

HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM

MONDAY 21 MAY 2012

MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM HELD AT THE STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS, LONDON NW5 ON MONDAY, 21 MAY 2012 AT 6:30PM.

Present

Members:

Bob Slowe (Chairman)	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Highgate Harriers Committee)
Jeff Gooding	-	Camden Schools
Marc Hutchinson	-	HH Winter Swimming Club/ Heath and Hampstead Society
Richard Sumray	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (London Council for Sports and Recreation)
Simon Taylor	-	Hampstead Rugby Club

In attendance

Jeremy Simons (Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chairman)

Officers

Natasha Cendrowicz	-	Note taker (also Highgate Harriers)
Simon Lee	-	Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	-	Manager, Parliament Hill
Paul Maskell	-	Leisure & Events Manager, Hampstead Heath

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dave Bedford, Rudolph Benjamin, John Carrier, Dave Walton and Richard Priestley.

1A. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed Jeremy Simons, the newly elected Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6 February 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising,**

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Golders Hill Park (item 4) Paul Maskell provided an update on the sports related events that would feature in the diamond jubilee celebrations taking place in Golders Hill Park on 4 June.

Progress on Places, People Play applications (item 5) Simon Lee provided an update on the latest developments concerning proposals for a dedicated cricket facility at Parliament Hill. A second architects' firm had been engaged to develop proposals which were being assessed in conjunction with the proposals put forward by Bird Howard Associates. He undertook to ensure that copies of both proposals were circulated to the Forum. In response to a question by Richard Sumray, Paul Maskell stated that applications for PPP would need to be submitted by the end of June.

RESOLVED: That copies of both architects' proposals for a dedicated cricket facility be circulated to the Forum ahead of the application to PPP.

Bowling Green (item 6) The Chairman stated that the new arrangements at the Bowling Green were going well.

National Cross Country Championships (item 8) The Chairman commended Paul Maskell for all the hard work he had done to ensure the smooth operation of these championships, which due to the sunny weather, were amongst the best championship races ever seen on the Heath. In response to a question by Richard Sumray, he explained that a new company had been engaged to undertake first aid responsibilities.

AOB – Improvement to Swimming facilities (item 11) In response to a question by the Chairman, Simon Lee explained that consultations had been held with users of the Mixed and Ladies' Ponds and were about to start with the Men's Pond users. A brief discussion took place regarding the desirability of upgrading the facilities when the expensive dam improvements were being undertaken. The Forum supported this course of action.

4. **Rugby Update**

Simon Taylor provided an update on the engagement and success of the various Hampstead rugby teams over the course of the winter season. In response to a question by the Chairman, he explained that current numbers were being accommodated provided training conditions were not too wet.

Declan Gallagher reported on discussions which had taken place with staff to ensure that the two o'clock kick off requested by the rugby club could be accommodated for matches. He requested early sight of the fixture list to help this process. Simon Lee added that there might be some disruption caused by the decommissioning of a gas line at the Heath extensions. For up to one season, the western pitch would be moved onto the adjacent field to the south.

In response to a question by the Chairman, he explained that at current membership levels the club was sustainable, although at the junior level they could always benefit from more help from parents. Paul Maskell added that the RFU had commended the HRC model. Simon Taylor referred to the need for more storage space, but stated that existing facilities were adequate.

A brief discussion took place regarding the extent to which a multi-sport environment could be encouraged to nurture interest in rugby and other sporting activities on the Heath. Paul Maskell referred to the opportunities in the forthcoming 'Festival of Sport' to harness interest across a range of sports based on the Heath.

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5. Olympics Update

Paul Maskell provided an updated on the programme of events that had taken place and were due to take place in the lead up to the 'Wellbeing roadshow,' which was due to take place on 24 June. A joint legacy event with Camden was due to take place on 9 September. Richard Sumray stated that the joint event with Camden provided an ideal platform for promoting a multi-sport environment on the Heath.

Responding to a question by the Chairman, Simon Lee stated that discussions were still taking place to see whether the 'Green to Gold' strapline could be retained.

A brief discussion took place regarding whether any sporting federations or nationalities were likely to be based in the vicinity and using sporting facilities on the Heath during the Olympics.

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6. Parkrun Update

Paul Maskell provided an update on the first year's operation of parkrun on the Heath. Over 1000 runners had taken part in the 53 races that had taken place on the Heath. On 5 occasions, the alternative route B had been used when the East Heath car park had hosted events. In response to a question by the Chairman, Paul Maskell stated that no complaints had been received. Parkrun would be hosting special events as part of the 'Wellbeing' festival.

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7. Review of Pricing Policy

The notes of the special meeting held on 2 April 2012 together with the Chairman's notes of that meeting were considered. It was agreed to remove the sentence that referred to 'reputational risk'. The Chairman felt that it would be beneficial to hold a further special meeting to prioritise and provide guidelines on policies for pricing. In time these guidelines were become a section in the Masterplan for the Heath. Simon Lee undertook to provide information about usage and costs.

In response to a comment by the Chairman, Simon Lee stated that the booking system was currently being reviewed as it was felt corporately to not be 'fit for purpose'. The Chairman advised researching booking models even overseas and opting for a system that had been proved to work rather than seeking out a bespoke system (which might not work)

RESOLVED: That,

- i) A special meeting be held on 18 September to prioritise and provide guidelines on policies for pricing; and
- ii) Simon Lee provide information about usage and running costs of one or two facilities.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: That the next meetings be held on 18 September 2012 (special meeting re pricing) and 2 October 2012 (normal meeting) both, starting at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 7:42pm.

CHAIRMAN

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