



Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum

Thursday 21 July 2022, 5.30pm

Attending		
Alderman Gregory Jones	GJ	(Chair) Deputy Chairman Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Richard Sumray	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
David Walton	DW	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Karen Smith	KS	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Mary Powell	MP	Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
Jackie Risman	JR	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club & Mixed Bathing Pond
Joseph Lowe	JLo	Athletics
Sandy Nairne	SN	Licensed Activity - Croquet
Anandi Shah	AS	Licensed Activity - ParkRun
Robert Gibbs	RGi	Angling
Ella Mitchell	EM	Rugby
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Tennis coaching
Karin Oleinikova	KO	Heath Hands
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands
Ray Booth	RB	Mental Health
Stefania Horne	SH	Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	RGG	Officer from, Hampstead Heath
Paul Jeal	PJ	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Apologies		
William Upton	WU	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
John Carrier	JC	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Richard Caylor	RC	Bowls & Croquet
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
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Debbie Bush	DB	Pro-Active Camden (PAC).
Mike Sands	MS	Mixed Bathing Pond
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands
Paul Maskell	PM	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	DG	Officer from Hampstead Heath

Meeting Action Points & notes

Outstanding Actions from the last meeting (11.01.2022) & matters arising

Angling –

- 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.

UPDATE: Heath Ecologist has sought platform costs, which are around £7k. Looking at ways to fund with support from the HAHAS. Need to consider how many platforms can accommodate.

Walk Talk Walk –

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

UPDATE: Heath Hands are recruiting additional volunteers, with the intention to introduce weekly sessions on the Heath moving forward.

Parks for Health –

- ACTION – COL to meet with Camden to discuss opportunities regards Social Prescribing.

UPDATE: SH will be meeting with a member of the Parks of Health team. Additional funding sources, such as CIL funding, to be considered, with the support of Stakeholders.

Swimming Capital Project

The project is focusing on improving access to the bathing ponds. Designs have been discussed with the bathing pond associations. Planning application was submitted in June 2022 and comments can be made via Camden's planning website. A number of surveys are planned. The project is currently on track for works on site to commence during autumn 2022, subject to planning approval.

MP noted that members of the KLPA felt that they had not been consulted on two aspects of the design which required planning approval, including the back fence and the steward hat.

SH clarified that the stewards hut not a change of current use and the plans were to reduce the footprint of the existing space used. Comments can be submitted as part of the planning consultation process.

PJ clarified that the changes to the fencing had been discussed in the past and was mentioned at the engagement workshop held with swimmers. Comments can be submitted as part of the planning consultation process.

SH outlined the process of engagement focused on ensuring the design met the access needs of users of the facility which is the purpose of the project. Details of the proposals were now available on Camden's planning portal, and comments/feedback on proposals could be logged via the panning portal.

- ACTION – Link to Camden's Planning portal to be circulated.

Athletics Capital Project

SH funding has been agreed in principle. The project is on track in relation to the COL Gateway process, Once the project board is set up, the stakeholders will be engaged to fully contribute to the project. A review of the project programme will be undertaken, following stakeholder feedback.

JL welcome COL's commitment to resurfacing the track. There is potential for the 2024 Night of Personal Bests event to incorporate the Olympic trials. In order to achieve the 2024 event, re-surfacing will need to be completed in 2023. Highgate Harriers would like additional power outlets to be installed along the back straight as part of the scope of works. DW surface would need to be completed during autumn 2023 to be ready for a 2024 event, noting a current shortage of raw materials

RS would support Stakeholders involvement in the Project Board. The project should be driven by the needs of Athletics, as opposed to the Gateway process.

SH clarified that the Gateway process is the City of London Corporation process to deliver projects, and projects needs to go through a series of approvals. This cannot be changed and every capital project needs to go through this process. The last approval was given at the end of July and the Project Board cannot be formed until all approvals have been granted. Once the Project Board is set up, there is the intention to involve a wider range of Stakeholders moving forward. SH understood the concerns around the programme, which need to be discussed with the Project Board once established.

EM noted that the Rugby Club were supportive of the resurfacing project and requested advanced notice of works so that alternative training locations should be arranged during the period of works on site.

GJ outlined the importance of Stakeholder support and additional external funding to support the sporting facilities on the Heath.

- ACTION – KR to arrange a for SH to meet with Track Stakeholders so that discussions can continue to take place.

Update from COL

SH has met with the London Cricket Trust, who are proposing investment in a number of cricket facilities across the COL open spaces, including Parliament Hill and the Heath Extension. Stakeholders will be engaged to ensure the proposals meet the needs of users.

A Sports Engagement Report has been prepared by the City of London Corporation. The report sets out the value of the COL's sporting facilities and includes locations in the City as well as locations across the Natural Environment. The report highlights the benefit of a clear strategy in relation to sports and wellbeing. The Natural Environment is preparing a strategic framework, which will include a visitor and community engagement strategy.

RS Cricket proposal has a potential to engage a number of communities. Early Stakeholder engagement in relation to the Strategies is key, as the Heath plays a key role in sport and recreation.

GJ consideration will need to be given as to how to involve representatives of sports activities at Highgate Wood & Queen's Park moving forward.

Heath Hands Update

KO Heath Hands have been busy across all areas, including conservation, interpretation, schools and corporate volunteering. Visits with Social Prescribing Navigator Teams from Voluntary Action Camden and Age UK have been held. The navigators are based at local GP practices and help people to access facilities which may be beneficial to them. A range of activities are available across the Heath. A green social prescribing taster session is planned for the coming week via the Mental Health Foundation. Following visits from the navigator teams, two less mobile individuals have been supported to start volunteering at Kenwood House. A number of groups have been facilitated to access swimming on the Heath. There are a wide range of on-going wellbeing sessions taking place,

including a newly established Nordic Walking group. Activities available to support mental health include forest bathing (sessions throughout the summer).

Updates from Clubs

MP the KLPA have had an on-going discussion with COL Officers in relation to the dog tethering area at the Ladies' Bathing Pond. An agreement has been reached which accommodates all users. The request to amend the current free swim times to align with the free swim timings offered by LB Camden needs to be considered now that the Judicial review has concluded.

SH highlighted that this needs to be part of the annual review of fees & charges, which will take place during the autumn.

The Pink plaque awarded to the Ladies' Bathing Pond by the Highgate festival has been installed. The plaque celebrates the lifeguards and swimmers.

The centenary of the Ladies' Bathing pond is coming up in 2025/6. A celebratory event will be discussed to mark the centenary. The COL would like to join the KPLA in the celebrations.

- Action: KLPA to send more information to the Sports & Wellbeing Forum Chair.

The KLPA has an archive at the Bishopsgate institute. A year will be settled on to mark the centenary and further discussions can be progressed outside of the Forum.

RGi the HAHAS have produced a short video, which can be viewed at: [HAHAS - A short film | My Site \(thehahas.co.uk\)](http://thehahas.co.uk). The prices quoted for fishing platforms seem very high. There was a disappointment that the reopening of the north bank for fishing has still not been considered. SH reassured HAHAS that she supports the re-opening but risks need to be mitigated for other pond users. Representatives from the Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds needs to meet on site with representatives from the Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society (HAHAS). Discussions needs to focus on co-use of the Bathing Pond, taking into account swimmers concerns around angling, safety and impacts on wildlife.

- ACTION: KR to organise a site meeting,

KS raised a query around the current parking hourly rates at the Lido car park and whether they can be lowered. A concern around a recent spate of bike thefts was raised. This is impacting on Lido users, using the cycle racks.

SH confirmed that parking charges needs to be considered as part of the annual fees and charges review.

PJ noted that this is a wider issue in Camden and reassured Lido Users that a number of interventions were put in place in relation to the bike thefts including liaison with the MET, the community safety team, more patrolling by the constabulary and signage to help users to be aware and with advice of types of locks that are more difficult to break.

SN reflected that the GIAG event this year fulfilled many of the objectives of the COL and Clubs, and has raised the profile of Croquet on the Heath. When possible a further discussion on the facilities at Parliament Hill would be welcomed.

Upcoming & Recent Events

PJ provided an update on recent events:

- English National Cross Country – event was very well received, especially followed a cancelled event from last year.
- Night of 10m Personal Bests – event has grown in popularity, with approx. 4,000 spectators at this year's event.

- GIAG – Extremely hot weather meant a number of wellbeing events did not take place. The event was very well received with a number of activities on offer.
- British Water Polo League (Men's 60th and Women's 35th) Anniversary – event was a great success, with the matches being played in the deep end of the Lido, whilst public swimming continued. 300 participants and spectators enjoyed the event, with 15 exhibition matches taking place across the day, including the Men's & women's 2012 Olympics teams.

Upcoming events include:

- Duathlon (4th September).
- London Youth Cross Country (19th November)
- Christmas Day Swim

Update from Pro-Active Camden

RS provided an update. A focus area for the next few months is a response to a drop in participating levels for sports and physical activities amongst girls during the pandemic. In other London Boroughs the drop in participation levels was equal amongst boys and girls. A focus in participation amongst girls and young women should again be a focus for the Forum.

RGi fishing school sessions will be taking place in September, when the schools return. The GIAG Angling taster session has been postponed but will be taking place.

Future Meetings

There following a discussion around the merits of in person, hybrid and online meetings,

- ACTION – KR to circulate an email seeking Members of the Forum preferences of future meetings format and to share a table collating feedback with the Forum via email.

Process for appointing a new representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

SH A Member (representing Sport) has stood down from the Committee. A new representative needs to be sought and needs to cover a wider remit on sports and not a single sport. If there any suggestions, please email these to KR.

Date of the Next Meeting

- ACTION – KR to circulate meeting dates, following confirmation of the format of the next meeting.

RS it would be helpful for dates to be set in advanced for 2023, which can be discussed at the next meeting.

AOB

SH a strategic review of the Parliament Hill facilities, and a mini-masterplan for the area is being considered. This will be shared and discussed with the Forum.