

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	21 September 2015
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	29 September 2015
Subject: Superintendents update for September 2015	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

This report provides an update on management and operational activities across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since July 2015.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Property

1. The programme of wall maintenance and re-pointing is continuing at Golders Hill Park within the walled garden.
2. Surface water drainage pipes near the Lido and by Hampstead No 1 Pond are being cleaned and camera surveys completed to help determine their condition.
3. Towards the end of September work will commence on the rebuild of the Lido East boundary wall. The City Surveyor has commissioned an architect to design new railings to be mounted on top of the boundary walls. The design is currently being discussed with stakeholders.
4. The chemical dosing system at the Lido was replaced between 19-21 August. The new system has been fully operational from 21 August 2015.
5. A programme of work to reduce erosion and improve the surface water drainage from the East Heath car park and fairground site will be implemented during the autumn.
6. There has been a delay in the appointment of a contractor to undertake the tanking works at the Hill Garden Shelter. A further update will be provided at the meeting on the 21 September 2015.

7. Portable toilets were installed near to the Golders Hill Park Zoo and Children's playground on 21 July 2015. The five toilets (including one wheelchair accessible toilet) have provided extra capacity for the busy summer holidays and are scheduled to be removed from site shortly.

Planning

8. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting on the Water House and Athlone House.

Events

9. 15 children aged 8-15yrs attended the Water Awareness week, run by staff at the Lido from 27-31 July. Feedback from parents has been very positive.
10. The Summer Fair held at the East Heath lower fairground site proved popular despite the wet weather over the Bank Holiday weekend, with approximately 3,000 people visiting.
11. There have been 9 weddings between 20 July and 21 September.

Constabulary update

12. A total of 1,582 incidents were dealt with by the Constabulary from 1 January 2015 to 28 August 2015, of the 1,195 incidents recorded 713 are enforcement incidents. Of the enforcement incidents recorded, 24% related to cycling enforcement actions, 20% related to nuisance, and 6% to dog control enforcements.
13. In addition, the Constabulary have provided medical assistance to members of the public on 58 occasions from 1 January to 28 August 2015.

Sports

14. The Cricket season ended on the 6 September 2015, and staff have begun preparations for the 2016 seasons at the Parliament Hill Enclosure and Extension pitches.
15. Preparations for the start of the 2015/16 Rugby and Football seasons are nearing completion. The newly installed 3rd Rugby pitch will be ready for use on 12 September 2015, the first day of the season, and a new junior Football pitch has been marked out ready for 20 September, the start of the Football season.

Swimming

Fatality

16. On 18 August 2015 the Superintendent attended the Coroners inquest into the death of the young man, which occurred at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond on the 15 April 2015.
17. The Coroner went through the witness statements from friends of the young man who were also swimming on the 15 April and a series of medical reports.

18. The Coroner was keen to establish that the signage in place was appropriate and that it was clear that swimming was not permitted outside the scheduled swimming times.
19. The Coroner concluded that the deceased was a well young man, but not a strong swimmer. She recognised that he was swimming outside the pond opening times and that if he had been swimming during the opening times it was likely the lifeguards would have been able to prevent the tragedy.
20. The Coroners closed the case recording 'A1 Drowning and accidental death'.
21. A comprehensive review has been undertaken following the tragedy, and agreed actions include:-
 - Extending our campaign to promote water safety,
 - Reviewing the signage around the ponds,
 - Reviewing our emergency response to the incident and implementing the improvements we identified,
 - Undertaking joint training exercise with the London Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police Service in relation to incidents at the ponds on Hampstead Heath.

Staffing

22. Two new Constables joined the Hampstead Heath Constabulary in August. This brings the Team back to a full complement of staff.
23. A new Apprentice joined the Conservation Team at the beginning of August as part of the Ponds Project apprentice scheme.

Tree Team

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

24. To date 15 nests in total have been identified and removed from 13 trees on the Heath. Two nests have been identified and removed from Queen's Park.
25. Two nests have been identified and removed from two trees on the Kenwood Estate by English Heritage.
26. Four OPM pheromone traps have been placed in Highgate Wood for the male moths eight week flight period (late July – mid Sep). Trapping will continue until mid-September, and so far no moths have been discovered.
27. Forestry Commission inspectors will return to site to survey the nest trees during the winter.

Arborist Apprentice

28. A new apprentice started with the Team at the beginning of September on a 20 month contract and will be undertaking a Level 2 Award in Trees and Timber at Capel Manor College.

Compost Tea

29. The Tree Team have been engaged by Tree Works Environmental Practice to spray liquid foliar compost on a number of control trees (London plane and oak) at the Royal Park and Islington for a study programme looking into tree health care treatments against Massaria disease of planes and Acute Oak Decline.

Potential for Autumn mast branch damage

30. This year appears to be a heavy mast year with significant numbers of acorns developing on the oak trees. This phenomenon occurs about every three to five years. The last mast year resulted in significant oak branch failures during heavy autumn wind and rain events.

Golders Hill Park

31. The London Borough of Barnet have granted Planning Permission for the retention of *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* for a period of two years. The Superintendent will bring a further report to Members in the spring of 2017 to consider either the long term retention or removal of the sculptures from Golders Hill Park.

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