

QUEEN'S PARK CONSULATIVE GROUP

Monday, 24 April 2023, 1pm.

Queen's Park Meeting Room / Ms Teams

Members:

William Upton KC	- Chair, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Alethea Silk	- Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee
Cllr Neil Nerva	- London Borough of Brent
Cllr Eleanor Southwood	- London Borough of Brent
Flavia Rittner	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Richard Brindley	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Robin Sharp	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Clare Gillan	- Queen's Park Area Residents Association
Vicky Zentner	- Kensal Rise Residents Association
Ruby Sayed	- COL Member

Officers:

Stefania Horne	- Assistant Director, Natural Environment (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, Keats House & West Ham Park)
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services, Queen's Park & West Ham Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager
Paul Brown	- Team Leader, Queen's Park
Kate Radusin	- PA to the Assistant Director

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Stephen Crabb and John Blandy.

2. Assistant Directors Update

A tendering exercise for the Playground received no returns within the project budget. A second tendering exercise is on-going with responses expected by mid-May. A final concept drawing was shared with Members.

ACTION – COL to maintain contact with LB Brent and QPARA.

Thanks were given to CG for the support given to the project.

SH confirmed repairs had been carried out in the playground and at the paddling pool, which will open in late May.

The methodology for the engagement is being scoped. Members of the QPCG will be kept informed as the process progresses.

A wider discussion around the Woodland Walk took place. An engagement on the future of the Woodland Walk would be undertaken as part of a wider Vision engagement that will also capture the development of the paddling pool as a splash park and other matters for users. A Consultant has been appointed to support the engagement. Feedback will be costed and formed into a wider vision, which can guide future fundraising.

Councillor Nerva noted the importance of managing expectations, in terms of what can be achieved and time frames. Sustainability should also be a key theme. Many people travel to use the Park, and their views also need to be captured as part of the engagement. We also need to consider those who do not currently use the Park.

An update will be provided at the next QPCG, as this will give time to digest the feedback from the engagement.

JM provided an overview of works within the Woodland Walk which had recently been undertaken by staff, including hedge laying. We are currently in the bird nesting season, which is restricting further works. The butterfly meadow has also been progressed. Engagement with users is needed before further works are implemented at the Woodland Walk, as we need feedback from users who may be impacted, such as the Pitch & Putt.

SH working with colleagues in the Surveyors Department to review the leases for all cafés. A consultant has been appointed to undertake a marketing review of the needs of each café. Some of the 2016 concepts have not changed, such as value for money and quality of the offer. WU noted that this is now the option to provide longer leases, which was not possible the last time the cafés were tendered.

The 2023 Queen's Park day will combine with QPARA's 50th anniversary celebration. Officers will continue to work with QPARA to progress the event.

PB confirmed the Shakespeare in the Park performance would be Twelfth Night.

A discussion took place regarding summer 2023 children's entertainment. SH confirmed there is no budget and that sponsorship opportunities and alternative solutions need to be explored. SH would engage with the COL Learning Team to see what support they can give on site. Councillor Nerva suggested that local schools could be approached to see if they would like to put on shows at the Bandstand.

Members of QPARA asked if it was possible to see the resources allocated for Queens park. SH indicated that these figures are public through the Charity Commission web pages.

Judging for the London In Bloom and Green Flag awards would be taking place soon, with results expected during the summer.

SH is working with colleagues to progress Gift Aid and this would be launched later in 2023.

3. Questions & AOB

FR requested for meeting action points to be circulated as soon as possible following meetings.

SH clarified in relation to Appendix 1 (2023/24 work plan) that external funding opportunities were being considered to support the Sports Strategy

Councillor Nerva noted current funding opportunities linked to Go London (Major of London) and Brent Council which the QP Charity could apply for.

SH user visitor data is being procured. An update will be provided at the next QPCG meeting.

VZ asked if the installation of swift nesting boxes could be considered as a project for the coming year, as Swifts are in decline.

4. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be circulated via email.