

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group	12 June 2013
Subject: Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan	Public
Report of: Simon Lee – Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Summary	
<p>This report provides an update on the production of the new Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Queen's Park. The first draft of the CMP is enclosed with this report for the Consultative Groups' views. Further public consultation will be undertaken following any proposed amendments by your Group in order to seek wider public opinion on the core components of the draft plan.</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>That the views of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group be received on the draft Conservation Management Plan and proposals for wider public consultation.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. Chris Blandford Associates were appointed consultants in 2012 to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for Queen's Park. The plan is being developed to assist the management team in conserving the significance of the park. The CMP for Queen's Park is now in its first draft. The park manager formulated the Queen's Park CMP Working Group (QPCMPWG) and arranged a number of focus group sessions under the headings; Natural Environment, Built Environment & Infrastructure, Community & Recreation and Heritage. Focus group sessions were held in November and December 2012 with key objectives and policies formulated by this group. The current draft contains an executive summary, a focused set of policies and aspirational goals with broad timescales and estimated costs.

Current CMP Draft

2. The Executive Summary section which includes a breakdown of the key headlines, aims and objectives provides a quick glance view of the plan. This is a large document and the inclusion of this section is important in enabling readers to pick and choose the section of the document they want to read.
3. The Executive Summary has been broken down in to six areas, Introduction, Understanding the Heritage, Statement of Significance, Risks and Opportunities, Aims and Objectives, and Adoption and Review.
4. An earlier SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats) analysis had been carried out internally with staff from the across North London Open Spaces Division and with park users at a roadshow event in the park. This SWAT analysis supported both Chris Blandford Associates and the QPCMPWG with the process and focused their thoughts on considering aims, objectives and goals. During the focus group sessions in November and December 2012, the groups also carried out a SWOT analysis and a comprehensive list of objectives, aims and proposed policies for the future management of the park were discussed. The headline topic areas for the focus groups were Heritage, Built Environment & Infrastructure, Natural Environment and Community & Recreation. These headlines topics have been duplicated in the draft CMP.
5. A Statement of Significance identifies what is important about Queen's Park and why, this helps define what the CMP is seeking to protect and enhance, therefore informing the conservation vision, aims and objectives for the park.
6. Risks and opportunities have been identified in the draft and these have been produced from the work with focus groups, staff and public consultation.
7. Aims and objectives within the CMP have been broken down in to five topic areas; Heritage, Built Environment & Infrastructure, Natural Environment, Community & Recreation and Managing Information about Heritage. The

context of each topic is set out with an overriding objective, associated essential actions and aspirational goals.

8. Overriding Objectives for each topic area are:
 - **Heritage** – *Conserve and enhance the park's historical values.*
 - **Managing Information about Heritage** – *ensure good understanding of the park's significance through systematic approach to managing information and high quality interpretation.*
 - **Built environment and Infrastructure** – *Conserve and enhance the park's built environment and infrastructure, ensuring it is fit for purpose, in good condition and in keeping with the character of the site.*
 - **Natural Environment** – *Conserve and enhance the natural environment of the site.*
 - **Community and Recreation** – *Conserve and enhance the site's community and recreational values, providing facilities and activities which meet visitors needs, whilst conserving the site's other values.*
9. An action plan table gives a summary of overriding objectives and associated essential actions. The essential actions have been prioritised on criteria of importance and urgency, expected timescales, responsible person for delivery and indicative cost for each headline topic.
10. Essential actions have been given a broad indication of costs from low < £1,000 to major >£100,000.
11. Each essential action has been prioritised on the criteria of importance and urgency. Actions which have a significant impact on the park's values and/or which are addressing urgent issues are defined as having a high priority. Delivery timescales are defined below;
 - **Short Term** is defined as delivery within 1 – 2 years;
 - **Medium Term** is defined as delivery within 3 - 5 years;
 - **Long Term** is defined as delivery within 6+ years (all aspirational goals would fall in to this category).
12. The draft document contains a list of potential funding sources to support implementation of the essential actions in the action plan.
13. Some actions are already in progress or maybe an on-going action which are currently being undertaken by staff or the management team and achieved through the parks local risk budget.
14. Careful consideration will need to be given to the essential actions and which to prioritise, especially as the park has recently faced budgetary cuts to its staff resource and other areas. Any immediate essential actions should be realistic and achievable. Some actions may require funding from the park local risk budget, this will be challenging for the management to ensure there is both the availability of sufficient funds and resource to achieve positive outcomes and results.

History of Queen's Park

15. A historical document was produced in March 2011 by Land Use Consultants who were appointed by the City of London to carry out research and develop 'A History of Queen's Park' document. This historical document has been important in highlighting the importance of the parks designer Alexander McKenzie in the landscape designer movement of the time.

Public Consultation

16. It is recommended that further public consultation takes place with the community and stakeholders with the support of Chris Blandford Associates, City of London staff and key stakeholders.
17. Management and staff can assist with these events and support can be provided by colleagues within the division who have already gone through the process of public consultation as part of the development of a CMP.
18. It is suggested that at least two/three further consultation sessions are held in the park over the summer period. Including a session on Queen's Park Day which takes place on September 15th 2013. This event alone can receive up to 15,000 visitors.
19. The format of the public consultation events will be to include boards with information against each topic theme, the Statement of Significance and an opportunity for visitors to give comment on the CMP and future developments in the park.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

20. The CMP meets the Corporate Community Strategy 3. *Environment - A World Class City which protects promotes and enhances our environment Departments*, 4. *Promotion A world Class City which is vibrant and culturally rich*. It also meets the Departmental Strategic Aims – *Involving communities and partners in developing a sense of place through care and management of our sites; Deliver sustainable working practices to promote the variety of life and protect the Open Spaces for the enjoyment of future generations and Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living*.

Implications

21. Essential actions may require funding from the Queen's Park local risk budget. Actions which are considered High to Major may require a capital funding bid or funding from an external source.
22. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Conclusion

23. It is acknowledged that Queen's Park continues to be a popular Open Space within the community, serving a wide and diverse audience. The process to develop a final draft CMP for publication to the public will set out future project proposals, funding applications, a guide to repair, conservation and restoration works; to set out long term maintenance and management strategy for the park and associated costs; and to support an application for Green Heritage status.

Appendices

- Draft - Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan (CBA, March 2013)

Background Papers:

A History of Queen's Park (LUC, March 2011)

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