

QUEEN'S PARK CONSULTATIVE GROUP
Wednesday, 6 October 2021

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Queen's Park Consultative Group held on
Wednesday, 6 October 2021 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
William Upton QC (Deputy Chairman)
John Blandy
Karina Dostalova
Helen Durnford
Vicky Zentner

Officers:

Richard Gentry - Acting Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Abigail Tinkler - Head of Learning, Environment Department
Leanne Murphy - Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Neil Nerva, Virginia Bonham Carter, Councillor Eleanor Southwood and Councillor James Denselow.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 be approved.

4. HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members received the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 26 May 2021.

5. DRAFT MID TERM REPORT - QUEEN'S PARK CHARITY (NO. 232986)

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Environment concerning the Draft Mid Term Report for the Queen's Park Charity.

The Committee was provided with an overall update by the Acting Superintendent on activities at Queen's Park since the last meeting in April, plus planned upcoming activities.

Members received a proposal from the Acting Superintendent to reopen the Woodland Walk. Members were supportive of reopening of the walk and

advocated for minimal fencing in keeping with the area alongside the path for damaged areas where needed.

Officers confirmed the Hampstead Heath Ecologist was looking at mitigations including an idea to create compartments of fenced small areas for a period of time to help biodiversity. Dead hedging to deter visitors walking off the main path was also suggested. Officers agreed to discuss options with QPARA.

With regards to the Park's public toilet block, Members were frustrated over the length of time it was taking to move forward with this project which had been suggested by Members as to deliver health and safety improvements. Members requested the timelines from the City Surveyor's Department.

Officers confirmed the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP) funded part of the project, which included the redecoration of the exterior, replacement of flooring and tiling in the toilet blocks and white goods, would be delivered by March 2022, with the works ideally taking place during winter months when visitor numbers were lower. Should it proceed, the greening of the wall cost would be covered through the local risk budget or external funding.

Members were shown concept design options for the project which the Town Clerk agreed to share after meeting. It was acknowledged that the visibility of the toilet was the key concern and Members discussed the options of painting the wall a dark green colour, using wooden cladding or using planters and a green roof.

Officers noted concerns over using green planting in a playground environment due to children pulling out the plants and the need for long-term maintenance. The Chair did not share this concern.

Members discussed the different options available and decided they were not supportive of the green roof as this was barely visible. It was agreed that green paint was normally used for blending in which was not possible for the toilet block and white would draw too much attention. Wooden cladding in a similar fashion to the toilet block at Hampstead Heath was considered preferable for the area.

A Member suggested using the bare wall as an opportunity for a fun mural on the playground rear side. It was noted that the Savernake Bridge entrance to Hampstead Heath had recently been re-painted with artwork from local children and had been very well received. A similar approach could be taken in the Park; however, the Chair noted that the project was not cheap and that the London Borough of Camden had provided funding. Members liked the idea but were concerned that this would further delay the project. It was agreed this could be revisited after the project had been completed.

A Member noted that the Acting Superintendent was also the Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager and suggested more support was needed plus succession planning for the future. Members were advised that the Senior

Management Team ensured Queen's Park had the necessary support and roles were currently being advertised.

In response to a query concerning staff restructuring, Members were informed that this was not the appropriate forum to discuss staff and employment matters which sat within the remit of the Management Committee and the Chair agreed to share Member's concerns.

RESOLVED - that Members:-

- Provide feedback in relation to the 6-month Review of the Plans for Future Periods and Key Performance Measures for 2021-22 as set out in appendix 1.

6. TWO YEAR REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT'S LEARNING PROGRAMME 2019-21

Members noted a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Two-Year Review of the Open Spaces Department's Learning Programme 2019-21.

Members were impressed by the work and hoped for more integration locally in the future.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

7. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meetings would take place on 25 May and 5 October 2022.

The meeting ended at 3.01 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
leanne.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk