

Hampstead Heath Sports & Well-being Forum

18 November 2025 at 18:00

Parliament Hill Conference Room & MS Teams

ATTENDEES:

Members:	Richard Sumray (Deputy Chair, acting Chair)	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee
	Joseph Lowe	Highgate Harriers
	Jennifer Lovell	Highgate Harriers
	Sandy Nairne	Hampstead Heath Croquet Club
	Judith Perle	Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association
	Emma Rea	Parliament Hill Fields Lido User Group
	Anandi Shah (joined 19:00)	Parkrun
	Scott Davis	Hampstead Rugby Club
	Deborah Bush (Online)	Pro-Active Camden
	Karin Oleinikova	Heath Hands
Officers:	Bill LoSasso	Superintendent, City of London Corporation
	Charlotte Williams	Head of Operations and Parks, City Corporation
	Paul Maskell	Events Manager, City Corporation
	Paul Jeal	Swimming Facilities Manager, City Corporation
	Colin Houston	Volunteer and Engagement Manger, City Corporation; Chief Executive, Heath Hands
	Helen Evans	PA to Superintendent, City Corporation (Minutes)

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MINUTES

1. Apologies

Alderman Gregory Jones (Chairman), Felicity Moir, Cassie Bridger, Brian Presley, Susannah Behr

2. Minutes from 24 April 2025, actions and any matters arising

The Group reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and the following point was raised:

- a. 12-month review of the athletics track: Highgate Harriers sought inclusion in the contractual review of the construction of the track. Officers advised this was not a stakeholder liaison opportunity, but a contractual performance review between the client and contractor. An athlete was present to advise professionally.

3. Matters arising:

- a. Camden and Heath Hands to liaise for collaboration – action completed.
- b. Annual report on sports and wellbeing: This is designed to be an annual report looking back at the fiscal year. It will include the changing room legionella issue. The sports clubs will be asked to provide information to include in the report. A template for it will need to be designed. Event applications: Covered later in agenda
- c. Camden and kids' cricket: DB and CW will discuss before the next PAC meeting.
- i. Defibrillators: The City Corporation will disseminate its map of locations of defibrillators on the Heath. Officers will discuss options for a defibrillator on the Heath with the rugby club. BL noted that initial communication had already occurred with the rugby club.

Action: CW – Create a template to get feedback from the groups and produce an annual report or a summary of activities and updates in 2025-26.

Action: CW/DB - to liaise on cricket during off-season period.

Action: CW - Defibrillator map to be circulated.

Action: BL/CW - to look into feasibility of a defibrillator for public-use near changing rooms.

4. Events Policy and booking procedures

PM gave a detailed presentation on events, including details on the framework and origins, operations, financial and resource implications, legal and licensing, applications, as well as a forecast on the future of events at the Heath. The following points were raised:

- a. The Events Policy is due for renewal, and this will include a review of the application form process, fees, and review timelines. BL noted the significant number of events that were reviewed and delivered in the past year despite only having one Officer working on events, and as only part of their remit. PM committed to this in 2026 and agreed to accept suggestions via email. There was broad agreement in an aspiration to simplify applications for small/non-complex events where possible.
- b. Larger events for 2026 include:
 - i. Highgate Harrier London 5k – discussions ongoing; date pending.
 - ii. Night of the 10K – Occurring in May.
 - iii. London international XC – Occurring in February
 - iv. London Youth Games – participation from 32 boroughs; occurring in November.
 - v. Duathlon – Occurring in September, date TBC, discussions are underway.
- c. Events are considered either commercial or community, and Officers agreed this would be further clarified as part of the review.
- d. The group suggested a balance of trying new events and bringing back tried-and-tested successful events. Among the discussion were:
 - i. An open-air cinema
 - ii. Diversity in event offerings
 - iii. Free events for inclusion
 - iv. Give it a Go - City Corporation Officers noted that external support would be needed to deliver this event again.
- e. It was mentioned that communications around events could be improved, to encourage local interaction.
- f. Hampstead Rugby Club raised an issue with the use of the kiosk as a café being discontinued, which they stated affected the club. BL noted that conversations had occurred separately with the club as part of formalizing the club's use of the Heath more broadly.
- g. Officers are considering the impact and future management of Parkrun

Action: PM – review the Event Policy in 2026, including the application form, liaising with the Forum's representatives on this.

Action: BL – Continue discussion with the rugby club on permitted uses of the Heath.

5. Terms of Reference and discussion on plans and objectives for 2026-27

CW suggested that for meetings of the S&WF going forward, we keep the meetings strategic, each one having a theme and speaker, with work being collaborative. The discussion brought up the following key points:

- a. Event communication & annual comms plan: early coordination and reach are required for success.
- b. It was suggested that for future meetings we take a theme from the HH strategy and explore in detail, gaining contribution and closing the loop.

Action: BL – ToR do not yet reflect the agreed two reps for Swimming: update and circulate.

6. Updates from City of London Corporation:

a. Heath Extension Changing Rooms

The changing rooms on the Heath Extension are closed again due to Legionnaires. This is a persistent and complex issue for the City Corporation. HRFC noted this is affecting their operations and membership.

Action: CW – to look into the changing room offer from HRC to help identify a solution.

b. Swimming Facilities and Aerators

Officers covered the various works taking place across the swimming facilities.

c. Athletics Track

Officers mentioned recent quotes to renovate the shotput have come back between £7 - 30k. Officers are seeking specifications and breakdowns of quotes, and funding is being investigated.

Action: CW – to begin collecting data on individuals using the track.

7. AOB

- a. Members were encouraged to disseminate the consultation on the ponds with user groups.
- b. Cafes remarketing: Officers confirmed that the matter was being considered by the management committee in December.
- c. BL reminded the group that only one representative was permitted per group and that this requirement of the Terms of Reference would be observed.

8. Agenda and date for next meeting

Some suggestions for the following meeting include:

- a. Communication and working collaboratively on impact, mapped to the Heath management strategy.
- b. Strategic discussion on events, including gaps in audience, e.g. Give It a Go, could evolve to have a focus on drawing women's participation.
- c. To look at the Forum's principles and how we will achieve them – considering improved inclusion for women, ethnic minorities and disabled people, e.g. lighting considerations for women's safety to encourage access.

Next meeting: TBC

End of meeting: 19:47