



Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum

Wednesday 28 September 2022, 6.30pm

Parliament Hill Meeting Room

Attending

Alderman Gregory Jones	GJ	(Chair) Deputy Chairman Hampstead Heath Management Committee
David Walton	DW	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Karen Smith	KS	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Mary Powell	MP	Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Joseph Lowe	JL	Athletics
Sandy Nairne	SN	Licensed Activity - Croquet
John Carrier	JC	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Robert Gibbs	RG	Angling
Gary Fagg	GF	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Margaret Dickinson	MD	Mixed Bathing Pond
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Tennis coaching
Karin Oleinikova	KO	Heath Hands
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands
Stefania Horne	SH	Assistant Director, Hampstead Heath
Paul Maskell	PM	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	DG	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Paul Jeal	PJ	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Kate Radusin	KR	(Note taker) Officer from Hampstead Heath

Apologies

William Upton	WU	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Richard Sumray	RS	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
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
Debbie Bush	DB	Pro-Active Camden (PAC).
Mike Sands	MS	Mixed Bathing Pond
Emma Rae	ER	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Anandi Shah	AS	Licensed Activity - ParkRun
Ella Mitchell	EM	Rugby
Ray Booth	RB	Mental Health

Meeting Action Points & notes

Outstanding Actions from the last meeting (21.07.2022) & matters arising

Angling –

A meeting has taken place between representative from the Men's Bathing Pond Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society (HAHAS) and Officers from the Heath to discuss the re-opening of the Men's Bathing Pond North Bank on a trial basis. Access will be permitted only to HAHAS Members. RG can provide further information on platform costs.

ACTION – RG to provide details of platform costs to COL.

Social prescribing and health and well being

Heath Hands continues to discuss opportunities for social prescribing and social interventions with partners such as Voluntary Action Camden, Age UK and local GP Surgeries and Practices in relation to linking in opportunities at the Heath. Five referrals for activities on the Heath have come from the Health Navigator Teams so far. The Team are also linked in with research into the effects of long covid at the Royal Free Hospital.

With regards to outreach and the use of the ponds, officers are already working to harness social value. A recent visit was arranged for a Muslim ladies group to familiarize with the facility and Heath Hands are working on referrals. MP welcomed Heath Hands reps and highlighted further opportunities for joined working with KPLA.

Update for Pro-Active Camden

PM provided a verbal update on a recent conference which PM and KO had attended. PM outlined that a local GP spoke at the event, with the focus being getting people into activity.

ACTION – PM – Request an update from DB in relation to children's weight data (linked to a long term study).

KO noted that a number of local boroughs were represented at the event, including Haringey and Barnet. A written update on the event, received from DB is set out below:

Supporting Camden Residents to be Active - Moving Forward event (Monday 26 September)

Pro-Active Camden, Camden Council and Camden & Islington Public Health successfully hosted an event which brought together over 50 strategic senior members of Camden's physical activity system and regional partners to share experiences and ideas about increasing accessible, affordable, sustainable and engaging opportunities to get and stay active, in light of the current climate and issues we face.

We hope that the event will act as a catalyst to further energise Camden's borough-wide physical activity offer, and start planning next collective steps and consider how we can bring the rest of the system together as we move forward and ensure that we provide support to those who need it most. Following 3 keynote speakers, 5 presenters talking about the strategic view from Camden's frontline, we hosted 5 workshops looking at specific inactive groups and methods for engaging in and sustaining participation through a whole system approach including: Early years, Teen girls, People with disabilities, People with long term conditions – physical activity as connected treatment, and Older People.

Events

PM provided an update on recent and upcoming events:

- Duathlon - A very successful event, with the 3rd highest number of entrants with 284 competitors taking part in 2022. Tri-London won the event. Thanks to the swimming groups and to the HRFC for supporting the event.
- London youth games (25 November 2022).
- The South of England Cross Country will not be coming to the Heath during 2022. The next South of England Cross Country will be held on the Heath in 2023, with the national to be hosted on the Heath in 2024.
- 100th anniversary of the Middlesex cross country event – PM is awaiting receipt of the application forms for review.

There are informal sports (football/rugby/quidditch) taking place at the back of the Lido on Saturday mornings. The area is very well used, especially by youth groups.

Cricket

SH outlined that the London Cricket Trust have agreed funding for improvements to cricket facilities at Parliament hill, Highgate woods and the Heath Extension.

Non-Turf Pitches and new nets are proposed at the Heath Extension with funding in the region of £60k investment. At Parliament Hill the focus is on increasing youth participation with a new non turf pitch as well as Highgate woods. The next steps will be to write to stakeholders to inform them about the proposals. .

Micky Stewart (ex. Surrey cricket captain) has been invited to take the COL Freedom, with the ceremony to be re-rearranged following a clash with the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Capital Projects Update

Swimming -

All Capital Projects are currently being reviewed, as inflation rises have impacted on all capital projects (material costs etc).

With regards to the ponds improvement project, SH highlighted that the tender was being launched. Accessibility and timetable implementation will be discussed with contractors. Part of the procurement brief covers maintaining access to the facilities where possible during the works phase. Once there is further information, PM will contact swimming reps to outline the proposed sequencing of works.

Athletics Track -

SH the project is at formative stage, and is included in the capital project review. As soon as outcome of the review is known, it will be communicated with Stakeholders. This project is amber as a result.

JL we had a good meeting recently at the track forum. The 10,000m Personal Best Event is very important within London and Highgate Harriers want to work the programme around the event schedule and highlighted the opportunity to perhaps start working during summer 2024. The Club are also open to consider financial support for elements of the project. The Floodlighting is not meeting the standard, and that would be needed for the event, as it would be taking place after dark.

DG confirmed that trackmark is in place until 2024 although monitoring is needed and the Track can host running events under the current certification. The facility is very well used by local schools. JL also outlined Club usage of the track, which is substantial. In terms of school use, it is very high compared to similar facilities. Community use could be improved, and we hope the project will help to increase this. DW noted that disabled cycle groups could also use the track, as the surface can sustain the impact and it is a safe contained area.

A Vision for Parliament Hill

SH Camden proposed development at Murphy's yard will increase usage of the Heath. Therefore we want to be ready to tap into any opportunities, such as CIL Funding. There is now more time to develop the vision, as the Murphy's yard development is paused. The plan picks up some of the elements of the 2007 masterplan and sets out a high-level principles around what we want to do in the area.

Although there is no funding allocated at this stage, an agreed vision could help in seeking additional grant funding as and when opportunities arise. Works could also be phased

The main representations made in relation to the Murphy's yard development were around the relationship between the Heath and views and we need to continue to be careful for the Heath not to be exploited. Cycling is an issue that will need to be considered. The group welcomed the sustainable approach of the proposal, such as reusing buildings. We should not underestimate what the impacts will be to Gordon House road entrance. Planting could be bolder, more trees and more could be done to embed nature as well as considering accessibility.

A review of a more diverse the sport provision and tennis floodlighting could be considered for the tennis courts although this will need to be a planning and a consideration that will need to be consulted on.

Basketball is a sport which may bring in younger members and a MUGA could be considered as part of the proposal.

Lido Vision

Although there is no capital funding at present, there is an opportunity to review the unutilised space within the Lido, which can bring in additional income to sustain the facility

and tap to funding opportunities as and when they arise. The emphasis is to remain as a cold water swimming venue with additional spaces to increase the recreational offer.

KS PHLUG met to discuss the plans. There is a concern around the showers/changing room, which may be too small but do not feel negatively around the concept. More discussions are needed to make sure the blueprint can consider current and future usage.

KS suggested that bike racks could be improved as part of the proposals and considerations for security is important as bike stealing is generally increasing and the Lido has been suffering as well.

There was a general consensus that the customer flow is not right with the current proposal although it was highlighted that this was only a basic improvement proposal that needs to be refined according to feedback.

Swimming Booking system.

SH outlined that Officers are looking to make improvements to the current booking system used for swimming. All functionality to be simplified, but overall the booking system will not change how the ponds are used.

The review will look at what could improve the user experience and facilitate bookings.

MP highlighted the importance of the phone line to make sure people who are not computer literate can continue to use the ponds. JP confirmed that all of the phone line enquiries get responded to. SH understand the principle and the difficulties on booking when there is a high demand in the summer and officers will need to continue to review how the booking takes place to maximise opportunities to book for all. It needs to be continue to be practical and fair.

RB same issued with the tennis booking system. The demand is for the same time, but people compromise on times and all the courts get booked.

MD swimming is very weather sensitive, some people book it but then they don't attend, so no-one else can swim even though the pond can welcome more people. This can be considered as part of the new booking system and how the system can hopefully be more flexible.

Hardship Fund

MH there are a group of swimmers who have been identified who are not able to afford a season ticket, but who do not qualify for a concession. SH highlighted the importance to remain within the policy framework of the fees and charges and concessions to guarantee fairness and equal accessibility although the concept is very important and it needs further discussions. We could consider targeting specific groups for set periods of time, either for free or at a reduced rate that can be subsidised by the hardship fund.

ACTION – KR to arrange a separate meeting with swimmers to discuss.

Clubs Update

ACTION – ALL to send update to KR.

MP informed the group on conflicting issues in relation to transgender women swimmers in the Ladies' Bathing Pond and how a demonstration against transgender women took place in the summer. The KLPA is welcoming transgender women and SH highlighted that the City supports principles in line with the Equality act which is fostering mutual respect for all.

MD Mixed Pond Tea Party – 2nd October within the enclosure.

Date of the next meeting

ACTION – KR to circulate dates for further meetings.

GJ would like to host a meeting at the Guildhall in the future.