

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 16 January 2023
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 November 2022.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Management Framework

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

Events

2. Recent events include:
 - Remembrance Day event (11 Nov 2022) at Whitestone Pond, when a wreath was laid, attended by Heath staff.
 - London Youth Games (19 November 2022)
 - Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre (1 December 2022 – 8 January 2023)
 - Christmas Day Swim (25 December 2022)
 - New Years Day Swim (1 January 2023)
3. Upcoming events include:
 - Middlesex Centenary Cross Country (21 January 2023)

Swimming

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

Athletic Track

5. A project on a page update the Parliament Hill Athletics Track is attached at appendix 3.

Queen's Green Canopy

6. Ten Elm trees have been planted at the Hampstead Heath Extension forming a new avenue on the south western side of the cricket pitch. Further tree planting is planned for January 2023, with an event on the 14 January coinciding with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee walk, and a further event on the 18 January.

Car Parking Enforcement

7. A contractor has been identified to implement the proposals for a streamlined enforcement system. The new system will be launched in April 2023.

Good News

8. A recent survey of bat boxes on Hampstead Heath uncovered a number of bats with three species identified including Common and Soprano Pipistrelles and a Noctule. This survey indicates there is a healthy population of bats on the Heath and that they are using the boxes the Conservation Team have installed.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. 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.
10. 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

11. 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. £6,253.00 has currently been raised towards this project.

12. 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

13. No impact.

Climate Implications

14. 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

15. No impact.

Risk Implications

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

Equality Implications

17. No impact.

Security Implications

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

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 (January update)
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Athletics Track)

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