



Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum

Parliament Hill meeting room

22nd September 2014, 6.30pm

Members:

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| Richard Sumray (Chairman) | RS | HHCC (London Council for Sports and Recreation) |
| Nigel Robinson | NR | Camden Council (Head of Sport & Physical Activity) |
| Rudolph Benjamin | RB | Hampstead Heath Tennis Coach |
| Marc Hutchison | MH | Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club, Heath & Hampstead Society |
| Simon Taylor | ST | Hampstead Rugby Club |
| Natasha Cendrowicz | NC | Highgate Harriers |
| David Bedford | DB | London Marathon Trust |

In attendance:

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| Jeremy Simons | JLS | Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee |
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Officers:

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| Bob Warnock | BW | Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, City of London |
| Declan Gallagher | DG | Operational Services Manager, City of London |
| Paul Maskell | PM | Leisure and Events Manager, City of London |
| Richard O'Mahony | ROM | Parliament Hill Supervisor – Sports & Recreation |
| Paul Jeal | PJ | Senior Swimming Supervisor |
| Kate Radusin (minutes) | KR | PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, City of London |

| ITEM | | ACTION |
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| 1. | Apologies | |
| | Dave Walton, Virginia Rounding, Richard Priestley, John Carrier. | |
| 2. | Minutes of the previous meeting | |
| | Accepted. NR gave a brief overview of the 'Camden Active Spaces' showcase event. 350 individuals are being monitored for 12 months to see if the levels of physical activity they partake in have increased since the installation of playspaces in 7 Camden schools. Camden has a higher than average obesity level, 11% of children in the Borough are overweight. | |
| 3. | Swimming Issues | |
| | <u>Secondary Viewing points</u> PJ met with an Independent Swimming Safety Consultant and the Lifeguards, and it was decided that as there are usually only 2 Lifeguards on duty, a static secondary viewing point would not be implemented as the Lifeguards need to be in communication with each other and be able to offer cover if one of the Lifeguards is called away i.e. phone calls or toilet breaks. Where a 3 rd Lifeguard is brought in then they act as a 'roaming Lifeguard' utilising the rescue ski to | |

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| <p>move around the pond.</p> <p>RS this seems reasonable and appropriate. PJ Lifeguards are trained to use a rescue ski and can get across the pond in 10-20 seconds.</p> <p><u>Health screening for swimmers</u> PM sought the advice of MH, who confirmed the City has no legal responsibility to assess medical information. As a 'Competent Local Authority' the City must: display permanent signs warning against obvious dangers, and display signs giving information about temporary dangers i.e. Blue Green Algae. The Lifeguards are not qualified to advise on medical conditions. The 'City does all it reasonably can to control the natural hazards present at the ponds'. Lifeguards have been asked to inform concerned members of the public to seek advice from their GP if they are unsure.</p> <p>This advice was accepted by Forum members</p> <p><u>Swimming rep on the Sports Advisory Forum</u> KR confirmed that this will be on the agenda for the next Swimming Forum meeting on 13th October.</p> <p><u>Ladies' Pond closure as part of the HHPP</u> MH the JR hearing is scheduled to happen no later than the 30th November. The Courts have agreed to a rolled up hearing. The JR decision is due before Camden vote on planning permission.</p> <p>BW Tree clearance works are scheduled to begin in January/February 2015. Construction works will begin at the Model Boating Pond from March. The programme includes the construction of a temporary access route to the Ladies' Pond in the autumn of 2015, with the main works at the facility to start from January 2016. The works consist of de-silting, levelling the dam, constructing a spillway and constructing a new Lifeguard and Ladies' changing facility, with works scheduled to finish by May 2016. Discussions are needed between the Winter Swimming Club (WSC), Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association (KLPA), the Mixed Pond Association (MPA) and City of London Officers regarding the temporary access arrangements, to allow KLPA access to swim at the Mixed Pond during the closure of the Ladies' Pond.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised by the MPA about the Mixed Pond being able to cope with increased usage, as the water pressure may not be adequate. There is an on-going investigation into this, linked to works which will be taking place at the Ladies' Pond.</p> <p>RS it would be a sensible conclusion for the WSC, KLPA, MPA and City of London to meet and discuss usage of the Mixed Pond. PM and PJ will start some preparatory works on H&S considerations. It is understood that the Ladies' will be anxious to secure a female only swimming facility.</p> <p>PM confirmed that the Mixed Pond is handed over to the Winter Swimming Club from tomorrow am.</p> | <p>PM / PJ</p> |
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| 4. | Progress with the Charging Policy | |
| | <p>BW the City of London needs to save £20m in the next 3 years (starting in April 2015), of this £2.2m of savings will come from the Open Spaces Department. The Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee have been consulted on the levels of savings via a non-public report at their last meeting on the 15th September. Due to these budget reductions an in-depth review of charging across all facilities will be undertaken in 2015/16. The Superintendent is proposing to increase facility prices by the Retail Price Index of 2.4% this year, with amounts over £50 rounded to the nearest pound, and increases to charges less than £50 taken on a case by case basis. The proposed charges for 2015 will be presented to Committee for approval in November.</p> <p>RS suggested that the review of differentiated sports charges should be put on hold, as an overarching review of charges will take place next year. This was accepted.</p> <p>ST asked that a Quarterly Season ticket for the Athletics Track be considered.</p> <p>RB there was a big increase in prices in 2011/12. BW this was due to the 12.5% budget cuts at that time.</p> <p>DG usage at the Heath Extension has been reviewed, the original 5 cricket squares have been reduced to 2 and further pitches can be re-installed should usage demand increase again.</p> <p>DB on-line booking? This has not progressed in recent years. BW we have fallen behind with this, but are looking to talk to partners who have already established effective systems. The in-house trial that took place at Epping Forest was not successful. JLS ‘piggy backing’ is an option. Zippos circus use the booking system of the Lowry Theatre. ROM has a meeting scheduled on 2 October with a company to see how they could provide online booking facilities for Hampstead Heath. RS online booking would also needs to be looked at in conjunction with SBR. NR would be happy to share knowledge with DG regards integrated payment systems.</p> <p>RS asked the officers to report on the visit to Perivale track on 27 August, a Grade B facility managed by Everyone Active. DG charges are similar to the Parliament Hill Track; however the facility is fenced off and only accessible in the evenings. The grounds were not maintained to the same standard as Parliament Hill, however, on the plus side there is a gym and trim trail at the facility and it has a Green Flag status. There are some lessons for the Parliament Hill Track in looking at its future development.</p> | NR |
| 5. | Lido | |
| | <p><u>Lido boundary wall</u> PM insurance have agreed to fund the re-build, works are starting in March</p> | |

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| | <p>2015.</p> <p><u>Update on the summer programme</u> PJ the Lido had a reasonably successful summer, income was £70k down on last year, although this is still the 2nd best year for income.</p> <p>There were 39 in-water rescues made (mainly these were for children), and 1 major pool side resuscitation. The staff involved in the pool-side resuscitation received a letter from the London Ambulance Service who will be using this incident as a case study to promote defibrillators being placed in public accessible places.</p> <p>The Outdoor Swimming Society have booked an event at the Lido in December, and City Dip was a very successful event in July, £1k was raised for Lord Mayor's charity between the Lido and Golden Lane.</p> <p>25 children attended the water awareness week.</p> | |
| 6. | Update on 'Give It A Go' | |
| | <p>PM there were 8,000 participants and the first triples table tennis table was launched. A meeting has been set up to discuss next years event, the July date worked well. Thanks to all involved around the table.</p> <p>BW the Emergency Services also had a big presence which was well received.</p> | |
| 7. | Update on Bowls Club and Croquet Club | |
| | <p>DG Minor issues have been resolved and a licence is in the process of being signed off. DG will ask the Clubs to report back on their 5 KPIs.</p> <p>Very sadly Ian Harrison a founding member and trustee of the Croquet Club passed away during the summer.</p> | DG |
| 8. | Hampstead Rugby Club – request for an additional rugby pitch | |
| | <p>DG was approached by the Club, as they have expanded greatly in recent years. There were 15 children signed up to the club when they started and there are now 185. Views from the Sports Forum will be fed back to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and Management Committees.</p> <p>ST we are in our 5th season, and have increased our coach numbers. We think we will have a 3rd Ladies' teams by Christmas on the back of recent 2014 Ladies' World Cup win. There is also the 2015 Men's World Cup and the addition of Rugby 7's in the next summer Olympics which will further increase the sport's popularity.</p> <p>RS if numbers continue to increase will you need further pitches? ST we can't predict our growth in the immediate future. DB there will be no impact on Cricket due to the location chosen. NR Camden will be changing to a 'fully traded model' from a 'fully subsidised model from 2015/16, and this may affect Schools usage.</p> <p>Support was given for the additional rugby pitch.</p> | |

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| 9. | Update on the Duathlon | |
| | PM 65 women and 116 men took part, and there were 32 teams. Park Run helped to run the event, and £1,086.00 was raised for a Motor Neurons charity. | |
| 10. | Mid-Summer trail run initial proposal | |
| | <p>PM has been approached by the Jubilee Hall Trust regarding the run which would be part competitive part charitable.</p> <p>DB it would encourage more people to take up running and as it is a trial it could be directed to anywhere on the Heath which is a benefit.</p> <p>RS there is support from the forum for PM to progress this event further as a trial event. Feedback should be given at a future meeting of the Sports Forum.</p> | |
| 11. | Any Other Business | |
| | None. | |
| 12. | Date of the next meeting. | |
| | Monday 26 th January 2015, Parliament Hill meeting room, 6.30pm. | |