

**HIGHGATE WOOD CONSULTATIVE GROUP**  
**Wednesday, 6 October 2021**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Highgate Wood Consultative Group held on  
Wednesday, 6 October 2021 at 11.15 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Anne Fairweather (Chair)  
William Upton QC (Deputy Chairman)  
Deputy John Tomlinson  
Stephanie Beer  
Councillor Bob Hare  
Michael Hammerson

**Officers:**

Jonathan Meares - Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager  
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 Julia Ogiehor, Lucy Roots, Alison Watson, Peter Corley and Therese Gray.

2. **DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE 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 - HIGHGATE WOOD CHARITY (NO. 232986)**

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Environment concerning the Draft Mid Term Report for the Highgate Wood Charity (No. 232986).

The Committee was provided with an overall update by the Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager on activities at Highgate Wood since the last meeting in April, plus planned upcoming activities.

With regards to the Lanchester Gardens planning application, a Member stated that the Local Authority did not regard the trees as veteran and requested a definition. Officers agreed there was debate over the status of these trees which were contenders to be veteran trees and confirmed they had high heritage, biodiversity and ecological value. The City Corporation hoped that London Borough of Haringey would perform its duties and apply necessary conditions.

A Member advised that Highgate Wood was now included as part of an enlarged archaeological area which could give additional protection. It was recommended that Officers work with Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) on archaeological issues which could lead to a survey.

Members were disappointed the 2021 annual Community Heritage Day was cancelled and hoped that it could be made a bigger event in September 2022. Officers noted it was usually intentionally kept as a small, local event but acknowledged there was potential to make it larger as the last two events were not able to go ahead.

A Member enquired if more could be done to publicise Heath Hands activity locally as there were lots of ways for people to get involved. Officers confirmed a number of well attended Heath Hands sessions had taken place locally. It was agreed the Corporation's communications could be improved to ensure people had access to relevant information including local webpages linking to groups such as Heath Hands.

In response to queries, Members were advised that Forest Schools were running again with capped numbers and sessions. The sites were also being moved around to prevent the impact on the forest floor. It was noted that the café tendering process was delayed until 2022/23. There were no concerns with the current operators who were currently operating under a tenancy at will.

**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;
- Provide feedback on the 'Poetry Project', as outlined by the Highgate Wood Manager.

**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 local integration of the Education Programme in the future. Officers agreed to invite local groups to the next meeting.

**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 11.52 am**

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Chair

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