

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Date(s): 17 April 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 January 2023.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

Main Report

Management Framework

1. The Natural Environment Division is consolidating its own strategic framework and a midterm review of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy is planned during 2023/24. An annual plan for 2023/24 is attached in appendix 1.

Events

2. Preparations started for the organisation of key events such as the Affordable Art Fair that is planned for 10-14 May and the Night of the 10K personal Best which is planned for the 20 May.
3. In partnership with the London Borough of Barnet and the Heath & Hampstead Society, a family friendly event is being organised at Golders Hill Park to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The event will take place on the Bank Holiday Monday, 8th May, between 1-9pm, and include a programme of music, and a special coronation light show.

4. Upcoming events include:
 - 2-3 May, Local Football competition Parliament Hill
 - 8 May, Coronation Family event
 - 10-14 May, Affordable art Fair (to be finalised)
 - 16 and 18 May, Local Tennis competition Parliament Hill
 - 20 May, Night of 10K Personal Best
 - 21 May, Hampstead 4 Heart walk - British Heart foundation

5. We are progressing with the appointment of a contractor who will help to run weddings at the Pergola and we are currently reviewing the premises licence application following an initial refusal from Camden Council.

Projects update

6. A project on a page summary has been prepared in relation to the Ponds improvement works (appendix 2), and the Athletics Track improvements (appendix 3).

7. The implementation of cricket improvement works funded by English Cricket Board is progressing well, tendering has been undertaken and a contractor appointed. Planning applications have been submitted to the London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, and Haringey, and works on site will commence once planning has been agreed

Car Parking Enforcement

8. Officers are working with the Comptroller and City Surveyor to finalise the management arrangements for the new enforcement arrangements which will be implemented in spring 2023.

Partnership Working

9. Our Partnership with Heath Hands continues to be strong and an update on recent activities is included as part of the agenda pack. A three year partnership agreement between City of London and Heath Hands is due for renewal, in August 2023 and it is proposed to extend the agreement until April 2024 to align with the financial year.

10. This will also allow more time to work on the new priorities for the next three years, bearing in mind that both Heath Hands and Hampstead Heath strategic objectives have evolved in recent years and continue to develop in response to national priorities and local needs.

11. In partnership with Butterfly Conservations and their Big City Butterfly Project we will shortly be creating two new wildflower meadows. An area of approximately

400sq m. will be created on the Heath Extension on the 18th and 19th April. The Heath Extension site is linked to the climate action strategy and the relaxed mowing regime due to be implemented in 2023. Both sites should provide habitat for not only butterfly species but benefit a wide variety of other invertebrates.

Café tendering

12. Eight firms of external agents were approached to progress with the marketing for the tendering of the cafés and a preferred company was appointed.
13. The brief will include advice on likely rental value and a marketing strategy, taking in to account local needs.

Parliament Hill Masterplan

14. Work is progressing to take on board feedback from stakeholders on the vision for key priorities for Parliament Hill and create a masterplan that will help to focus on needed improvements for the area.
15. Next steps are focused on further feasibility work, with detailed drawing and visuals to inform a draft vision that will be shared with users with a planned engagement during the summer.

Nature Conservation

16. All the 33 Queen's Green Canopy Trees have been planted and have benefited from the plentiful rainfall over the last few weeks. A final ceremony to mark the completion of the tree planting is taking place on the 15 April which will coincide with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Walk.
17. The Conservation Team have been busy coppicing hazel on the Heath Extension pond chain, and also managing gorse habitat on Pryors' Field. They have now started a series of works for the upcoming Reservoir Inspection on the 17 April.

Good News

18. HMRC has confirmed that the registration of the new account for Hampstead Heath for gift aid has been approved and we are now in the process of setting up a framework that will allow the collection of gift aid for our campaigns, working with Just Giving. We are aiming for the use of Gift aid to be available this spring and will inform Member once the scheme is up and running
19. The applications for Green Flag have been submitted. Judging will take place in April and results are expected in late summer.

20. New biodiversity boards have been prepared by the Heath and Hampstead Society in partnership with CoL and English Heritage. The boards will be focused on nature recovery and habitat management.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

21. 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: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environment
22. 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

23. Donations are currently being sought for the following project:
 - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000). The project includes works to install additional reed beds and protect the island at the Model Boating Pond. £6,303.00 has currently been raised towards this project.
24. 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

25. No impact.

Climate Implications

26. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 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

27. No impact.

Risk Implications

28. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

29. No impact.

Security Implications

30. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Annual plan for 2023/24
- Appendix 2 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Athletics Track Capital Project)

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