

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	09/05/2022
Subject: Epping Forest - Superintendent's Update for December 2021 to March 2022 (SEF 13/22)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	City's Cash Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Y
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment Department	For Information
Report author: Paul Thomson – Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

This purpose of this report is to summarise the Epping Forest Division's activities across December 2021 to March 2022, with the longer reporting period reflecting the cancellation of the March Committee.

Of particular note was the impact of Storm Eunice on the Forest, the success of car parking charge income predictions, a successful hosted workshop for the DEFRA Animal Welfare Committee on fenceless grazing technology, representations in favour of the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation at the London Borough of Waltham Forest Local Plan Examination in Public, the successful installation of 73 grant-supported cycle racks worth £9,000 to encourage sustainable visiting, a £40,000 grants towards establishing a sustainable urban drainage scheme at Wanstead Park and the continued financial success of Chingford Golf Course which achieved the number one position in Essex for online booking.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Staff & volunteers

1. Staff continue to cover a range of vacancies associated with the Target Operating Model (TOM) recruitment restrictions with eleven vacant posts and a further six posts fortunately covered by casual staff drawn from Epping Forest volunteers. The Head of Conservation left for a new role outside the organisation on 31 January and the Safety and Assets Officer transferred to a new role of Building Surveyor on the 4 March with the City Surveyors Project Team.

Budget

2. At the end of the 21-22 financial year, early indications are of an approximate 0.1% overspend (£3,200 against a net budget of £2,459,000) but this is still subject to year-end processes and audit.
3. A dashboard is being drawn up which will show in more detail key financial information such as income against projects and financial risks.

Weather

4. Following a very wet October, and dry November, the Forest has remained exceptionally wet through the winter with average rainfall in December and further heavy rainfall in February, alongside a dry January and March.
5. The highest December rainfall in 2021 was recorded on the 24th with 22 mm of rain. There were 11 days recorded of no rainfall. The total rainfall recorded in the month was 70.2 mm. This total is above what was recorded during the period of 1979-2009, in which the average total rainfall in December was 54.11 mm. Since 2010, the year 2021 was the 7th wettest year.
6. The highest January rainfall days was 6.2 mm, recorded on the 5th and 8th of the month. There was a total of 12 days of rainfall in the month and the average daily rainfall was 0.74 mm. The total rainfall of 0.74 mm is the lowest recorded from 2010 and significantly below of the period 1979 – 2009 in which the average was 63.24 mm.
7. The highest rainfall day in February was seen on the 15th with 11.4 mm. In total there was 16 recorded days of rainfall. Since 2010, this year saw the 4th wettest month and the total was above the average of 1979-2009. The total rainfall this year was 63 mm.
8. The highest rainfall day In March was recorded on the 2nd with 2.8 mm. There was a total of 11 days of rainfall throughout the month. The daily average rainfall was 14 mm which is lower than the 1979-2009 average of 40.45 mm. Since

2010, the year of 2022 has recorded the second lowest totals, with only 2011 having less.

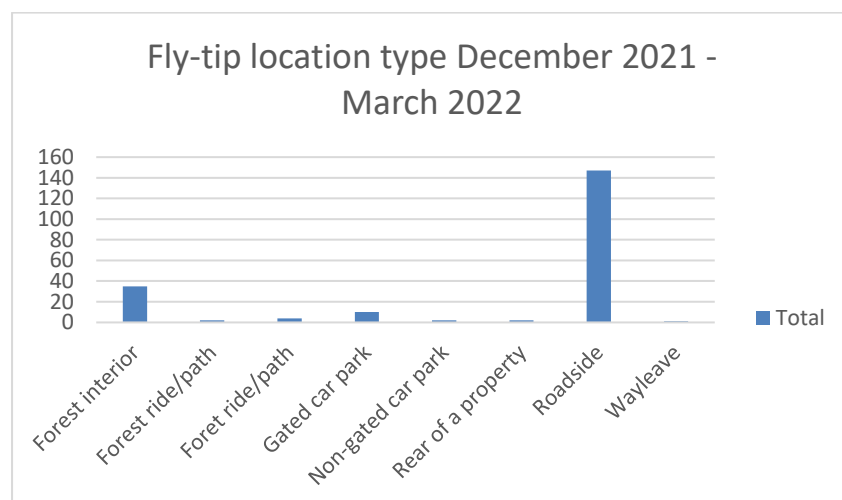
Winter Storms

9. While the Forest experienced strong winds associated with Storm Bara (7-8 December) and Storms Malik and Corrie (29-31 January) there was minimal impact on the Forest. February, however, was dominated by the arrival of Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin across 19-21 February. Following the issue of a rare Red 'Danger to Life' Alert on 18 February for Storm Eunice, car parks across the Forest were closed in line with the Charity's Severe Weather Policy. Staff were out in force during the Storm, working alongside the Police and Highway Authorities, focussing on keeping the roads open and safe. Arborists cleared 30 large trees across roads, including some challenging technical fells, whilst Forest Keepers dealt with numerous smaller trees. While the hazardous trees assessments had minimised the risk of tree failure, this was still the worst storm Epping Forest had experienced in the past ten years, with subsequent tree falls over the following two weeks.

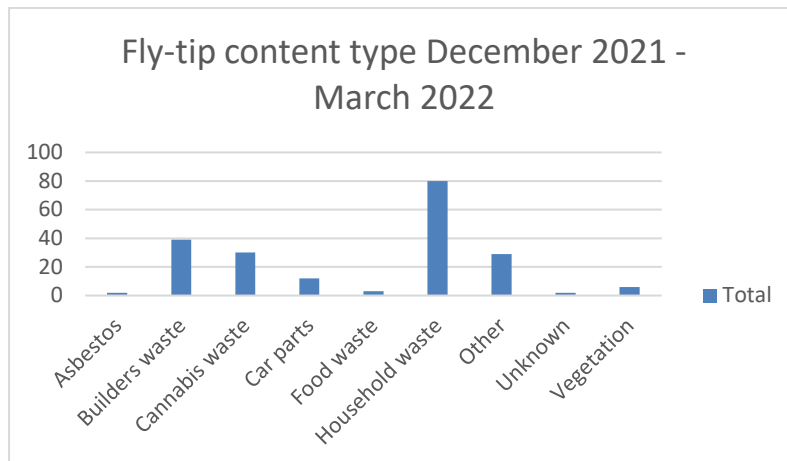
Forest Services

Fly-tipping

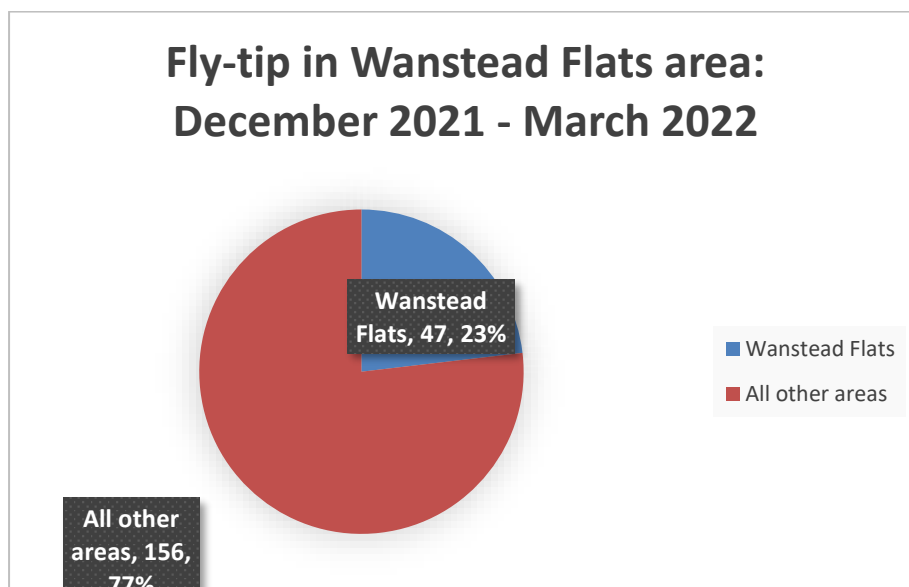
10. There was a total of 204 fly-tips recorded over the period of December 2021 – March 2022, this is a 31% increase over the same period in 2020. This may be due to the existing restrictions on household waste centres and other factors such as changes in household consumption, travel and leisure patterns.



11. Roadside locations represented 72% of the tip locations over the period.



12. Household waste represented the largest category of items tipped over the period at 80 (39%), while 'Other waste' (concrete, polystyrene, wires etc.) represented 29 tips (14%).



13. There were 47 fly-tips in the Wanstead Flats area over the period which represents 23% of all tips. 29 of these tips were on Forest Land adjacent to Highway Land on Capel Road.

Enforcement Activity

14. Five Prosecutions were undertaken during the period under report. A further five Reparative Cautions totalling £1,434 and one written warning were also issued.

Date	Defendant Name	Offence Accepted 33:Deposit 34:Duty of Care	Court Name	Costs Recovered
23/12/2021	SVENDSEN, Cheyenne	Byelaw 3 (36&39)	Chelmsford	Fine £200 Costs £200 V/S £34
25/01/2022	Alan Wilkinson	Sec 1 (1) Criminal Damage	Barkingside	Cost £800
03/03/2022	JURESCHI, Andrei Robert	EPA 33 1(a)	Chelmsford	Fine £576 costs £340 v/s £58
03/03/2022	NUNES. Tony	EPA 33 1(a)	Chelmsford	Fine £769 costs £340 v/s £77
22/03/2022	MENEZES DE CEITA, A	EPA 33 1(a)	Barkingside	6 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years. 220 hours unpaid work as directed by the Probation Service costs of £1813:00 Victim surcharge £128
Total Costs Awarded to Epping Forest (Including Compensation)			£3,493	

Licences

15. A total of 29 licences were issued during December 2021 and January 2022 and yielded £12,982.50 compared to 21 licences were issued during the same period in 2020/21 yielding an income of £7,254.50. During February and March 2022, 51 licences were issued generating £46,463.74 compared to 36 licences were issued during the same period in 2021 yielding an income of £38,618.

Unexplained Deaths

16. There have been three unexplained deaths reported over this period, with the Head Forest Keeper having lodged the Charity's interest with the coroner for attendance at Inquests in due course.

- 15/02/22 –Eagle Pond
- 14/03/22 –Wanstead Flats
- 30/03/22 –Knighton Woods

Rough Sleepers

17. There have been eight rough sleeper encampments located during the reporting period. All rough sleepers continue to be managed in partnership with Local Authorities through the No Second Night Out (NSNO) protocols.

- 02/12/21 – Deershelter Plain
- 23/12/21 – Loughton Camp
- 23/12/21 – Bush Road, E11
- 31/12/21 – Lower Forest
- 10/01/22 – Powells Forest, Buckhurst Hill
- 28/02/22 – Whipps Cross Road
- 15/03/22 – Aldersbrook Road, E12
- 21/03/22 – Aldersbrook Road, E12

18. In 2021, there were 46 reported cases of rough sleepers in comparison to 63 in 2020. Within this reporting period there have been eight reports of rough sleepers in comparison to 2021 where there were nine reported cases over the same period.

Unauthorised Occupations

19. There have been two reports of traveller incursions during this reporting period.

- 24/02/22 – B1393 junction with Woodside
- 15/03/22 – Capel Road

20. There have been no reported Unlicensed Music Events (UMEs) on Forest Land.

Dog Incidents

21. There has been one recorded dog-related incident during this reporting period:

- 02/02/22 – Blandford Crescent, E4. Report of an attack on a deer.

Deer Vehicle Collisions

22. Epping Forest staff dealt with a total of 15 deer vehicle collisions (DVC) during this reporting period:

- 30/12/21 – Bell Common by traffic lights
- 05/01/22 – Epping High Road
- 06/01/22 – West side of Epping New Road B1393
- 07/01/22 – Southbound A104 100m from Wake Valley car park
- 17/01/22 – Epping New Road B1393 north of Lodge Road

- 21/01/22 – Epping New Road approx. 100m north of Lodge Road
- 14/02/22 – Woodredon Hill
- 26/02/22 – Bell Common roadside
- 02/03/22 – Epping New Road B1393 by cricket club
- 02/03/22 – Chingford Golf Course, third hole
- 03/03/22 – Just off Robin Hood roundabout
- 23/03/22 – Epping Road B181 near Coopersale Road junction
- 29/03/22 – Roadside near Wake Valley car park
- 29/03/22 – Near Bell Common cricket ground entrance
- 30/03/22 – In the forest near Forest Side

23. A serious road traffic incident took place on 7 January on Woodgreen Road, between Upshire Road and Honey Lane (A121). A delivery van was in collision with two riders hacking towards Epping Forest on the public highway resulting in serious injury to both riders, together with fatal injuries to the horses which had to be put down. The Charity has made representations to the Highway Authority regarding speed restrictions and signage on Woodgreen Road.

Car Park Charging Scheme

24. Income from Phase I and II car parking charging schemes have continued to raise income for reinvestment in the Forest in line with projections.

	Hourly P&D Income** £	Permit Income £	Penalty Notices £
December	£26,119.48	£2,310.17	£1,899
January	£37,304.55	£3,753.77	£2,603.16
February	£23,172.97	£2,189.87	£1,637.64
March	£32,283.17	£1,684.20	£2,151.72

** Hourly P&D income includes income from the RingGo systems and car payment machines at High Beach (collected by Horizon).

Cumulative net income from the scheme currently stands at £379,812.84 as of 31 March 2022.

Heritage; Landscape and Nature Conservation

Climate Action Strategy

25. Natural Environment staff have worked in depth with Land Use Consultants on the feasibility study looking at the current and potential carbon sequestration land management opportunities offered by all Natural Environment Division sites. This work will be completed shortly.

26. Details on the potential Copped Hall Park sequestration, biodiversity and heritage restoration project continue to be developed including the production of an agronomy report assessing the condition of the land.

Agri-environment Schemes

27. In-house teams have worked on 435 veteran tree since the start of the grant in 2020 out of a projected total of 2,182, with 115 completed in January and February 2022 alone. The main habitat work will start with grass cutting in summer and volunteer groups continue to deliver contributing habitat work all year round with 20 tasks being undertaken by the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers between December and March 2022.
28. The preparation for three further Countryside Stewardship applications for Wanstead Park, the second half of Epping Forest and the Buffer Lands are fully underway. To maximise grant income this work is being undertaken jointly between the Conservation, Operations and Visitors Services teams.

Grazing

29. Epping Forest hosted a workshop for the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), which advises DEFRA on animal welfare matters, to help further the AWC's understanding of the practical use of collar containment technology. Epping Forest was chosen due to it being the first and longest running site using fenceless technology in the UK, and collectively across multiple Natural Environment Division sites. City of London officers have pioneered and disseminated practical knowledge of its use and implementation in conservation grazing management. Presentations and Q&A were given by staff from Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches and City Commons. The day included a site visit to see cattle winter grazing on the Forest and the handling and winter housing facilities at Great Gregories Yard.
30. An article published by the Observer and featured in the Guardian highlighted the benefits of technology in grazing management on the historic Landscape of Epping Forest.

Heritage

31. Dates for summer opening of The Temple, Wanstead Park, have been confirmed for May to September 2022. Free flow opening of Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge will recommence after COVID-19 constraints in April. Promotion of the Forest's two Iron Age hillforts will recommence via charged guided walks from April. See also sections on Wanstead Park below.

Forest Protection and planning matters

Town & Country Planning – Local Plans

32. **Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Local Plan:** The Inspector's Report is now not likely to be available by the end of March as previously suggested. The Inspector is continuing to consider the responses to the main modification consultation, and her findings will be published in due course.
33. **London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) Local Plan:** LBWF Local Plan Part 1: Examination in Public took place between the 15th and 23rd March. LBWF

at time of examination had still not completed documents covering Air Quality Mitigation Strategy and Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) for the lifetime of the plan. The Inspectors heard representations from the Epping Forest Charity and Natural England (NE), but sadly the Lee valley regional park were absent. The Inspectors have direct LWF Officer to continue their discussions with the Charity and NE regarding increasing the mitigation certainty in relation to the two outstanding strategies.

34. **London Borough of Enfield (LBE) Local Plan:** Consultation closed on 13 September 2021 at 11:59pm. The responses received are being analysed by the Local Planning Authority and used to inform the next stages of plan preparation.

Town & Country Planning – Development Control

35. In EFDC' area 7 objections were made, as follows:

- EPF210321 – Increase in parking provision at Sainsburys Depot Waltham Abbey
- EPF328221 – 38 Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey – 14 dwellings.
- EPF002822 – 140 High Street Epping – 20 dwellings.
- EPF005022 – 33-34 Fairlands Avenue, BHH – 2 dwellings (176m from SAC&SSSI)
- EPF296621 – 64-66 High Street, Epping – 2 dwellings (no amenity space)
- EPF033222 – Rosario, High Road, Thornwood – 62 dwellings (has created own amenity space but is in an area with minimal public green space).
- EPF/0236/22 - 76 Algers Road, Loughton – 6 dwellings – previously refused due to location of SAC.

NEXT Plc, Dowding Way – Appeal to Planning Inspectorate. Conservators have submitted further comment but will not be standing as Rule 6 Party.

Land Registration, Access Audit & Wayleaves

36. No further Land Registrations were made during the period.

Operations

Wanstead Park

37. Stone masons from London Stone Conservation commenced works on the restoration of the landing stage on the lake side of The Grotto at Wanstead Park. The Grade II Georgian Folly was added to the Heritage at Risk Register in in 2021. The works are being undertaken as part of a partnership with the Heritage of London Trust (HOLT) who have contributed £10,000 alongside a further £14,000 secured from the City Corporation's Central Funds Grant scheme. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester as both Royal Patron of HOLT and Ranger of Epping Forest visited to see the Grotto works in progress on 6th April 2022.

38. The City Surveyor has organised improved storage facility for the rescued stonework from the deteriorating façade of the Grotto. An onsite store was constructed for the majority of the stonework with a more secure store established in a building nearby for the more 'distinctive' stones, typically older

'recycled' stonework with carved features. A new acquisition added to the store was the torso of the statue of Andromeda that was found while the stonemasons worked on the landing stage. The bottom half of the Andromeda statue is already on display in the Temple.

River Roding Habitat enhancement works

39. The London waterways charity Thames 21 ran habitat creation sessions during March with volunteers along the River Roding that runs alongside the eastern boundary with Wanstead Park. It involved the Epping Forest Arborist teams felling approximately 10 trees which would have otherwise been removed, instead they were levered into the river, and then secured in place by Thames 21 staff and volunteers over 6 sessions. The felled trees will provide greater flow diversity in the river and provide areas where young fish can shelter.

Queens Green Canopy

40. To mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum (70-year) Jubilee a Field Maple tree was planted on the meadow at Gifford Wood on 19 March. The tree was kindly supplied by a private sponsor of the Queens Greens Canopy (QGC) Mr Andrew Wigmore. The planting was undertaken in association with Royal Commonwealth Society with who the Charity will planting a Commonwealth Grove later this year as part of the City Corporation's support for the QGC celebrations.

Wanstead Flats

41. Grassland team and Contractors completed the clearance of overmature broom across parts of Wanstead Flats that had been damaged by the fire of 2018. The broom being highly flammable was an increasing fire risk and its clearance was part of the decarbonisation component of the wildfire management program on the Flats.
42. The fenced skylark protection area was repaired and reinstated for a second year following its success in 2021. The short life span of the plastic netting means that it is likely that it will need replacing if we are to continue with the fencing of protection areas. Local volunteers from the WREN group have helped considerably in repairing the fence and undertaking information sessions about the skylarks

Insurance works

43. Following notification of householder claims in Woodford, tree root barriers have been installed along the boundary of three adjacent residences identified as having tree related subsidence. The installation of these have helped safeguard a significant old oak tree and reduced the risk of further subsidence claims from the properties concerned. The root barrier installation should last indefinitely and is intended to reduce the City Corporation's liability for future subsidence damage claims.

Risk Management Works

44. Tree Safety: There is still a significant backlog in completing notified tree safety works due to continuing staffing recruitment constraints. In March, contractors were appointed to help progress higher priority works alongside the busier roads and to undertake dead elm clearance along the Crooked Mile (B194), which was a difficult task requiring traffic management along a particularly fast narrow road.

The necessity of increasing the focus on reducing the backlog will reduce the time available for wider project work by the arborist team.

Access Works

45. During the 'quiet' winter period when grass growth is restricted by low temperatures, the EF grassland team have visited all the main entrances to the Forest and have undertaken woody vegetation management to open these up and improve sightlines. The team have also cut back woody vegetation along the Knighton Wood all ability trail to restore the route to more open accessible conditions.
46. Work has started on the installation of the new waymarked trail based on Golding Hill Pond. The trail has been sponsored by Hasslers in Loughton and is scheduled for completion at the end of April. The initial works involved opening the new route and installing waymarking signage.

Visitor Services

Learning and Education

Field Studies Council

Month	Visitor Numbers - primary and secondary schools - community groups and activities - adult learning
Jan 2022	395
Feb 2022	855
Mar 2022	1,535

47. The Field Studies Council High Beach centre continues to deliver successful primary and secondary school geography and science trips, community activities for families and youth groups and a natural history programme for adults. Following a reduction in numbers in 2020/2021 due to COVID-19, 2022 bookings are now looking more positive, though are yet to reach pre-pandemic levels.

Chingford Golf Course

48. Total income generated from green fees and shop related sales amounted to £42,919.00 for December, January, February & March compared to £16,518.00 in 2021, an increase of £26,401. This was largely due to closure in January, February and majority of March last year where play was restricted during the third National Lockdown.
49. Online bookings, on the course's dedicated website, increased this financial year compared to the previous year by £15,010. The golf course is now rated number one for online bookings on GolfNow within Essex - out of 53 courses. In the first quarter of 2022, Chingford Golf Course was seven times higher than the average across the county for online bookings.
50. Ground staff have been carrying out regular cutting requirements when the weather allowed to tee, fairways, rough, aprons and greens in order to keep the

course set up for play. A new drain alongside the 12th tee was installed helping to prevent the turf from flooding in wetter months. Two tees were rebuilt on hole 12 & 18 along with adding new irrigation to help produce better quality playing surfaces for visitors. The greens were treated 3 times with turf hardener to help prevent any winter disease. Tree pruning work was carried out on every hole to help staff when operating machinery when out cutting along with pace of play for visitors. New tee information signs were added on every hole along with new directional signage out on the course to help direct new visitors around.

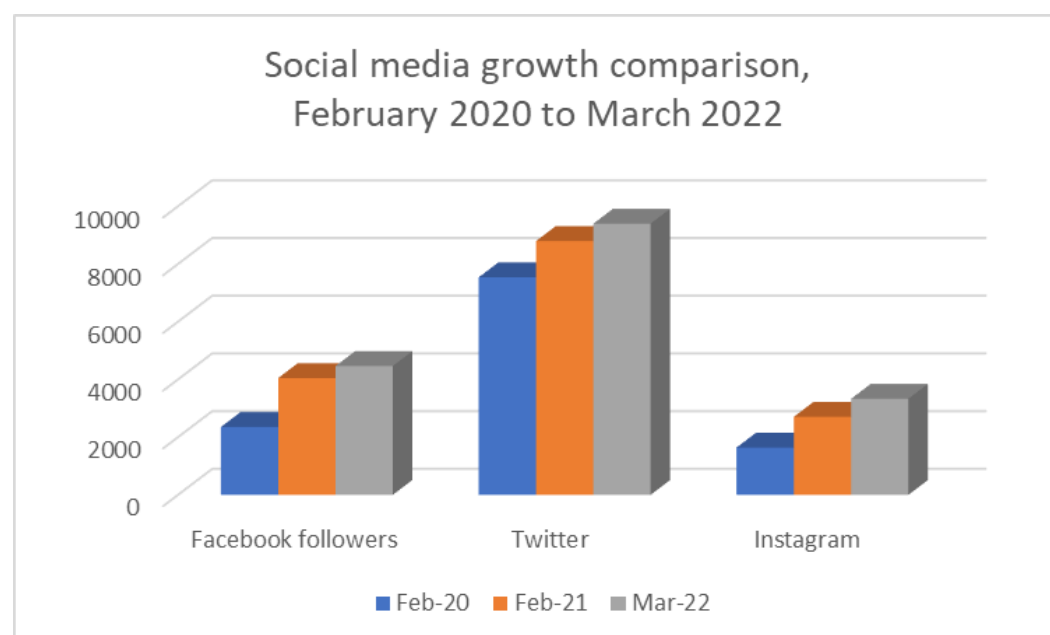
51. The pond in front of the 10th tee was cleared of reeds which were blocking visibility for golfers when playing the hole. The bridge between the 10th and 17th holes which allows machinery to get across was fully repaired removing the old rotten sleepers and replacing with new ones. All tee renovations were completed in March to help kick start growth before the start of the season. A further 9 sprinklers were replaced with newer efficient ones, which help deliver water to wider areas than before. Two new pedestrian hand mowers were purchased to allow staff to continue to cut greens throughout the winter months when ride on mowers cannot get out due to ground conditions. A set of Dyna-cores were purchased which will help staff carry out green renovations for future without causing too much disruption. Lastly, a greens roller was purchased to help increase the quality of the putting surfaces.

Communications

52. As of 7 April 2022, Epping Forest social media following is:

- Twitter followers: 9,396 (an increase of 7%)
- Facebook likes: 3,975 (an increase of 9%)
- Facebook followers: 4,463 (an increase of 10%)
- Instagram followers: 3,329 (an increase of 23%)

53. The chart shows a comparison of our social media followers at the same point in 2020 and 2021:



54. Top posts on social media for December 2021

- Twitter (4,332 engagements) Merry Christmas message.
- Facebook: (2,904 reach) request for charity donations, unfortunately receiving a backlash re. car park charges.
- Instagram: (160 likes) an image of the ancient oak at Warren Pond with a message re. numbers of veteran trees in Epping Forest.

55. Top posts on social media for January 2022:

- Twitter (8,569 impressions): a call to action for help investigating shocking cooking oil container fly tip.
- Facebook: (Reach of 7,205) a call to action for help investigating shocking cooking oil container fly tip.
- Instagram: (187 likes) pollarding work at Bury Wood.

56. Top posts on social media for February 2022:

- Twitter (5,653 impressions): information on Storm Eunice clean-up operation.
- Facebook (4,227 impressions): warning message re. Storm Eunice
- Instagram (189 likes): image of Hawk Wood & message re. beauty of Forest despite bleak weather.

57. Top posts on social media for March 2022:

- Twitter (3,572 impressions): clarification message on relating to walking dogs in Epping Forest.
- Facebook (4,523 impressions): information on works at the Grotto in Wanstead Park
- Instagram (266 likes – a new record high for Instagram likes): photograph of thick beech tree trunk on the new Golden Trail in Loughton.

58. Forest Focus continues to be distributed digitally each month, with positive feedback received and website updates included a review of the 'Where to go' page.

59. Three new interpretation and orientation signs for Wanstead Park was completed and the signs were installed.

Wanstead Flats

60. A total of 456 matches were played across the flats between December to March. The first half of the football season was stopped a week early before the Christmas break due to staff being on sick leave, a week extension to the second half of the season has been added. Ground staff repainted Capel Road pavilion in November to cover up further graffiti damage. General pitch repairs and line marking along with chain harrowing was carried to the pitches ready for play. Weekly deep cleaning of the pavilions was carried out ready for weekend visitors.

61. Two new lithium battery powered line makers arrived in March helping the team carry out weekly line marking tasks with the extended battery time span and the installation of the defibrillator and cabinet was completed at Aldersbrook Road. Unfortunately, Capel Road pavilion suffered a break in via the back emergency fire door and stole all scrap metal down to wiring.

62. Parkrun attracted 3244 runners in December, January, February & March with an average of 11 volunteers helping each week.

Horse Riding

63. Total income from horse riding licences for December, January, February and March amounted to £428.11 compared to £489.03 the previous year.

Visitor Numbers

64. Visitor numbers for the period are shown in the Table below:

Visitor Numbers	QEHL 2021/2022	2020/2021	View 2021/2022	2020/2021	Temple 2021/2022	2020/2021	High Beach 2021/2022	2020/2021	Total 2021/2022	Total 2020/2021
December	28	0	1448	434	0	0	264	n/a	17502	434
January	51	0	1459	0	0	0	711	0	2221	0
February	50	0	976	0	0	0	375	0	1401	0
March	56	0	1671	0	0	0	N/A	0	1727	0

65. Visitor Figures remain low compared to pre-2020 figures. Reduced numbers in February 2022, may be the result of poor weather across the month. This is also reflected in car park figures, with a drop of over 5,000 transactions in February compared to January, indicating a seasonal decrease in visitation rather than a specific decline in visitor centre visitation.

66. The View hosted two exhibitions by local artists during this period, *The Birds and Bees* by Anna Alcock and *A walk in the woods* By Alison Chaplin.

Projects

Wanstead Park Ponds

67. The outcome from the Ornamental Water and River Roding interaction study was that the dam structures would remain safe unless there was a rare and prolonged dry period event of 18 months or more which could cause the clay in the dams to crack.

68. The next stage of work in the evaluation process is to tender a water balance assessment of the lake system, with a deadline for mid-April. This will seek to

establish the water demand required to maintain a range of levels within the lakes. The variety of levels will focus on the minimum needed to ensure the dam structures remain sufficiently wet for an over an 18-month dry period and seek to quantify and prioritise the water balance interventions to maintain this level.

69. The Mayor of London has awarded Epping Forest £40,000 *Green Resilient Spaces* development funding to look at the feasibility of a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDS) at Wanstead Park. This is taking forward the Wanstead Wetland proposal to enhance habitat but also use more sustainable sources of water to improve water levels in the lakes.

Birch Hall Park Pond

70. The works to the pond have been tendered out, and returned tenders scored. A winning contractor has been selected. Approval to award the contract is now being sought.

Wanstead Flats Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

71. The Wanstead Flats AGP's project, designed to eliminate the current football subsidy, has been re-started after a lengthy hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Football Foundation's Parklife project.
72. Ahead of public consultation, the Project Board met in March 2022 to discuss the steps required to bring back cost certainty given the elapsed time and escalating costs of construction projects.
73. Officers are seeking to appoint an architect and quantity surveyor to refresh the project costs and assist with pre-planning advice discussions with London Borough of Redbridge.

Cycle Stand Installation

74. TfL awarded a grant worth £9,000 for the installation of cycle stands in the LB Waltham Forest and LB Redbridge areas of Epping Forest. The London Cycling Campaign and other cycle groups were consulted on the locations of the stands. In total 73 individual stands have been installed across the Forest at 32 locations. A map of the locations will be available on the City of London website. The racks are part of works to encourage more sustainable visiting and as well as being installed at typical destination such as tea huts they are also installed at locations to provide secure locking facilities for people wishing to cycle to different part of the Forest.

Major Incident

75. There were no major incidents during the period of reporting.

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