft Queen's Park Divisional Plan 2021-24 is attached at appendix 11.
60. An update on the Queen's Park Divisional Plan projects are set out below.
61. Sandpit (QP6) – The Park Manager will provide an update on the Sandpit project. Members are asked to grant Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve the Queen's Park Sandpit Capital Project Gateway 2.
62. Planning (QP16) – The Park Manager will provide an update on a recent planning application in relation to the proposed installation of a 5G telecoms mast within the local area.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

63. 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.
64. The projects and works outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021-22 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
65. 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

66. The 2020-21 Budget Outturn report is included within the meeting agenda pack.
67. 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)
68. Work is underway to add an additional page to seek donations towards playground refurbishments. The first £40,000 of donations received will be allocated towards the Heath Extension playground.
69. 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

70. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the sites open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

71. 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.

Legal Implications

72. No Impact.

Risk Implications

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

Equality Implications

74. Tests of Relevance: Equality Analysis will be undertaken in relation to the projects and programmes set out within this report, and where appropriate full equalities analysis will be undertaken.

Security Implications

75. 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 – Hampstead Heath AWP Projects for 2021/22.
- Appendix 2 – Highgate Wood AWP Projects for 2021/22.
- Appendix 3 – Queen’s Park AWP Projects for 2021/22.
- Appendix 4 – Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance 2021.
- Appendix 5 – Biodiversity Interpretation Boards.
- Appendix 6 – Heath Extension Playground Design Brief.
- Appendix 7 – Camden Council Dockless Bike Parking Consultation.
- Appendix 8 – Terms of Reference for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum.
- Appendix 9 – Hampstead Professional Dog Walking Association letter.
- Appendix 10 – Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021-24.
- Appendix 11 – Queen’s Park Divisional Plan 2021-24.

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