



## Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum

### Parliament Hill meeting room

16<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 6.30pm

#### Members:

|                           |    |   |
|---------------------------|----|---|
| Richard Sumray (Chairman) | RS | HHCC (London Council for Sports and Recreation) |
| Simon Taylor              | ST | Hampstead Rugby Club                            |
| Dave Walton               | DW | London Heathside Athletics                      |
| Jacki Reason              | DC | Parliament Hill Lido Users Group                |
| Rudolf Benjamin           | RB | HH Tennis Coach                                 |
| Marc Hutchinson           | MH | Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club, H & HS    |
| Joseph Lowe               | JL | Highgate Harriers                               |
| Richard Priestley         | RP | Highgate Harriers                               |
| Natasha Cendrowicz        | NC | Highgate Harriers                               |
| Dan Carrier               | DC | Camden CCG                                      |
| David Bedford             | DB | London Marathon Trust                           |

#### In attendance:

|           |    |             |
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| Mike Hill | MH | Leisure-Net |
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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              |
| Paul Jeal            | PJ | Senior Swimming Supervisor                              |
| Kate Radusin (notes) | KR | PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, City of London |

| ITEM |   | ACTION |
|------|---|--------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies</b>  |        |
|      | Nigel Robinson, Virginia Rounding;  |        |
| 2.   | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting (2.2.16) and matters arising</b>   |        |
|      | <p><u>Outdoor gym:</u> PM has spoken with Alex Woods from Public Health England. More information about funding will be available in the summer.</p> <p><u>Recovery of Sports Costs:</u> A paper setting out principles and options for recovery has been prepared, and will be circulated to the group.</p>  |        |
| 3.   | <b>Sports Programme Update</b>  |        |
|      | <p>A presentation was given by MH. There followed a discussion around the winter sports user and non-user consultation report.</p> <p>Suggestions for Questions were put forward by the group (as the summer user and non-user consultation is about to commence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-What could be done better? (where low scores were given)</li> <li>-What would encourage you to take part? (further Q for non-users)</li> <li>-Questions around the landscape of the Heath, is there something particular about the landscape which has influenced users decision to come to the</li> </ul> |        |

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|           | <p>Heath?</p> <p>ST will email MH with the contact details of Rugby players who travel long distanced to use the Heath, so that they can take part in the consultation.</p> <p>DC will speak to Conservation area group about taking part in the consultation.</p> <p>All members of the forum were invited to contact MH to participate in the consultation and to forward on the contact details of anyone who wished to take part.</p>  | <p>ST</p> <p>DC</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Heath Extension Cross Country Run</b>   |                     |
|           | <p>DW proposal is for 1 race a year, for young athletes. A proposal has been put forward, the race will start and finish on the Cricket field, around the lower slopes (avoiding the rugby/football pitches). The course for older children would extend north around the horse track.</p> <p>DW the Heath has a harsh terrain for younger athletes. Do not want to cause issues by adding a further cross country event to the main body of the Heath.</p> <p>RS the proposed time for the race, Saturday afternoon, coincides with high usage of the Extension for other sports. The race could take place in an area already used for cross country running? BW confirmed there are a range of routes on the Heath where facilities are available, and restoration methods are in place. It is proposed that the Heath could accommodate this race.</p> <p>Hampstead Heath Management Plan, Section 6, Point 3: <i>'There is no significant detriment to the general public's enjoyment of the Heath'</i>. RS is it likely that this race, for a small number of people, would lead to significant complaints for the area being used for this purpose? BW yes.</p> <p>DB are complaints usually around the larger events, or more frequent smaller events? PM very few complaints are received around the smaller and weekly events.</p> <p>RP in the past there used to be bigger race events taking place more frequently on the Heath.</p> <p>NC on Saturday sessions, there used to be a lot of conflict with dog walkers.</p> <p>BW need to avoid doing permanent damage to the ground, temporary damage can be repaired with careful ground management. The species-rich long acid grassland on the Heath Extension will be hard to reinstate, but the edges of the cricket pitches would be easier to reinstate.</p> <p>RS Are there possible routes on the Heath Extension which would not impact upon ecology? BW yes, but they might impact upon the rugby/football fields (as raised under point 7, City of London response to the proposed Heath Extension Cross Country Run).</p> <p>JL parking must be considered, Parliament Hill side of the Heath is much easier for participants to travel to. If it is held on the Heath Extension it must not jeopardise other events.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that a pilot event could take place on the Heath Extension, subject to a route being identified and supported by CoL</p> |                     |

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|           | and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. If a Heath Extension route cannot be agreed, the event will take place on the main body of the Heath. Preference of the forum was for a pilot to take place on the Heath Extension.  | <b>DG/DW</b> |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Tennis</b>  |              |
|           | Staff have been given training to use Club Spark. A soft launch of the booking system will be tied in with the Great British Tennis weekend (16-17 July), and Give it a Go event (17 July).  |              |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Parkrun</b>   |              |
|           | BW CoL are committed to hosting the event on the Heath, and do not charge Parkrun.   |              |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Swimming Issues</b>   |              |
|           | <p><u>Update on the Lido:</u><br/>150 season tickets have been sold – the sauna has contributed to attracting more people to purchase season tickets.</p> <p>Lido leak investigations are on-going.</p> <p><u>Update on Ponds Project:</u><br/><u>Mixed Pond:</u> Temporary shower units have been removed, and a new tap has been installed in the Ladies' compound.</p> <p><u>Ladies' Pond:</u> Re-opened on 7 May, there are a few snagging issues with the new changing facility which are being managed, and there has been positive feedback from members of the public.<br/>JR confirmed she had heard positive feedback.</p> <p><u>Men's Pond:</u> Reed bed planting is taking place along the north face of the pond.</p>   |              |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Updates</b>   |              |
|           | <p><u>Highgate Harriers Night of 10,000m:</u> Preparations are in place for a great night, Highgate Harriers have obtained an alcohol licence for the event.</p> <p><u>Tag Rugby:</u> participant numbers not as high as hoped, possibly due to marketing. They are currently using 1 pitch. There has been no impact on the Rugby Club.</p> <p><u>Bowls &amp; Croquet Clubs:</u> Bowls Club held a recent recruitment drive at the Farmers Market, and 12 schools have registered interest for free taster sessions. The Croquet Club held an open day in May. Both clubs will be taking part in Give it a Go (17 July).</p> <p>A 1 week playing extension (subject to weather) has been granted at the end of the season in September, following a request from the Clubs.</p> |              |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Any Other Business</b>  |              |
|           | Highgate Harriers opening evening was very successful, new online registry and payment process ensured higher attendance numbers.  |              |

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|            | <p>RB confirmed he had been contacted by the LTA.</p> <p>PM Lido wall is almost completed. New Lido café is progressing well, and will be ready for the summer.</p> <p>JR Parliament Hill Lido User Group have had Lido t-shirts proto-types made up, for t-shirts which will be sold.</p> <p>ST 230 children aged 3-5 years, attended the last rugger-bugs of the season.</p> <p><u>Heath Extension Showers:</u> BW infrastructure is dated, and does not have the capacity to cope with the demand. The indicative cost for a new system is £250k, and CoL cannot commit to completing works by September 2017. Other measures, such as temporary heating, will be looked into.</p> <p>PM is still looking for volunteers to be time keepers at the Duathon.</p> |  |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Setting date for upcoming meetings in 2017.</b>   |  |
|            | Possible meeting dates will be circulated via email.   |  |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Date of the next meeting</b>  |  |
|            | 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2016, 6.30pm, Parliament Hill Meeting Room.   |  |