

## HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2012

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE EDUCATION CENTRE, THE LIDO, OFF GORDON HOUSE ROAD, HAMPSTEAD HEATH NW5 ON MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2012 AT 7PM.**

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Deputy Michael Welbank (Chairman)	Alix Mullineaux (Marylebone Bird Watching Society)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Xohan Duran (Representative of people with disabilities)	Robert Slowe ( Representative of Clubs using Facilities on the Heath )
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Richard Sumray (London Council for Sports and Recreation)
Mike Hammerson (Highgate Society)	Jeremy Wright (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Ian Harrison (Vale of Health Society)	Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Mansfield Neighbourhood Association)
John Hunt (South End Green Association)	Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)
Jamie Jenkins (Heath Hands)	
John Rogers (Ramblers' Association)	

#### **Officers:**

Edward Foale	- Town Clerk's Department
Esther Sumner	- Town Clerk's Department
Simon Lee	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure & Events Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood & Conservation Manager
Jennifer Wood	- Water Management Communications Officer

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from David Walton and John Weston.

### **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

In respect of item 4b, Xohan Duran made a personal, but non-prejudicial, declaration of interest as a registered gas installer.

In respect of item 4c, Ian Harrison made a personal, but non-prejudicial, declaration of interest as a founding member of the Hampstead Heath Croquet Club.

In respect of item 7, Bob Slowe made a personal, but non-prejudicial, declaration of interest as a member of the Highgate Harriers.

### **3. MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2011 were approved, subject to the following amendment:

#### Meadow Creation on Hampstead Heath (Item 4d)

*“In response to a query from Michael Hammerson, the Heath Ecologist advised that the grass would consist of species seen on the Heath 50 years ago and could be found in other locations in the local area.”*

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

##### Hampstead Heath – Public Sex Environment Outreach Work (Item 4f)

The Constabulary Manager confirmed that he had approached the Terrence Higgins Trust to investigate the possibility of involving the Trust’s volunteers in future clean-up activities. The Constabulary Manager undertook to report any progress on the matter back to the Committee.

##### Hampstead Heath 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Activities (item 4h)

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath provided an update on a legal issue that was taking place with another organisation, which had patented a “Gold to Green” brand name associated with former Olympics. Although this was designated under a slightly different trademark, he had been advised to change the “Green to Gold” logo for the City of London’s festival of sport and well-being in support of the Olympics. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath had sent an appeal letter and was hoping to hear if this had been successful, however if the decision was upheld the Heath would no longer use the wording “Green to Gold.” In this instance, an alternative title would be used, but the concept and spirit of the project would remain.

##### Superintendent of Hampstead Heath’s Update (item 5)

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that he had met with Affordable Art Fair representatives in January 2012. The representatives were keen for the Hampstead Heath Affordable Art Fair to go ahead later in 2012. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath would investigate the possibility of using the marquee to be used after the 2013 Hampstead Heath Affordable Art Fair for a follow-on event. The Superintendent thanked the Heath & Hampstead Society for their support for such an arrangement in principle.

#### Superintendent of Hampstead Heath's Update (item 5)

A detailed report on the Waterhouse development on Millfield Lane had been sent to the London Borough of Camden. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that Camden Council had recently approved a planning application to cut down a number of trees and build a deep basement on an adjoining development site.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that it was understood that revised plans for the Athlone House site were being considered.

Susan Rose advised that difficulties had been encountered in having the concerns of local residents addressed by Camden Council.

#### Questions (item 6)

Michael Hammerson advised that there had been a meeting with Camden Council with regarding options for use of the restored tollgate at Spaniards Inn. English Heritage would be approached to see if they in project involvement.

The Chairman advised that items 4d, 4e and 4g on the agenda had unavoidably already been considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

#### **4a. UPDATE ON THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updating Members on the progress of this major project, since the last report in September 2011.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the Heath & Hampstead Society had been incredibly helpful with their challenges on the law and industry guidance. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath would meet with the Society. Jeremy Wright would be involved in the meeting.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath made reference to the current Institute of Civil Engineers guidance on dams and its requirements that where a community could be endangered by the breach of a dam, the risk of any breach caused by flood should be virtually eliminated.

In response to a query from John Hunt, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that it was his understanding that the guidance applied to works on existing dams and construction of new dams.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the Strategic Landscape Architect would be independent from the Project Design Team. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath was currently progressing the matter with the Town Clerk's and Chamberlain's

Departments. Andrew Pepper, a senior engineer and Member of the British Dam Society, had also been appointed to ensure accountability of all involved. The Superintendent advised that information from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had established that, since 2004 of the total number of Inspecting Engineers who had made recommendations in the interests of safety, 78% had gone on to provide engineering services for that reservoir.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that DEFRA had commenced a consultation period on certain aspects of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 related to reservoirs. This gave some reassurance that the Act was being progressed.

John Hunt asked a question in relation to the risk assessment and the existing hydrological information. The Superintendent advised that any risk assessment had to be based on the existing "guidance" that required a Supervising Engineer to demonstrate that any risk of dam failure had been virtually eliminated.

Jeremy Wright made reference to a risk assessment that had been used by CARES, which stated that the current fatality risk to Highgate in the event of a Hampstead Heath flood stood at 1037. The assessment advised that, once the project was complete, the fatality risk would stand at 761. The Superintendent advised that he needed technical advice on this statement.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the design team would be appointed by early July 2012, which would be followed by a four-month review. He hoped that the team would be able to submit a planning application by the summer of 2013.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the criteria for a Grade A dam was that a community of 10 people could be at risk. The proposals in the Flood and Water Management Act were to reduce this to 1 person at risk. Consultation on this change was being undertaken by DEFRA.

In response to a question from Alix Mullineaux regarding what the position would be after the works had been completed, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that, in the occurrence of a catastrophic rainfall event, the water would still pass over the designed spillway and still contribute to flooding downstream. However, the failure of a dam and subsequent surge of water into the surrounding community would be "virtually eliminated".

In response to a query from Jeremy Wright, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the City was currently in discussion with Camden Council with regard to establishing an offsite emergency plan, the onsite emergency plan was in place and had been tested.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the progress being made towards the implementation of the Flood Management and Water Quality Project be noted.

**4b. PROPOSALS BY NATIONAL GRID TO UNDERTAKE WORKS TO GAS MAINS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath setting out a proposal by National Grid to undertake replacement of gas mains.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the works would be a part of a major national project to upgrade the existing National Grid system. The proposed works in Hampstead Heath were vital to sustain supply to the local community, and National Grid could enact statutory powers to acquire land if necessary. The gas main that was to be decommissioned had sprung leaks in previous winters. It was proposed that the existing gas pipes be left in-situ; a sample of the one inch thick pipe was displayed. The termination of the main would require the other mains, and the pipes highlighted in the appendices to the report, to be upgraded to accommodate high-pressure gas. National Grid had offered £20,000 for each of the gas regulators to be accommodated on Heath lands and £200 per week rent for access to the site; however, the final amount had not yet been agreed. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath would ensure that the new manholes would be located in sensible locations. The Chairman advised that the decommissioned pipes would not need to be dug out.

In response to a question from Ellen Stein, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the works licence would require works vehicles to travel no faster than five miles per hour and the number of vehicles on site would be monitored and controlled by banksmen. The contractors would not be allowed more vehicles on site than necessary.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the programme of works for each location had not been finalised, but it was likely to require a minimum of 8 weeks each for the gas regulator installations and last approximately sixteen weeks at Parliament Hill.

In response to a query from John Hunt, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that some of the negotiated fee of £20,000 per Pressure Reducing Station would be spent on wildlife and planting.

In response to a question from Mary Port, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that contractors' vehicle movements would be restricted to weekdays and would avoid school lunchtimes, start times and finish times.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that the works would be completed over a single period with no intervals, although some ancillary works might be

required on the Heath Extension to link the supply into works required in the Suburb.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the proposals set out in the report be noted.

**4c. FUTURE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS OF BOWLING GREEN**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath of Hampstead Heath. The report updated Members on the consultation that had been undertaken with Members of the Parliament Hill Bowling Club and Hampstead Heath Croquet Club to contribute to the £40,000 savings identified as part of the City of London budgetary savings that was reported to the Committee in July 2011.

Bob Slowe, the Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum, had chaired meetings with representatives of Clubs using facilities on the Heath, and he thanked the Operational Services Manager for his help in gathering statistical information for the report, and Gabrielle Higgins for her legal aid.

The Chairman of the Consultative Committee thanked Bob Slowe for his help in progressing the agreement.

The Committee supported the arrangements and commended the predicted savings.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on the proposed arrangements for the future management of the Parliament Hill Bowling Green.

**4d. EAST HEATH CAR PARK AND SOUTH END GREEN APPROACH IMPROVEMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updating Members on the proposals relating to East Heath car park expansion, in order to achieve the additional £60,000 income to support the budgetary reductions approved by the Management Committee in July 2011.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the project would bring a modest increase in car park income and improve the South End Green entrance.

In response to a query from Jeremy Wright, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that there would be vegetation established along the side of the dam by the South End Green entrance.

In response to a query from Mike Hammerson, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that initial discussions with the Showmen's Guild had taken place with regard to possible changes to the area

occupied by the fair on the fairground site, with the objective of avoiding the current requirement to close the car park for eight days per fair.

In response to a question from Jeremy Wright, the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath confirmed that the wooden fence at the South End Green entrance would be removed. John Hunt was concerned that the area could become bare and open to dog foul. He advised that the wall nearby could become open to graffiti and suggested it be covered in vegetation in order to minimise this risk. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that it was not the intention to remove the vegetation alongside the buildings.

Ian Harrison commended the proposed works and was impressed with the additional annual income that could be accrued.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on:-

- i) the proposals to realign the car park at East Heath and submission of a Planning Application to Camden Council in order to proceed with the proposals to modify the car park; and
- ii) the principles of improvements for the enhancement of South End Green as set out in the report.

#### **4e. REVIEW OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY 2011**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath relative to reviewing the work carried out by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during the period 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011.

The Constabulary Manager advised that the Constabulary now had a full complement of twelve constables. The constables had been actively taking visitors' details when necessary. Most visitors had proven cooperative. One Constable was currently working closely with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender representatives, whilst also attempting to reduce incidences of use of the Heath as a public sex environment.

Richard Sumray commended the pro-active approach that had been taken in the previous year, and believed Heath visitors would feel safer with an increased presence of the Constabulary.

In response to a question from Bob Slowe, the Constabulary Manager advised that in the past staff had faxed details of all reported criminal offences committed on Heath visitors to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). Due to a change in the MPS crime management process, the Constabulary would now only report criminal offences against City of London staff or property. The Constabulary would keep a record of any criminal offences committed on the Heath and provide advice to victims; however, the victims would need to report any incidents to the MPS personally. This process could now only be completed via the MPS website or by calling 101.

In response to a query from John Hunt, the Constabulary Manager confirmed that most byelaw 13 offences recorded had related to bicycles.

In response to a query from Ian Harrison, the Constabulary Manager confirmed that the Proactive Tasking Records largely related to incidents at special events.

In response to a query from Nigel Ley, the Constabulary Manager confirmed that the City was responsible for prosecutions for breaking byelaws, whereas the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was responsible for prosecutions for criminal offences.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the work of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during 2011 in discouraging crime and anti-social behaviour be noted.

#### **4f. HEATH HANDS ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing information on the Heath Hands activities during the year ending on 31 March 2011 and works undertaken by volunteers to support the City's management of Hampstead Heath.

Jamie Jenkins, the Heath Hands representative, advised that the Heath Hands Website had recently been updated. Jamie Jenkins thanked the Hampstead Heath Officers and English Heritage for allowing Heath Hands volunteers to help with activities across the Heath.

Jamie Jenkins acknowledged Richard Sumray's suggestion that the Olympics might be a fertile time for recruitment.

In response to a query from Bob Slowe, the Chairman advised that use of Bobby De-Joia's £50k legacy donation would need to be carefully planned. It was currently unclear as to how this donation would be spent.

In response to a query from Mike Hammerson, Jamie Jenkins confirmed that Highgate Wood frequently had six volunteers on site. The most popular area in which to volunteer within Hampstead Heath was Hill Garden.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the work undertaken by Heath Hands to support the management of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Keats House be noted.

#### **4g. HAMPSTEAD HEATH EDUCATION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath reviewing the success and key achievements of the Hampstead Heath Education service in 2011, including its work on formal education, informal education, community education and partnership working.



The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the Heath was currently at the second stage of a Heritage Lottery Bid to work with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to develop a project centred on environmental education and interpretation on the Heath.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views on the education programme in 2011 and development of the service in 2012-13 be noted.

#### **4h. REVIEW OF SUMMER HOLIDAY EVENTS 2011**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath reviewing the 2011 summer events programme delivered by the Education and Play team across Hampstead Heath, Golders Hill Park, Queen's Park and Highgate Wood.

The Leisure & Events Manager advised that the events had been well attended throughout August 2011.

In response to a question from Mike Hammerson, the Leisure & Events Manager advised that the Hampstead Heath Office would investigate the possibility of providing waterproof equipment in future on the Highgate Wood Heritage Day.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on the review of the summer events programme and its continuation into 2012-13.

#### **4i. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS PLAY FACILITIES**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath reviewing the success and key achievements of the Hampstead Heath play service in 2011, including its work at the Adventure Playground, One O'clock Club and Parliament Hill Playground.

The Leisure & Events Manager advised that the Adventure Playground was a great success and the One O'clock club had presented an ideal place for parents and carers to take their children. He thanked the Education Team and the Play Team for their efforts.

In response to a question from Colin Gregory, the Leisure & Events Manager advised that partnership events with Barnet Council were possible in the future.

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that approximately one third of senior park positions across the capital had been made reduced as a result of recent budget cuts.

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultative Committee's views be received on the review of the play programme in 2011 and the proposed strategy for the service into 2012-13.

## 5. SUPERINTENDENT OF HAMPSTEAD HEATH'S UPDATE

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updated the Committee on the following matters:

English Cross Country Event The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath advised that the English Cross Country Event had been a great success with over 1600 participants in the senior men's race, and had received coverage in a three-page article in Athletics Review. The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath thanked the Leisure & Events Manager for organising the event.

Ponds The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath referred to an article that had been published in the Evening Standard on the day of the Committee meeting. He advised that the project was currently at a very early stage and hoped to secure nearly one million pounds of capital investment for the Men's and Mixed Bathing Ponds.

Richard Sumray advised that the article could be interpreted in a number of different ways, and in future efforts should be made to emphasise the improvement works that were planned for the ponds within public forums.

## 6. QUESTIONS

In response to a question from Jeremy Wright, the Chairman queried whether the suspension of litter collection on the Heath for seven days would be beneficial, on the basis that it would encourage frequent visitors not to litter. The Committee was somewhat split on whether such measures would actually help to highlight the issues.

Susan Rose believed that dogs without leads had become a greater problem on the Heath, and advised that many other parks and open spaces only allowed dogs with leads onto the premises.

John Hunt advised that he had recently spotted one woodcock and long tailed tits nesting on the Heath.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum Minutes

The public minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 February were considered.

Bob Slowe, Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum provided an overview of the issues discussed at the previous meeting.

The Committee noted that the storage shed at the back of the cricket field might, with appropriate external funding, be turned into a small cricket pitch pavilion serving the cricket enclosure. In response to a question from Jeremy Wright, Bob Slowe advised that a doorway would

be knocked through the shed wall facing the cricket pitch. No further major building works were required.

The Committee noted that the Forum had supported a deal to allow the junior section of the Highgate Harriers to use the athletics track at a rate of £850 per annum, which was an increase from the current rate of £800 per annum.

Michael Welbank's Last Meeting As Chairman

Members noted that this was Michael Welbank's last meeting as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee expressed thanks to the Chairman for his Chairmanship during his term of office.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting will be held on Monday, 9 July 2012, at 7pm, Hampstead Heath Education Centre.

**The meeting closed at 8.55pm**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**Contact Officer: Edward Foale**  
**tel. no. 020 7332 1426**  
**e-mail: [edward.foale@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:edward.foale@cityoflondon.gov.uk)**