

**QUEEN'S PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

**Wednesday, 9 November 2011**

**Minutes of the meeting of the QUEEN'S PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP held at Guildhall on WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2011 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Present**

**Members:**

Deputy Michael Welbank (Chairman)	
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	
Deputy Dennis Cotgrove	
Dr Peter Hardwick	
Paul Stratton	- Malorees School (Schools Liaison)
John Blandy	- Queen's Park Area Residents' Association
Ben Chase	- Queen's Park Area Residents' Association
Cllr James Denselow	- LB of Brent
Elaine Henderson (Observer)	

**Officers:**

Sureka Perera	- Town Clerk's Department
Edward Foale	- Town Clerk's Department
Simon Lee	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Queen's Park Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Michael Adeyeye, Alison Moulding and Annalisa Saba.

**2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING**

There were no declarations.

**3. MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 8 June 2011 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Scattered Peanuts (item 8) The Park Manager stated that there was improved signage around the Park and this had helped minimise the problem, on the whole. However, it was noted that, on occasions, peanuts were found at the base of trees; the situation would continue to be monitored.

#### **4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE REPORT**

A report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing an update on management and enhancement matters that had taken place in Queen's Park since the last meeting in June 2011, was considered.

##### Ecology

There were plans to introduce more wildflowers to the bunds in 2012. The vegetable patch to the rear of the café had produced a good crop.

##### Sports and Recreation

An additional £5,000 of income was raised between April and October. In response to a Member's question, the Park Manager confirmed that sports coaching took place during the winter months as well. Private coaching was also available. Another Member commented that the tennis coach was very popular and good feedback had been received.

It was noted that the second table tennis table had proved popular.

##### Conservation and Heritage

In response to a question, the Superintendent explained the purpose and importance of the Conservation Management Plan; how it informed policy and how it could be a tool for securing external funding for activities and projects in the Park. The Superintendent also took the Committee through the process of how the Plan was created including the consultation process and the context and strategic direction it provided.

In response to a Member's question, the first piece of work would cost in the region of £10,000. In the wider scheme of things, the Superintendent stated that when £750,000 was spent on the Park, £10,000 represented a small investment for an important and essential document which could reap many benefits for the Park.

##### Children's Play Area

In response to a question, the Superintendent reported that replacement of play equipment was on a 'like for like' basis out of the Superintendent's local risk budget.

##### Landscape

The Committee noted the removal of the Horse Chestnut which had been blighted by leaf minor.

##### Management

In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent stated that two work experience pupils a year was the maximum the Park could take on, but their input was valued.

##### Visitors and Community

In response to a Member's question, it was reported that there were no complaints about the bandstand.

### Beehives

In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent confirmed that honey was produced and he undertook to find out where the honey went.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be received and the Committee's comments noted.

## 5. **QUEEN'S PARK EVENTS 2011**

A report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing a review of the events which took place in Queen's Park in 2011 including Queen's Park Residents Association Book Festival, Islamia Family Fun Day, Lexi Cinema Outdoor Film Screening and Queen's Park Day, was considered.

The QPARA Book Festival had been a great success and there were plans to hold the event again next year, possibly over two days as the cost of the hire of the marquee was the same for the whole weekend as it was for one day. The profit from the event was added to by QPARA, making a total of £1,000 and this sum was used to buy £200 worth of books each for five local schools.

The Islamia Event had experienced problems with a lack of volunteers which meant that Park staff had to contend with clearing up litter after the event. Other problems with the event were also raised such as the level of noise. The Superintendent intended to raise these issues with the Islamia School Governor representative who sat on the Committee. In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent confirmed that a deposit could be taken before the event. The Superintendent added that conditions would be set down and, if these were not met, the event could be shut down at any time. It was noted that £17,000 had been raised for the School through the event.

The Nomad/Lexi Cinema event had been a great success and there had been no issues or concerns.

In response to questions about the Olympics, the Superintendent stated that the City was running themed events branded 'Green to Gold' across all the open spaces. There were plans to work with existing partners and tailor events to meet the brand criteria such as tennis coaching and a Queen's Park 'mini Olympics'. These events would essentially be branded as cultural Olympiad events. The Superintendent added that the Olympics 'Inspire' mark could be used with the permission of the Olympic authorities; this would be useful in helping to raise sponsorship for Olympic-related activities.

The Committee noted that 2012 was the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of London's ownership of Queen's Park. The date for celebrations was 4 June 2012.

**RESOLVED:** That,

- i) the Committee's views, as expressed, on the events which took place in the Park be noted, and

- ii) the work of the local community volunteers, whose goodwill helped support these events, be recognised.

## **6. QUEEN'S PARK CAFÉ – LEASE RENEWAL**

A discussion note from Elaine Henderson regarding the renewal of the lease of the Queen's Park Café was considered.

The note set out an argument that the café had the potential to be a centre for community engagement which was not being fully realised at present. The Superintendent stated that this was a matter for the City Surveyor.

A Member commented that the operator was compelled to meet his contractual obligations and the extension of the lease rested solely whether these had been met. The Chairman stated that the discussion note proposed another model for operating the café, which was welcomed. He added that the decision rested with the Management Committee following receipt of a report on the subject.

**RESOLVED:** That the position be noted.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of business.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the meetings in 2012 be held as follows:

Wednesday 13 June 2012 (Queen's Park) – starting at 12 Noon

Wednesday 21 November 2012 (Guildhall) – starting at 12.00 Noon

**The meeting closed at 3:30pm**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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