

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 7 November 2022
Subject: Assistant Directors 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?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since May 2022.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Provide feedback on the report.

Main Report

Management Framework

1. An update on Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 projects is attached (appendix 1) for information.

Conservation and Biodiversity

2. In September representatives from the Heath and Hampstead Society and the Ecologist and the Trees and Conservation Manager met with the Manager of Mudshute Farm to discuss sheep grazing dates in September 2023. The group looked at the ant hill site on the Heath Extension which is already fenced off and also discussed taking the small flock of sheep over to the Tumulus which was the focus of the 2019 visit. The sheep can be safely housed overnight in the enclosed yard next to the changing rooms and we will involving Heath Hands in looking after the sheep and engaging with the public during the day.

Events

3. Recent events include:
 - 19th Annual Conker Championships (9 October 2022)
 - Duathlon (4 September 2022)

4. Upcoming events:
 - Zippos Circus (performances 20 October - 31 October 2022)
 - London Youth Games (19 November 2022)
 - Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre (1 December 2022 – 8 January 2023)
5. The Affordable Art Fair (AAF) organisers have requested that the 2023 event dates are moved to avoid a clash with the coronation of Charles III which will take place on 6 May 2023. It is proposed that the Fair now take place between 10-14 May 2023. Construction of the tent would commence from 26 April and the site will be cleared on 20 May 2023.
6. The AAF organisers have confirmed, that due to the current economic climate, plans to for a second event in 2023 have been put on hold until 2024.

Swimming

7. A “project on a page” summary has been prepared in relation to the Swimming – Safety, Access and Security Capital Project (appendix 2).

2022 Summer Swimming Season

8. The summer season was incredibly busy, with the long spell of hot weather and a number of events. The Lido hosted the British Water Polo Association 65th Anniversary, with teams, including the present male and female GB squad and 2012 Olympic squad participating in a series of exhibition matches. The Lido and Ponds hosted the annual Duathlon in September, a very successful event that had 280 participants and 153 teams. Upcoming events this winter include the Christmas Day dip and races at Men’s pond, The New Year’s Day dip at Ladies pond, PHISH cold water races at Lido and Crisis Icebreaker Charity dip at the Lido.

Parking enforcement

9. Currently, enforcement for the four car parks (Golders hill car park (blue badge only car park), Jack Straw’s car park, East Heath and Parliament Hill lido) is undertaken by staff who have other duties and therefore can enforce ad hoc. Such an arrangement, does not maximise revenue or guarantee a high level of compliance.
10. Officers have explored opportunities to involve third party contractors that can free up staff and improve compliance. This model is in place at other sites within the Natural Environment Division and within the City of London.
11. This proposal will modernise enforcement of car parking through use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and create opportunities for blue badge holder visitors to be registered in a system for parking, that can be managed more easily at Golder’s Hill Park.

12. Arrangements with contractors will only focus on enforcement, the car parking income will continue to be received in full by the Charities and the fees and charges will be regulated through the current review process.
13. The proposal will not change the current parking arrangements, nor the user's experience who will continue to pay through the Ringo's framework, it will simply modernise the back office management.
14. A communication plan will be in place to make sure users are informed during the changes.
15. Under the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is required to identify and mitigate any data protection related risks arising out of implementation of new technology, in this case, the use of ANPR. Officers are working with the Information Compliance Team based in the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department to complete the assessment. The appointed contractor will also have the opportunity to provide technical information on the use of ANPR which will be documented in the DPIA.
16. In meeting data protection responsibilities of fairness and transparency, Officers will ensure that clear and visible signs are displayed at the entrance of car parks where ANPR will be used. This will ensure individuals entering the car park are aware of this processing of personal information.

Gift Aid

17. A project on a page update for Gift Aid is attached at appendix 3.

Queen's Green Canopy

18. As well as planting 33 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy's initiative, and Hampstead Heath and Burnham Beeches have also been chosen for a prestigious tree to be planted as part of the initiative. Each tree was presented to Greater London's recipients by the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, at a special Gifting Ceremony, on the morning of Monday 3rd October, at The Royal Hospital Chelsea. The tree for Hampstead Heath was an alder tree that will be planted in Golders Hill Park.
19. The 33 trees have been purchased and are expected to be delivered in November. Tree planting will commence on site from late November/early December 2022.

Good News

20. Works to install new play equipment at the Heath Extension Playground have finished. Staff from the Heath's Conservation Team have undertaken landscaping works to instal natural play features at the playground. It is proposed to re-open the playground in November 2022, subject to RoSPA.

21. Conversations with the Hampstead & Highgate Angling Society and swimmers have progressed. The Men's Bathing Pond north bank has re-opened for float fishing from 15 October 2022 for a trial period of 6 months. Only Members of the Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society will be permitted to fish from the north bank.
22. At the recent 2022 London In Bloom Awards Golders Hill Park and Queen's Park achieved a Gold in the Large Park category, and the Hill Garden Pergola won Gold in the Walled Garden category.
23. Hampstead Heath had one of the highest participation figures from schools this summer. The learning programme has successfully engaged 12,240 play participants and 8,438 school participants at Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park (April – September 2022). The school programme engages high pupil premium state schools from some of London's most deprived boroughs, including Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Haringey, and our play centres reach children in some of the most deprived wards to the south of the Heath.
24. The learning team have continued to work with community groups during the summer holidays, including supporting children in Newham to visit Hampstead Heath during the summer holidays. Activities in place include a pre-apprenticeship work experience programme for school students at risk of exclusion, and a six-week programme for a London pupil referral unit. The youth programme is targeting 13 – 25 year olds who are struggling with education, employment or mental health, and activities are designed to boost wellbeing, confidence and skills.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. 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.
26. 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

27. Donations are currently being sought for the following project:
 - 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. £6,153.00 has currently been raised towards this project.

28. We have recently reached the funding total (£5,000) for the bird and mammal shelters project.
29. 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

30. Staff resources are being prioritised to keep the sites open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

31. Included within the Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

32. Contained within the body of this report.

Risk Implications

33. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register.

Equality Implications

34. No impact.

Security Implications

35. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 (October update)
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Gift Aid)

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