

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – For Information	6 July 2015
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee – For Decision	20 July 2015
Subject: Location of an Outdoor Gym at Parliament Hill	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

This report recommends (subject to separate approval by the London Borough of Camden) that the outdoor gym be located at the Trim Trail at Parliament Hill. The request meets the guidance set out in the Hampstead Heath Management Plan for alternations or creation of new sports facilities in designated sports areas. The scheme also highlights an excellent partnership working arrangement for both Camden and the City to encourage participation in sport and physical activity for the benefit of the local community.

Recommendations

- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, on the location of the outdoor gym, be heard.
- That the comments of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, on the location of the outdoor gym, be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee.
- Subject to approval by Members, authority be delegated to the City Surveyor in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces and the Comptroller & City Solicitor to settle all other necessary terms to protect the City’s interests and that the Comptroller & City Solicitor be instructed to complete any necessary documentation.

The Main Report

Background

1. On 18 May 2015, the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee were advised by the Superintendent of a proposal by the London Borough of Camden (LBC) to install outdoor gym equipment at Parliament Hill, which would be aimed at people who had been advised to carry out additional exercise for their health and wellbeing.
2. Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee were supportive of the proposal at their meeting on 9 March. Members recognised the health and well-being benefits, however, they were

anxious about the location of the equipment, which would be identified within the LBC business case proposal; which will be subject to LBC undertaking an assessment of need based on the demographic of the area to ensure that their investment had the greatest impact on physical activity within the Borough.

3. Please see an evaluation report at Appendix 2, for Camden's outdoor gyms.

Location Proposals

General Sporting Principles

4. Parliament Hill is one of three areas designated sports areas on Hampstead Heath, the other two being the Heath Extension and north end of Golders Hill Park. With reference to alterations to existing sports provision or the creation of new sports facilities within the three identified sports area, the Hampstead Heath Management Plan states the following considerations must be met:
 - There is no threat to public safety
 - It is consistent with good turf management practice
 - There would be no significant increase in noise or light pollution affecting neighbouring residents

Options

5. Within the Parliament Hill designated sports area, three locations have been identified for the outdoor gym by officers with the general support of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Figure 1) :-
 - A) Cricket enclosure
 - B) West side of the Lido – grass triangle
 - C) In the existing Trim Trail
6. The location needs to be an area where the outdoor gym could be readily accessible. Given the locations of the playground and Athletics Track, the Trim Trail is the recommended location. This would allow synergy for the different facilities and keep sporting infrastructure within easy reach of each other.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

7. The proposal for an outdoor gym supports the City of London Corporate Strategy 2015-2019: KPP3 *“Engage with London and national*

government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health” and KKP5 “Increasing the outreach and impact of the City’s cultural, heritage and leisure contribution to the life of London and the nation”.

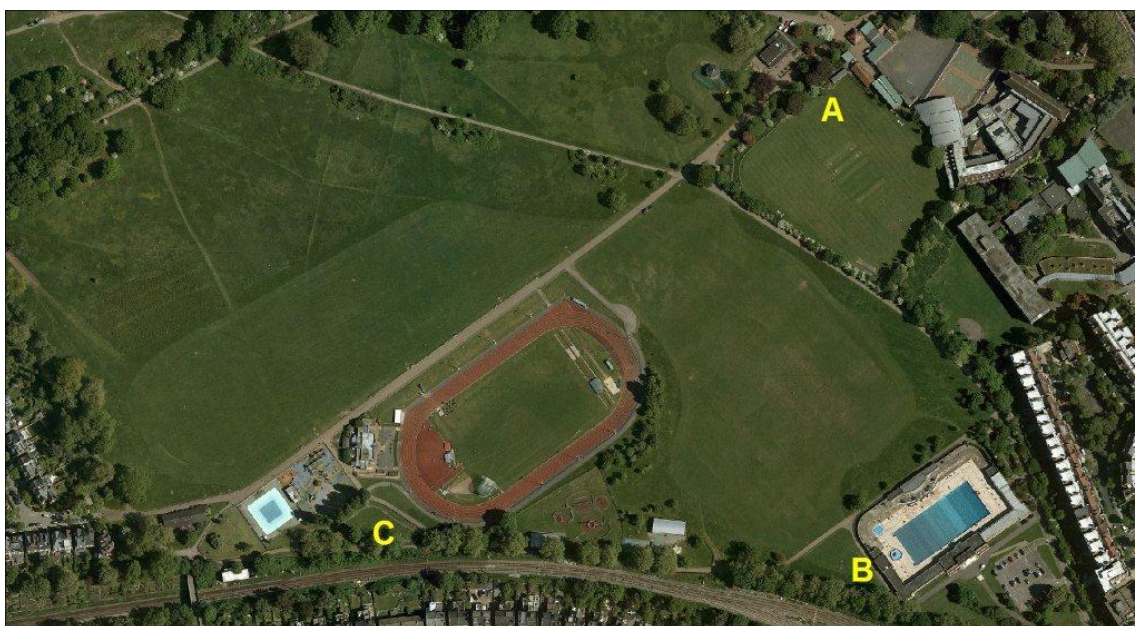


Figure 1: Site Location Plan of Proposed Gym
(Please also refer to Appendix 1 – designated sports areas)

8. The Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 Vision is “*To preserve and protect our world class green spaces for the benefit of our local communities and environment*” and charitable objectives, is “*the preservation of our open spaces for the recreation and enjoyment of the public*”.
9. The Sports Chapter of The Hampstead Heath Management Plan: Towards a plan for the Heath 2007-2017 sport overriding objective states to “*Work collaboratively in maintaining and developing the existing sports facilities and activities in response to changing demands ensuring appropriate provision for all sections of the community*”.

Implications

Financial implications

10. The City of London Open Spaces Committee have resolved that, decisions on sport and play equipment funding offers should be made by the respective Management Committee based on the principle that any offer should be self-funding for the lifetime of the equipment and its removal, see Appendix 3.
11. For the outdoor gym proposal to proceed, the LBC will be required to meet both the capital and associated maintenance costs.

Ecological Impact

12. There are no ecological implications as all the selected areas are already designated sports activity locations.

Legal and Property implications:

13. Under article 7(1)(a) of the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 the City may provide and maintain gymnasia and such open air facilities as it thinks fit for any form of recreation whatsoever on the Heath.
14. A legal agreement with the LBC will be required if this project is approved. It is proposed that authority be delegated to the City Surveyor in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces and the Comptroller & City Solicitor to settle all other necessary terms to protect the City's interests and that the Comptroller & City Solicitor be instructed to complete any necessary documentation.

Consultation

15. The Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum was consulted on 9 February and 11 May 2015 and verbal feedback was presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on 9 March. The suggested locations will be viewed and discussed with members at the next Consultative Committee walk on 4 July.

Conclusion

16. Subject to LBC evaluation, the preferred location for the outdoor gym is the Trim Trail at Parliament Hill.
17. The scheme will provide a partnership working opportunity for both Camden and the City to encourage participation in sport and physical activity for the benefit of the local community.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Hampstead Heath Management Plan - Sports Facilities Layout.
- Appendix 2 - Pro-active Camden – Camden Outdoor Gyms Evaluation phase 1 March 2011.
- Appendix 3 – Resolution of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee, 20 April 2015, regarding Equipment Funding Offers.

Background Papers

- Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Minutes 9 March 2015.
- Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, Minutes 23 March and 18 May 2015.
- Hampstead Heath Management Plan Part 1 – Towards a plan for the Heath 2017-2017, Sports Chapter.

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