

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 24 January 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at
HYBRID – VIRTUAL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING,
GUILDHALL on Monday, 24 January 2022 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Matthew Frith (London Wildlife Trust)
Merlin Fox (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Prof. Jeff Waage (Heath and Hampstead Society)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Simon Williams (Vale of Health Society)

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Stefania Horne	- Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Service Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Katherine Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
James Bailey	- Patrick Parsons representative

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Steven Ripley, Sharlene McGee, Cindy Galvin and the Deputy Chairman William Upton QC.

The Chair welcomed Stefania Horne, the new Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, to her first meeting of the Committee. The Superintendent thanked the

Chair for her welcome and commented on her excitement in joining the City of London Corporation and the chance to contribute to the management of Hampstead Heath particularly noting its important role within London's green infrastructure.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of previous meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 1 November 2021.

A member of the Committee thanked the previous clerk of the committee for her work in supporting the Committee.

Responding to a Member's query in relation to gift aid the Chair explained that fund raising across all of the City of London Corporation managed open spaces was to be considered in the second phase of the Target Operating Model (TOM) which would include a review of the charities and their funding raising framework.

Replying to the Member's question regarding a finger point sign at the Savernake Road entrance to Hampstead Heath, it was explained that Officers from the London Borough of Camden had been contacted regarding the installation of a sign, but no response had yet been received. It was added that once there was further information on this the Committee will be updated.

RECEIVED- That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be approved as an accurate record.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 1 December 2021.

5. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS & WELLBEING FORUM ACTION POINTS**

Members noted the draft action points of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum meeting held on 11 January 2022.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Environment concerning the Superintendent's Update.

RESOLVED:- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee:

- 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

6.1 **Appendix 1 - Divisional Plan 2021-24**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Divisional Plan 2021-24 .

The Superintendent provided an update to the Committee on planning matters relevant to Hampstead Heath focusing on the Murphy's Yard site. It was added that there were upcoming meetings to be held with the developers of the site and Camden to raise the City of London Corporation's concerns regarding the proposed development. A Committee Member highlighted the impact on views, ecology and footfall to the Heath and asked if the developers had made any estimation of this impact. The Superintendent confirmed that no discussions on this matter had been undertaken, however this would be included in the next stage of the consultation with the developer and would be included in the City of London Corporation's draft letter of representation. The Chair highlighted that the demographic of those living in the development was a factor to be considered in the mitigation for this development.

A Committee Member noted that the impact of footfall on the Heath was a matter which, in part due to the COVID19 pandemic, was an issue broader than the development. Responding to a Committee Member's query regarding developer's contributions, the Superintendent explained that there could be opportunities via CIL or S106 and that there will be a wider discussion with the Council on planning matters and contributions. It was added that due to the scale of the proposed development the Greater London Authority would also be involved in the planning approval process.

The Superintendent, replying to concerns raised by the Committee Member, confirmed that the impact to the wildlife corridors was a factor being considered as part of the City's representation regarding the development. The Chair and Superintendent confirmed that the response to Camden Council regarding the development would be received by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in due course.

Responding to a Committee Member's query regarding the Target Operating model, the Superintendent provided an update noting that the consultation with staff was due to start on the 27th of January and added further that an update would be provided to the Committee once the process was at an appropriate stage.

The Superintendent updated on the on the Hampstead Heath Extension Playground project noting that a further update with agreed designs would be available after a meeting which was due to take place in early February.

In relation to the Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan a Committee Member suggested that a communications initiative to inform the public of the effect of the increased footfall during COVID19 on Hampstead Heath adding that a permanent display on the history of the Heath would also be helpful. In addition, it was commented that the corporate aims relating to planning and archaeology needed to be more specific to properly achieve the effective management of Hampstead Heath.

The Superintendent provided an update on the 2021 events noting the relative success of these events and the reasons behind these factors. In addition, an update on the discussions with Showman's Guild was also provided.

7. **APPENDIX 2 - GOLDERS HILL ACCESSIBLE CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS OPTIONS REPORT**

The Committee received a report and presentation from the City of London's Consultants Patrick Parsons on the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park Improvements Options Report (Appendix 2).

Replying to a point highlighted by a Committee Member the Chair noted that there was clearly a balance required with signage between being clearly visible and not adversely affecting the aesthetics of the site.

The Committee discussed their concerns regarding enforcement at the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park noting that this would be vital in the successful implementation of report's recommendations. The Superintendent agreed that enforcement would be key explaining that compliance Officers and the Hampstead Heath Constabulary are in position to issue Fixed Penalty Notices with Hampstead Heath Keepers also provided training on enforcement measures.

The Superintendent responded to a Committee Member's question by explaining that options one and two would be implemented as a first phase, after which a review would be undertaken to ascertain the success of the measures and whether any modifications are required. A Committee Member suggested that a fixed period for review be determined.

8. **APPENDIX 3 - ZONED MAP**

The Committee received a Zoned Map and oral update from the Executive Director Environment on the Commercial Dog Walkers Code of Conduct. It was explained that the Terms of Reference for the appeals committee, required under the 2018 act, were being finalised.

Responding to a Committee Member's query the Superintendent explained the process for Professional dog walkers to differentiate between the different zones as outlined on the map, and the measures to be undertaken by Staff to assist this differentiation. The Chair confirmed that this would kept under review. In addition, it was added that the Hampstead Heath Constabulary would carry out enforcement if required.

Following a comment by a Member of the Committee the Chair agreed that the start of the Professional Dog Walkers Licencing Scheme would be a timely opportunity to engage with all dog walkers using the Heath in relation to the dog walking Code of Conduct.

9. **APPENDIX 4 - DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROJECTS 2022-23**

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the letting of Golders Hill Café noting that a long-standing tenant had retired, and that interim arrangements were in place. A tendering exercise is being considered for a more permanent let. A Committee Member highlighted that community involvement in this process was vital.

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment which provided the Draft Annual Work Programme Projects 2022-23 (Appendix 4).

The Superintendent replied to a Committee Member's query by confirming it was her understanding that the budget would not affect the Annual Work Programme 2022-23 but that a review was to be completed on this. The Chair added that budget reductions had been managed as to not adversely affect services which was partly why there had not been a substantive update to the Committee on the budgetary position for a while. Following a suggestion from a committee member the Chair agreed that an update on the TOM and final budget be provided to the Committee once finalised.

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the Parliament Hill Fields Athletics Track noting that the requested funds had been approved by the Policy and Resources Committee. A Committee member requested that this project be proceeded at as fast pace as is possible to ensure further deterioration of the track doesn't take place. The Committee noted their thanks for the investment in the facilities of the Heath.

10. **APPENDIX 5 - CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION GREEN SPACES FUNDING BID FOR MOSAIC MAP**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director City of London Corporation on the Green Spaces Funding Bid for Mosaic Map (Appendix 5).

The Committee suggested that the proposed Mosaic Map would be more appropriately situated on a wall rather than the ground as it would be easier to maintain and would be better viewed. A Committee Member commented that the design needed to consider and include the diversity of Heath users.

11. **APPENDIX 6 - DRAFT 2022 SWIMMING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Draft 2022 Swimming Arrangements (Appendix 6).

The Chair highlighted that the proposals for the swimming had been produced to balance between pre-booking and elements of free flowing as appropriate.

The Superintendent noted the lessons learnt from previous busy swimming seasons to establish flexible and effective arrangements for swimming.

It was added that, whilst it was planned to only have the pre-booking system in place for the busy summer months, pre-booking would be introduced at other times if required.

Responding to a Committee Member's query the Superintendent confirmed that a bid had been made to create reedbeds at the Boating Pond with works hoped to be ready by the end of the year.

12. **APPENDIX 7 - WATER FOUNTAIN SUGGESTED LOCATION (SOUTH END GREEN)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Water Fountain Suggested Location – South End Green (Appendix 7).

The Superintendent explained that the Greater London Authority had requested that the City of London Corporation consider a proposal to install a water fountain at the South End Green entrance to Hampstead Heath. The Committee noted that they were in support of the aim to limit single use plastics however felt that the proposed design of the bottle filler was not in keeping with the Heath and should be sited on the Heath.

13. **APPENDIX 8 - WATER FOUNTAIN DESIGN**

The Committee received the Water Fountain Design (Appendix 8).

14. **FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23 & 2023-24**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment regarding Fees and Charges 2022-23 & 2023-24.

It was noted that the majority of the fees and charges are in line with inflation and that the increases have been subject to benchmarking.

A Committee Member highlighted that the prices for pitch hire were comparatively high and could affect the continued use of these pitches by sports clubs, and the Hampstead Rugby Club. A response was provided that charges have been benchmarked, however they will look at this issue and a response will be provided.

RESOLVED-That the report be noted.

15. **HEATH HANDS UPDATE**

Members noted a verbal update from Heath Hands representative.

A Committee Member observed the increasing importance of Heath Hands to the management of the Heath and the contribution to the wellbeing of the community. The Chair extended her thanks to the Heath Hands to their contribution to the Heath partially noting the importance of diversity to their outreach work.

RESOLVED- That the update be received.

16. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no items of urgent business.

The Committee noted that this was the final meeting of the Committee which the Chair would be attending and thanked the Chair for her contribution to the Heath.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the dates of the 2022 meetings:

- 23 May 2022
- 5 September 2022
- 7 November 2022

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Chair

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