

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons Epping Forest Consultative Group	22/5/24 19/6/24
Subject: The Temple Conservation Management Plan (SEF 10/24)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 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: Bob Roberts, Interim Executive Director Environment Department	For Decision
Report author: Jacqueline Eggleston – Assistant Director / Superintendent of Epping Forest (Interim)	

Summary

This report presents a Conservation Management Plan, Maintenance Plan and associated documents for The Temple, Wanstead Park. The Temple Conservation Management Plan provides guidance to aid long-term decision making about the conservation and management of The Temple, which is a grade II listed building.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Endorse the Temple Conservation Management Plan as a resource to guide maintenance and management decisions.

Main Report

Background

1. The Temple is primarily significant as one of the best surviving elements of the grand park that was laid out around the palatial Wanstead House from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth centuries.
2. Wanstead Park is a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (RPG) and has been on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (HARR) since 2009. In 1954, The Temple and the nearby Grotto were designated as Grade II Listed Buildings, while in 1970 the Wanstead Park area was designated as a Conservation Area. The Wanstead Park Conservation Area was added to the HARR in 2010 while The Grotto was separately added to the HARR in 2017.
3. The Temple is generally in good condition.
4. Purcell were commissioned by City Surveyors in February 2023 to liaise with key stakeholders and prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for The Temple. The production of the CMP was overseen by the Heritage Estate Section (City Surveyor's Department) in consultation with representatives from Epping Forest. External key stakeholders included Historic England, London Borough of Redbridge, the Friends of Wanstead Parklands and the Georgian Society.
5. This report outlines the CMP prepared by Purcell and presents recommendations on the next steps to be taken.

Current Position

6. The aim of producing the CMP was to provide guidance to aid long-term decision making about the conservation and management of The Temple. It is envisaged to be primarily an internal document, which will benefit those involved with managing the site.

The purpose of the CMP is to:

- a. Act as a convenient and accessible repository of information about the site's history and development.
- b. Provide a balanced assessment of the heritage significance of the site which will underpin future decisions about change.
- c. Develop a consensus amongst stakeholders about the significance of the site.
- d. Guide the future conservation, management and maintenance of the site

- e. Suggest actions and projects that the City Corporation, in its capacity as Conservators of Epping Forest, could take forward to meet its vision for the site
- f. Help to clarify consent procedures for works to the listed building and immediate surrounds.
- g. The scope of the CMP is the Temple building and its immediate surrounds.

Proposals

- 7. Volume 1 of the CMP sets out, in Sections 2 and 3, the site's history and chronological development.
- 8. Section 4 assesses what is significant about the Temple in heritage terms of its historic, aesthetic, communal and setting values.
- 9. Section 5 identifies the issues and opportunities associated with the building and its immediate setting and which will underpin the Conservation Policies in Section 6.
- 10. Section 7 explores potential high-level options for improved access and enhanced provision of events and visitor facilities.
- 11. The final section contains an Action Plan with the summary of the key activities, associated urgency and costs.
- 12. Volume 2 consists of the Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP) which provides a robust framework for the ongoing management and maintenance on a day-to-day basis for The Temple.
- 13. Volumes 3 and 4 compile the most recent condition surveys, including structural and services, with associated recommendations and further relevant literature and reports relating to the Temple.
- 14. This Conservation Management Plan puts forward a vision for the Temple that would, if adopted:
 - a. conserve its character as one of the best surviving elements of the historic park.
 - b. promote the management and conservation of the site based on a thorough understanding of its significance.
 - c. implement a proactive regime of cyclical inspections and maintenance works undertaken at regular intervals.
 - d. provide a building which is safe, resilient and well maintained.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

15. The CMP supports the Corporate Plan Policy aims and priorities:
- (2) People enjoy good health and well being
 - (5) Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible
 - (11) We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment
 - (12) Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.

Legal Implications

16. The Temple is a Grade II listed building which must be managed in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This includes obtaining listed building consent for any alterations or extensions that would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest.

Property Implications

17. The CMP addresses the long-term management and maintenance needs of the Temple to ensure its continued preservation.

Charity Implications

18. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Financial and Resource Implications

19. The maintenance and management of the Temple is met from City Surveyors Local Risk and Epping Forest Local Risk.

Risk Implications

20. Risk associated with the Temple, its maintenance and management is recorded through Epping Forest and City Surveyors respective risk registers

Equalities Implications

21. The CMP addresses future improvements for physical access.

Climate implications

22. Sustainable management and maintenance has been considered within the CMP.

Security implications

23. Security risk has been addressed within the CMP.

Conclusion

24. The Temple is a grade II listed building within a registered park and garden that is one of the best surviving elements of the original grand park in Wanstead. The Temple CMP provides guidance to aid long-term decision making about the conservation and management of The Temple.

Appendices

Appendix 1 The Temple CMP

Appendix 2 The Temple MMP

Appendix 3 The Temple Conditions Surveys

Appendix 4 The Temple Appendices

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