

Sports and Wellbeing Forum Minutes and Actions  
15 July 2024, 6.00pm  
Parliament Hill Conference Room

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**Attendees**

Alderman Gregory Jones KC (GJ) (online)	Chair, Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum Deputy Chair; Member HHCC
Richard Sumray (RS)	Assistant Director (Superintendent)
Bill LoSasso (BL)	Head of Operations and Parks
Charlotte Williams (CW)	Parliament Hill Fields Lido
Karen Smith (KS)	Hampstead and Highgate Angling Society
David Littler (DL)	Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club
Marc Hutchinson (MH)	Highgate Harriers Athletics Club
Joseph Lowe (JL)	Parliament Hill & Operations Manager
Richard O'Mahony (ROM)	Senior Swimming Manger
Paul Jeal (PJ)	Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association
Pauline Latchem	Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association
Sheila Fitzgerald	Interpreter
Hazel Middleton	Parkrun
Anandi Shah (AS) (online)	Highgate Men's Pond Association
Michael Smith (MS)	Mixed Pond User Group
Felicity Moir (FM)	Heath Hands
Colin Houston (CH)	Pro-Active Camden
Deborah Bush (DB) (online)	PA to NLOS Superintendent
Helen Evans	

At the request of the Chair who was attending online Richard Sumray kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Sandy Nairne, Robert Gibbs, Ella Mitchell

**2. Review of February 2024 minutes**

- a. The Forum agreed that the minutes were accurate and correct.

**3. Updates from City of London Corporation**

- a. Projects on the Heath
  - i. An accessible fishing platform has been installed on Highgate Pond 2 to support disabled users accessing angling. HAHAS secured an EA grant to support the project.
  - ii. The 'Night of the 10K PBs' was a successful event again, with excellent feedback that it was the best iteration yet.
  - iii. One of the Heath Extension cricket nets will be refurbished.
  - iv. The annual 'Give it a Go' event on 14 July was broadly successful.

**ACTION: (SMT) to review the sport events from the season and look ahead to future events in terms of organisation and delivery.**

- v. No further update on potential Parliament Hill improvement projects, as no funding is currently available.
- b. Ladies' Pond Protest:
  - i. The City of London Corporation is aware of an upcoming protest in response to its gender identity and access and inclusion policy, planned for 28 July 2024.
  - ii. The City Corporation has been holding weekly meetings to plan, liaising with appropriate entities, to ensure safety for officers and the public.
  - iii. Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association noted that there is some public misapprehension that the pond is managed by, and policy set by, KLPA, which should be corrected if stated.

#### **4. Terms of Reference**

- a. BL stated that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Sports & Wellbeing Forum were overdue for their annual review. The Forum is the City Corporation's mechanism to engage with Heath users to promote and maximise the benefits of the Heath around health and wellbeing. Following discussions at the meeting of the Forum on 28 February 2024, officers were tasked with drafting an updated ToR intending to reflect the shared desire to reorient the Forum towards a strategic, partnership-based body.
- b. It was confirmed that Forum minutes are historically shared with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- c. Attendees were invited to share comments on the draft ToR distributed in the agenda pack; these are summarised below. (Please note that comments are not addressed in any order of importance but in the order of the relevant paragraph, where feasible.)
  - a. *General: Transparency in discussion was deemed important to achieving the goals of the Forum.*
  - b. *General: The Forum should specifically consider wellbeing in its new iteration.*
  - c. *General: The benefits of social inclusion via Heath activities.*
  - d. *General: Ensuring a membership of the Forum that was also representative of the community surrounding the Heath was deemed an important goal.*

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- e. *Paragraph 5: Whilst strategic in nature, it was clarified that intractable operational issues could be added to the Forum agenda for discussion at the discretion of the Chair.*
- f. *Paragraph 6: Given the new emphasis and membership of the Sports & Wellbeing Forum, the scope and ToR of other forums needed to be recognised, as they would need to be focused on operational issues.*
- g. *Paragraph 11:*
  - i. *Having one member from the various swimming groups/facilities was considered by many to be a significant change. The swimming groups stated that following this meeting they would consider the implications. Officers responded that the new orientation of this forum was towards strategic developments, as opposed to discussions focused on and grounded in specific clubs and facilities, and that the recently reconstituted Swimming Forum allowed for operational and club- and facility-specific discussions.*
  - ii. *In some cases specific bodies were still referenced (e.g., Heath Hands and Camden PAC) despite the ambition to move away from that.*
  - iii. *Running consisted of both track users and other runners (e.g., Parkrun). The main club user, it was suggested, should be the track representative.*
  - iv. *The Chair maintained the ability to ensure representation from other activities/users/stakeholders not specifically represented in Paragraph 11 (e.g. youth).*
  - v. *It was noted that the phraseology of participants was important (Member v. Delegate v. Representative), and was related to the concept of participants being representatives rather than delegates from specific clubs or facilities.*
- h. *Paragraph 14: More than one meeting per annum would be necessary to ensure continuity and progress. It was recognised that officer capacity was an important consideration.*
- i. *Paragraph 15: It should state how minutes will be shared.*
- j. *Paragraph 19: It was suggested that this paragraph be moved toward the beginning of the ToR, and that the capacity in which people attend (e.g. representing facilities, clubs, or activities generally) be articulated more clearly.*
- k. *Paragraph 24: An annual review would not be needed, but should occur as determined by the Chair/participants.*

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**ACTION: (CW) to draft Terms of Reference for Swimming Forum once the Sports and Wellbeing Forum are finalised.**

**ACTION: (CoL) to take into consideration points raised on the proposed ToR and to provide the final terms to the Forum in due course.**

**5. Agenda setting for next meeting: Proposed agenda items**

- a. Representatives & delegates: who are we not seeing in this Forum?
- b. Broader discussion on wellbeing: what do we mean by social prescribing and what can we do?
- c. Final Terms of Reference

**6. AOB**

- a. DL brought up HAHAS's achievements from the past 5 years
- b. DL noted his desire for the City Corporation to extend the fishing season. The Chair and officers agreed this topic was not for discussion at the Forum.
- c. MH brought up that the Winter Swimming Club have brought on and trained a welfare officer.
- d. CW was thanked for her work to bring about the installation of the gazebo and shelter at the athletics track.
- e. PL mentioned the lack of accessibility for people booking swimming who are not able to use the internet. It was agreed this could be brought up at the Swimming Forum.
- f. DB offered access to learning and training opportunities, including safeguarding, through Camden. She also reported that a Pro-Active Camden Children and Young People Action Plan is being produced, which will be looking at priority groups for this. Members can contact herself for further information or contribution, or to subscribe to their newsletter.
- g. GJ offered his thanks to RS for acting as Chair and for the invigorating discussion on the Terms of Reference, which concluded the meeting.

**ACTION: (HE) to share details from Camden on safeguarding and welfare, circulated with minutes.**

Date of Next Meeting: 28 November 2024