

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	Date(s): 9 February 2022
Subject: Superintendent's 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?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Information
Report author: Stefania Horne, Superintendent	

Summary

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

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

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) – Officers are preparing an official response to the Murphy's Yard outline planning application. The response will highlight the value of

Hampstead Heath as an important area of London's green infrastructure in line with Greater London Authorities' All London Green Grid policy framework and the rewilding agendas within London's living landscapes.

5. There are clear opportunities to work together with Camden in shaping the development so that Hampstead Heath can maximise its value as green infrastructure but there are concerns that will be noted in the City of London Corporation's representation.
6. The application indicatively arranged 18 buildings ranging in height. The majority of buildings are 5-8 storey and the site does not lie within the strategic viewing corridor from Parliament Hill, however parts of the development rise to 18 storeys and are imposing and change the dynamics of the views. The main concern is intensification. The application submission on the whole does not consider the impacts of the development on the Heath as a result of the development – potentially 2000 new residents, and 3,600 workers - and there are clear implications in relation to access, usage and impact on infrastructure that will need to be highlighted and identified as areas for discussions with the developer and the London Borough of Camden. This will be the focus of work with officers in the next few weeks and months.
7. 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 2.
8. 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.

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 by the City of London Finance Committee. A Gateway 1 report will be prepared to enable a Project Board to 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 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 Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre, which ran at the East Heath Fairground site between 27 November 2021 - 3 January 2022 was well received by Heath users.
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, regarding a proposal to install a Mosaic Map of Hampstead Heath at location on Parliament Hill. Officers will consider the proposal following the completion of the Parliament Hill feasibility study linked to the Parliament Hill Master Plan.

Greater London Authority - Bottle Filler Proposal

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee visited the proposed location of the drinking fountain at their walk on 22 January 2022, and did not support the proposals.
19. Officers do not support the installation of the drinking fountain on Hampstead Heath.

Netflix Benches

20. 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

21. 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 February. 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

22. 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/whats-on/2022/picture-the-city>

Corporate & Strategic Implications

23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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

26. 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)
- Queen's Park Sandpit and Playground Improvements (£100,00)

27. 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> & <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/queens-park/donate-to-us>

Resource Implications

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

Climate Implications

29. 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

30. No impact.

Risk Implications

31. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

32. No impact.

Security Implications

33. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Divisional Plan 2021-24 – January 2022 update
- Appendix 2 – Professional Dog Walking Licence – Zoned Map

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