



## Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum

Tuesday 4 April 2023, 6.30pm

Parliament Hill Meeting Room

<b>Attending</b>		
Richard Sumray	RS	(Chair) Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
Stefania Horne	SH	Assistant Director, Hampstead Heath
Debbie Bush	DB	Pro-Active Camden (PAC).
Mike Smith	MS	Men's Bathing Pond
Emma Rae	ER	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Chris Piesold	CP	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Sandy Nairne	SN	Licensed Activity - Croquet
John Carrier	JC	Target groups and underrepresented groups
Robert Gibbs	RG	Angling
Matthew Pearce	MP	Angling
Margaret Dickinson	MD	Mixed Bathing Pond
Rudolf Benjamin	RB	Tennis coaching
Beth Feresten	BF	Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond
Colin Houston	CH	Heath Hands
Paul Jeal	PJ	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Kate Radusin	KR	(Note taker) Officer from Hampstead Heath
<b>Apologies</b>		
William Upton	WU	Chair, Hampstead Heath Management Committee
Alderman Gregory Jones	GJ	Deputy Chairman Hampstead Heath Management Committee
David Walton	DW	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
Marc Hutchinson	MH	Licensed Activity - Winter Swimming Club
Mike Sands	MSa	Mixed Bathing Pond
Joseph Lowe	JL	Athletics
Karin Oleinikova	KO	Heath Hands
Karen Smith	KS	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Anandi Shah	AS	Licensed Activity - ParkRun
Ella Mitchell	EM	Rugby
Ray Booth	RB	Mental Health
Paul Maskell	PM	Officer from Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	DG	Officer from Hampstead Heath

## Meeting Action Points & notes

### Outstanding Actions from the last meeting (15.12.2022) & matters arising

N/A

### Update from City of London

*Swimming Capital Project* – Works are due to commence on site from 11<sup>th</sup> April. The first week will be setting up at the Men's and Ladies' bathing pond. The works at the Men's Bathing Pond will be taking place behind the swimming area. Where possible, swimming provision will be maintained throughout the period of works on site. The opening hours of the Lido have also been extended to enable pond swimmers to use the facility.

#### **ACTION – PJ - Arrange a meet the contractors session.**

*Athletics Track Capital Project* - Contractor has been appointed. A design has been shared and discussed with stakeholders and track users. Planning permission will be submitted shortly. An engagement event was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, and positive feedback was received from those who attended. Works will start following the Night of 10,000m event. Officers are working with schools to make alternative arrangements for impacted sports day bookings. Expecting works to be completed by mid-October.

### Parliament Hill Masterplan

Proposals are at the feasibility stage. The design will be updated further to take account of utility pipes and a wider engagement will follow during the summer. Sustainable urban drainage is included within the proposals, which will improve the local sports pitches.

#### **ACTION - Updated proposals will be presented at the next meeting in June.**

DB provided an update in relation to the football foundation play zone project, which is providing funding to redevelop existing on multi use games areas (MUGAS). A bid is being developed for numerous MUGAS within Camden with the aim to encouraging access for priority groups. Bid submission will be between October - December 2023 with feedback on funding early 2024. **ACTION – DB/PM/SH to discuss. ACTION -DB to circulate details of 2<sup>nd</sup> May workshop to SH and PM. ACTION – Extend workshop invite to Head of the COL Learning Team.**

### Natural Environment Sports Strategy

Presentation from SH. COL is developing a square mile centric strategy (focusing on residents and City visitors) and to sit alongside this, the Natural Environment Division (previously the

Open Spaces Department) is developing a strategy which will focus on the outdoor sports opportunities and facilities across the open spaces (including Epping Forest and West Ham Park).

The Strategy will link local and national focuses and will set out opportunities to improve data capture and understanding of our users (to potentially identify new users).

It was suggested that 'Balance' be replaced with protecting/maintaining/conserving.

SN could stress more mental aspect (mindfulness) as well as the physical. Local clubs are very happy to support data gather in relation to user data.

ER noted a number of groups who use the Lido, including mother and baby groups and suggested that a questionnaire could be used to gather a better insight on the use of the facilities.

MS noted there was a group who currently use Kentish town swimming pool and suggested they be invited to swim at the bathing ponds once the access works had been completed.

**ACTION – All reps to provide a short summary of their sports/facilities in terms of the range of use to SH.**

CH Heath Hands have been working very closely with GPs and Social prescribing health connectors. Chaperoning services are available and the lifeguards have been very supportive of outdoor swimming tasters.

Information is available on the website. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/hampstead-heath-accessibility>

MD suggested that activity be included as well as sport. Activity tends to be lower costs to be involved in. SH clarified that the strategy will be high level and the health and well being angle will be considered focusing on the sport facilities.

SH outlined the next steps. An update will be provided at the next forum. Stronger partnership with the local authorities are important and more discussions are needed.

**ACTION– SH/DB meet to discuss the strategy.**

Update from Clubs –

Lido sought an update in relation to cycle parking and car parking charges. The idea of a second sauna was suggested for the coming winter.

Men's Bathing Pond – a Breakfast morning event for Mixed and Ladies' Pond swimmers will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April at the men's bathing pond.

Tennis - coaching sessions are 95% full already, after only a few days of booking.

Camden – Currently focusing on comms and providing details of low cost and free activities and sports. **ACTION – if Clubs have sessions available to target groups please get in touch**

**with DB.** Talacre sports centre has recently secured £3m funding for redevelopment of the facility.

Croquet – the new season will start on 15 April. Open sessions will continue on Sunday mornings to encourage new members. The club will be taking part in GIAG.

Bowls – maintenance of the green has been impacted by bad weather. Season will be starting on 15 April. Full fixture list already.

Winter swimming Club – the club remains popular. The last season was incident free.

Angling – close season ends on 15 June. Tuition sessions for schools will be starting after that. Have applied for a grant to the EA to fund platforms. Need a strategy of how to maintain this. **ACTION – Site meeting with anglers to discuss ahead of the season/ and the access works.**

Heath Hands – the group has taken over the running of Monday morning health walks, 35-40 people take part regularly. 4 years of funding have been secure from TFL to support. Short and a long walk available and a Wednesday walk will be added to the programme soon.

Ladies' Bathing Pond – an equinox event was recently held. Further social events are being considered.

SH confirmed that the 2023/24 fees & Charges had been increased by 5% (below inflation). Fees and charge will continue to be reviewed. This will be picked up at the next meeting.