



## Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum

Tuesday 11 January 2022, 5.30pm

Online ([Meeting Recording](#))

### Attending

Anne Fairweather (Chair)	AF	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Richard Sumray	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
David Walton	DW	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Eleanor Kennedy	EK	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Mary Powell	MP	Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
David Gilbert	DGi	Highgate Men's Bathing Pond
Mike Sands	MS	Mixed Bathing Pond
Joseph Lowe	JLo	Athletics
Sandy Nairne	SN	Licensed Activity - Croquet
Richard Caylor	RC	Bowls & Croquet
Robert Gibbs	RGi	Angling
David Spero	DS	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Tennis coaching
Karin Oleinikova	KO	Heath Hands
Debbie Bush	DB	Pro-Active Camden (PAC).
Oliver Jones	OJ	Heath of Green Spaces, Camden
Ray Booth	RB	Mental Health
Jo Lynch	JLy	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Stefania Horne	SH	Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	RGG	Officer from, Hampstead Heath
Paul Maskell	PM	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	DGa	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Paul Jeal	PJ	Officer from Hampstead Heath

### Apologies

John Carrier	JC	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Simon Taylor	ST	Rugby
Dr Frankie Blackmore	FB	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Jane Myatt, GP	JM	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Cindy Galvin	CG	Trustee representing Heath Hands
Ruth Hallgarten	RH	Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Anandi Shah	AS	Licensed Activity - ParkRun
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands

## **Meeting Action Points & notes**

### Action Points of the last meeting (12.10.2021) & matters arising

#### *Angling at the Men's Pond North Bank –*

Heath Ecologist is reviewing the Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Strategy recommendations. Proposed amendments will be discussed with the Forum.

- ACTION – RGG to follow up with the Heath Conservation Manager to confirm if funding has been sought from the Environment Agency to support angling infrastructure, such as platforms. RGG will follow up with RGi in relation to funding opportunities.
- ACTION – COL to progress review of the Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetlands Strategy in relation to the recommendations relating to Angling access at the Men's Bathing Pond North Bank.

#### *Walk Talk Walk –*

RG has engaged with the event founder, who is supportive of a Hampstead Heath event. Discussions will be progressed to identify volunteer event leaders.

- ACTION – COL to provide an further update on discussions with Walk Talk Walk regarding a Hampstead Heath event at the next meeting.

#### *Camden's Health & Wellbeing strategy –*

RS noted that the first round of consultation has closed, however an updated draft was expected. Recommend that Forum members review the strategy to provide feedback.

#### *Free Morning Swim for U16 and 60+ –*

A review of the arrangements would be undertaken in due course, following the Judicial Review.

## **Parks for Health**

The Head of Green Spaces for Camden gave a presentation to update the Forum in relation to Camden's Park for Health programme, which forms part of the Future Parks Accelerator programme funded by the National Trust and GLA. Due to covid, the value of parks has been widely recognised. Strategy is being prepared to set out the future direction regards supporting Parks as Health assets.

Green Spaces Investment Programme provides funding to support 74 green spaces within Camden. The Parks for Health programme aims to target this funding to also achieve outcomes for Health. Up to 40% of households do not have direct access to private outdoor space. More information can be accessed at [www.futureparks.org.uk/camden-islington](http://www.futureparks.org.uk/camden-islington).

Opportunities for greater collaboration between Camden and the Heath will be explored moving forward.

RS Heath provides many opportunities to benefit peoples health and wellbeing, and significant opportunities in relation to supporting mental health. Also need to consider the implications of over use of the open spaces.

KO Heath Hands have funding in place to support mental health and would welcome opportunities to partnership with the programme.

- ACTION – KR to circulate Parks for Health presentation to Forum members.
- ACTION – COL to meet with Camden to discuss opportunities regards Social Prescribing.
- ACTION – Representatives from the Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds Association (HMPA) to meet on site with representatives from the Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society (HAHAS). Discussions to focus on co-use of the Bathing Pond, taking into account swimmers concerns around angling, safety and impacts on wildlife.

### **Capital Bids for Swimming & the Athletics Track**

#### Capital Bid - Athletics Track

The Capital Funding Bid application for the reconstruction of the Parliament Hill Athletics Track surface has been approved. It is proposed the works could be undertake October 2022 – Spring 2023 at the earliest.

JL requested that a specification for the works be shared with the Track Forum in advanced of tendering, as the Highgate Harriers Club may wish to propose funding additions, subject to discussion. A request for support for the Club during the closure period was discussed.

- ACTION – DG to set up a Project Board in conjunction with City of London Surveyors.
- ACTION – KR to arrange a Track Forum to discuss draft works programme.

#### Capital project - Bathing Ponds and Lido

PM provided an project update. The project architect will be undertaking a site visit this week. The Heath's Communications Officer will be supporting stakeholder engagement during the project.

### **Summer Swimming Season**

MP outlined that the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association did not support pre-booking for the Bathing Ponds.

PM confirmed that staff would apply learning from 2020 and 2021 and continue to support swimmers in accessing the Bathing Ponds and Lido. The proposals draw on learning from 2020 and 2021 and feedback from Lifeguards, and ensure the Bathing Ponds and Lido do not become overwhelmed during busy periods.

DGi outlined that the HMPA did not support pre-booking and were concerned around the impacts on social aspects of swimming at the Bathing Pond. Controls should be based around the weather and temperature.

PJ confirmed that the cap on swimmers in the water was linked to the ratio of Lifeguards to Swimmers, and did not relate to the size of the Bathing Ponds.

JLo was disappointed that Lido evening swimming was adult lane swimming only. PJ outlined that there was a range of session types proposed throughout the day to provide as many opportunities for swimming as possible.

MS welcomed the additional swimming hours at the Mixed Bathing Pond. Season Ticket holders may book session tickets, but not cancel then when they decide not to swim.

AF noted Tooting Bec Lido charges Season Ticket holders a small fee if they did not use or cancel their bookings.

### **Fees & Charges (Sports & Leisure) 2022/23**

AF noted feedback had been received from ST relating to the impact of fee increases on Hampstead Rugby Club.

RS suggested that the cost for pitch hire and changing room hire combined may be considered when proposing fee increases.

### **Social Prescribing / Health Connections**

PM confirmed that a meeting to progress Health Connections had been postponed due to concerns around Covid, and meeting in an indoor environment.

- ACTION – KR to share updates from Camden via meeting action points.

### **Updates from Camden**

- The **Camden Social Prescribing Group** is continuing to develop it's focus and work, we've connected with Paul and Heath Hands colleagues and are developing links to relevant colleagues to help progress this work. For those who are interested in how this work has been developed/delivered in Camden to date – may find the following documents/information useful:

*“Social prescribing can help connect people with services and activities to support their overall health and wellbeing. Age UK Camden and Voluntary Action Camden (VAC) deliver the Care Navigation, Community Connectors and Community Links services. Age UK and VAC wrote a report after the first three months of the pandemic emergency response and have now published an [update to the report](#) which demonstrates how the Care Navigation and Social Prescribing services have adapted and the resident impact. Ageing Better in Camden have also published a report on how community connectors are supporting older people who were advised to shield at the start of the pandemic to get back out into their communities. The full report can be accessed on [their website](#).”*

- Work is continuing to develop the **Health & Wellbeing Strategy** (H&WBS). Pro-Active Camden have provided feedback relating to sport and physical activity. If colleagues from the Forum wish to provide feedback relating to this please contact: Deborah Bush initially: [deborah.bush@camden.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.bush@camden.gov.uk), who will link with relevant colleagues. Link to the - [Draft Camden Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-30.pdf](#)
- **Strategic Focus on Children & young people.** There is no Camden update at this time.

- Colleagues may be interested in the latest **Sport England Children and Young People Active Lives Survey 2020/21 data** published in December. The annual survey provides the most comprehensive insight and data into the physical activity levels of children and young people (aged 5-16) across England. The full report – available [here](#) – covers the 2020/21 academic year.
  - Active: 44.6% (-0.3%)
  - Fairly Active: 23% (-0.8%)
  - Less Active: 32.4% (+0.9%)
- London Sport have created a news article [here](#).
- Sport England's news article can be found [here](#).
- For more information on London's Active Lives data for Children and Young People, [click here](#).
- The full data tables can be found [here](#).

## **AOB**

### Give it a go/ Taster sessions

- ACTION – Clubs/Associations able to support Give it a go to get are encouraged to get in touch with the Leisure & Events Manager.

EK confirmed that this would be her last meeting, due to stepping down as Chair of the PHLUG. The group has grown in membership from 40 to 700+ since EK has been involved in the group. Thanks were given to PJ and PM for their support over many years. Thanks and well wishes were given by Forum members.

AF confirmed that she would not be standing in the upcoming City Elections, and would be stepping down as Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and of the Sports & Wellbeing Forum. Thanks were given to AF for her support as Chair of the Forum.

### Date of the next meeting

- ACTION - KR to circulate next meeting date options to Members.