

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 24/01/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Superintendent's Update	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 &amp; 12</b>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	<b>NA</b>
If so, how much?	<b>NA</b>
What is the source of Funding?	<b>Local Risk</b>
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	<b>NA</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Executive Director, Environment	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Stefania Horne, Superintendent	

### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since November 2021.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park proposals set out in appendix 2.
- Provide feedback on the draft Annual Work Programme Projects for 2022-23 (appendix 4).
- Provide feedback on the Mosaic Proposal, as outlined in paragraph 15-20 and appendix 5.
- Provide feedback on the draft spring-autumn 2022 swimming proposals (appendix 6).
- Provide feedback on the Greater London Authority proposal to install a drinking fountain at South End Green, as set out in paragraphs 26-30 and appendix 7 and 8.

### Main Report

#### Coronavirus Emergency Response and Issues

1. A number of Covid-19 control measures remain in place across public and staff facilities, in line with guidance.

## **Management Framework**

### Divisional Plan

2. The Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-24 (appendix 1) sets out the current position in relation to project work being undertaken across the Division.
3. Officers would like to draw Members attention to the following Divisional Plan projects:
4. Planning (HH26) – A verbal update on current planning application will be provided at the meeting.
5. Golders Hill Accessible Car Park (HH23) – A draft options appraisal report has been prepared (appendix 2). Officers are supportive of recommendations 1 & 2 as set out within the report. Members feedback on the proposals are welcomed.
6. Dog walking code of conduct and the Professional Dog Walking Licencing Scheme (HH20) - The Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee have in principle approved the Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and the application process. The scheme will come into effect on 1 April 2022 with the new financial year. A zoned approach has been adopted and the number of licences issued per zone will be capped. Due to environmental, and/or other impacts, there may restriction as to where dogs can be walked within each zone. Members can view the zoned map at appendix 3.
7. The longstanding tenant at the Golders Hill Refreshment House Café has now retired from the business, terminating his lease arrangement with the City of London Corporation. The café is currently being run on a tenancy at will. A condition survey of all Divisional cafes will be completed prior to the café leases (HH19) being advertised and submission of interests received. It was agreed by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park committee that new lease arrangements would come in to effect in January 2023

### Annual Work Programme (AWP)

8. The draft Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme Projects 2022-23 is attached at appendix 4. Members feedback is welcomed.

### **Cyclical Works Programme (CWP)**

9. Upcoming CWP works include:
  - Parliament Hill Paddling Pool – wall and pool repairs.
  - Pergola structure safety monitoring

### **Capital Projects**

10. A Capital Funding application of £2m for reconstruction of the track surface and associated works has been approved in full by the City of London Policy and Resources Committee. A Project Board will be established in early 2022.

## **Network Rail – Fence Replacement**

11. Network Rail will commence works to replace the fencing from the Lido entrance to the One O'clock Club in late January /early February. Works will take 3 weeks and a licence has been drawn up in relation to the works compound and materials storage area. The works will be closely monitored to ensure tree protection and public safety conditions are strictly adhered to.

## **Biodiversity Boards**

12. A small group comprised of has been formed to draft a new series of biodiversity boards for 2022 themed on Hampstead Heath as 'London's Wildest Place'. The boards will focus on the Heath's mosaic of habitats and their wildlife, how they have changed over time, their vulnerability due to visitor pressure and how everyone can contribute towards their protection and conservation for the future.

## **Events**

13. The Leisure and Events Manager will provide a verbal update in relation to Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre (27 November 2021 - 3 January 2022).
14. Upcoming events on the Heath:
  - The English National Cross Country Championships (26 February).
  - Showman's Guild Easter Fair (9-18 April).

## **Mosaic Proposal – Parliament Hill Fields.**

15. Officers have been approached by the London's only Mosaic School, the London School of Mosaic (LSoM), regarding a proposal to install a Mosaic Map (appendix 5) of Hampstead Heath at location on Parliament Hill.
16. One of the goals of LSoM is to highlight the historical and cultural significance of mosaic works in the UK from Roman times to the contemporary era including their huge popularity in the Victorian era. We would place this project in the continuum of that history at the heart of historic Hampstead Heath.
17. The illustrated Map, which is proposed (subject to further discussion) to be in the region of 5m x 4m, would be installed at an appropriate agreed location on the Heath. Initial thoughts are either on the ground (a pavement mosaic) near to one of the entrances to the Heath or near the Parliament Hill café. A benefit of laying the mosaic as a pavement is that it would be interactive enabling adults and children to walk and 'tour' the Heath in miniature, ensuring that they are inspired to explore further. Alternatively, it could be installed on a vertical brick wall on the Parliament Hill Garage wall adjacent to the office complex or other appropriate pre-existing wall (a wall mosaic). We are focusing on the South of the Heath purely because it is adjacent to LSoM on Mansfield Road (just across the railway bridge from the Heath to Savernake Rd), however any appropriate location on the Heath would be possible.
18. In line with the purpose of the Funding Grant the map project's means of connecting the community to the Heath, including those who do not currently visit the heath, is manifold.

- a. The map would be to-scale and identify the main paths and features on the Heath thereby being a practical addition to the Heath and inspiring further exploration of the Heath. It is a very direct way to engage with the Heath as it quite literally sends visitors to its far-flung corners and delights.
  - b. It is intended that significant natural feature of the Heath, such as the flora and fauna of the Heath, be depicted in the design and labelled to serve as an aid to identifying species and educating the readers of the map.
  - c. Once completed it would be a destination cultural asset.
  - d. If community involvement is desirable, over the course of the fabrication LSoM would invite the local adult community (including vulnerable adults) and possibly high school groups to join workshops and tutorials to work on the fabrication of the mosaic.
  - e. Fabrication would take place locally at LSoM in Mansfield Rd and it would be possible to run workshops either at the LSoM or from time-to-time on site on the Heath (for example at the café or utilising an existing workroom).
19. The map is intended to have longevity. We believe that it may become as much loved as a place to visit as the playgrounds, the bandstand and sporting fields, the swimming ponds and of course the wilder meadows, fields and woods of the Heath. We hope that it will become a local favourite as well as a London-wide destination to see some of the highest quality contemporary mosaic work being produced in the UK.
20. City Corporation Officers are supportive of this proposal and seek the views of this committee on a suitable agreed location for the installation of a mosaic map at Parliament Hill Fields. It is suggested by Officers that the Mosaic should be installed at the entrance to the Heath from Highgate Road.

### **2022 Summer-Autumn Swimming Season**

21. The proposed swimming arrangements for 2022 are set out in appendix 6. The proposals incorporate learning from the 2020 and 2021 swimming seasons, feedback from Lifeguards, and feedback from a user survey conducted between 5 November - 5 December 2021, which received 2,079 responses.
22. As part of the user survey we asked swimmers to rate their experiences of the free flow and pre-booked sessions at the Bathing Ponds and Lido. Free flow sessions received an average rating of 4.35/5 (from 1,733 responses) while pre-booked sessions received an average rating of 4.01/5 (from 1,789 responses). Support for retaining both free flow and pre-booked sessions was received as part of a free text response question in the survey.

23. A mix of free flow and pre-booked sessions are proposed to provide flexibility whilst ensuring the Bathing Ponds and Lido are not overwhelmed during peak hours on hot days.
24. The proposals were discussed with the Sports & Wellbeing Forum at their meeting on 11 January 2022. Members views are welcomed.
25. A review of the 2021-22 swimming season will be undertaken in March/April and a draft annual review will be presented to Members for feedback in May 2022. A summary of the user survey will be set out in the annual report.

### **Greater London Authority - Bottle Filler Proposal**

26. The Mayor of London and Thames Water have formed a partnership to install over 100 drinking fountains across London, as part of the Mayor of London's initiative to reduce on single use bottles and encourage people to use refillable bottles.
27. The City of London have been approached by the Greater London Authority regards a proposal to install a drinking fountain adjacent to the Hampstead Heath Cathedral Entrance, opposite Hampstead Heath Overground Station. Due to underground services, installation outside the station and on the opposite footpath are restrictive.
28. A map showing a possible location drinking fountain can be found at appendix 7. Details of the proposed design are set out in appendix 8. Members views on the proposals are welcomed.
29. The fountain supplier would be required to provide continued scheduled sanitisation visits, support and aftersales service for 25 years subject to satisfactory performance reviews.
30. Officers seek the views of Members in relation to the proposal.

### **Netflix Benches**

31. Netflix have donated a 'bench of hope' to the Heath in partnership with the mental health charity, Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM). The bench is inscribed 'hope is everything', and will be located opposite the café at Parliament Hill Fields for three months as part of the campaign.

### **Cycle Bursts**

32. The Camden Safer Streets Team have been back in contact with the Hampstead Heath Management Team, and a proposal for a single route cycle burst pilot on the Heath is expected to be received in late January. The most likely location for this will be the path running from the Lido car park to the junction on the Broadwalk close to the Bandstand. Officers will consult Members of the Consultative Committee in relation to the updated proposals.

## **Picture the City Exhibition**

33. The Model Boating Pond features in a new digital exhibition curated by the Bank of England Museum. The exhibition brings together eight landscape paintings from the Bank of England Museum's collection, showing the beautiful scenery historic London has to offer. The painting of the Heath shows a view of the Ponds and a sign has been located by the Model Boating Pond with a QR code to the virtual exhibition. The exhibition runs until 20 March 2022 and can be viewed at: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/whatson/2022/picture-the-city>

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

34. 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.
35. The projects and works outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2020-21 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
36. 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

37. Donations are currently being sought for the following projects:
- Hampstead Heath Extension Playground (£40,000)
  - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000). The Trees and Conservation Officer and Heath Ecologist are also drafting an application to the London Wildlife Trust's Rewilding London Fund for works to install additional reed beds and protect the island at the Model Boating Pond.
  - Bird and mammal shelters (£5,000)
38. Donations can be made via the City of London website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>

## Resource Implications

39. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the Heath open, safe, accessible and secure.

## Climate Implications

40. 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. This will be the main objective at Hampstead Heath in the short term, especially following the impact of exceptionally high number of visitors due to COVID-19.

#### Legal Implications

41. No Impact.

#### Risk Implications

42. There is a risk that works and staff resources could be further impacted by COVID-19. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register

#### Equality Implications

43. No Impact.

#### Security Implications

44. 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 – Divisional Plan 2021-24 – January 2022 update,
- Appendix 2 – Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park – Options Appraisal.
- Appendix 3 – Professional Dog Walking Licence – Zoned Map
- Appendix 4 – Draft Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme Projects 2022-23.
- Appendix 5 – Mosaic Proposal.
- Appendix 6 – 2022 Spring-Autumn Swimming Proposals.
- Appendix 7 – Great London Council / Thames Water - Water Fountain Proposal - Location.
- Appendix 8 – Great London Council / Thames Water - Water Fountain Proposal – Design.

#### **Stefania Horne**

Superintendent, Environment Department.

T: 020 7332 3322

E: [stefania.horne@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:stefania.horne@cityoflondon.gov.uk)