

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	130317
Subject: Superintendents Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on management and operational activities across the Heath since January 2017.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members provide feedback to the Superintendent on the contents of this report, and specifically in relation to the Vision and Collection Plan for Golders Hill Park Zoo, the use of Drones on Hampstead Heath and the recommendations for the provision and management of bench dedications.
- Members of the Consultative Committee are invited to form an Advisory Group to provide advice and local knowledge to support the Management Plan community engagement project.
- Members of the Consultative Committee are invited to attend a meeting with Camden Cyclists that the Superintendent will chair, to discuss a range of minor proposals for cycling on the Heath.
- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their May meeting.

Main Report

Open Spaces Bill

1. Committee proceedings concluded on the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill. The Committee agreed that one clause which provided for the issue of anti-social behaviour notices could be withdrawn. The Committee agreed that the City Corporation could obtain the powers under national legislation. This followed discussions with the Home Office on prospects of obtaining a statutory order specifying the City Corporation as entitled to issue

such notices. This resolved the issue on which the previous hearing focused, having been raised by the Kennel Club. The remainder of the Bill was approved and now awaits a date to be fixed for consideration by the whole House of Commons.

Management Plan Engagement

2. The Superintendent is currently in the process of procuring a company to lead the engagement process to develop a community vision for Hampstead Heath to inform the 2018 Management Plan.
3. The aims of the community engagement are to:
 - Prepare an audience development plan for the Hampstead Heath.
 - Deliver engagement activities that achieve representative engagement of the wider Hampstead Heath community to capture community aspirations.
 - Prepare a draft vision statement for Hampstead Heath.
4. The Superintendent expects to appoint the successful tenderer in March and invites expressions of interest from Consultative Committee Members to form an advisory group to provide advice and local knowledge to the community engagement project between March and July 2017.

Update on Capital Projects

5. The Capital Projects associated with East Heath Car Park, The Hive and the playgrounds at the Adventure and Peggy Jay Centre were considered by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) on the 30 January 2017. It was agreed that they should proceed to the Project Sub Committee the following day. All three projects were approved at Gateway 2 and permitted to proceed toward their next Gateway. For East Heath Car Park this will involve an options appraisal and further consideration by this Committee and the HHHWQPC before submitting a report to Gateway 3. Following this, the report will be considered by the Corporate Priorities Board to request funding from the City's Cash provision for new schemes.
6. Detailed project plans for the Hive and the Playgrounds at the Adventure and Peggy Jay Centre are being prepared. This will involve engagement, consultation, design and a funding strategy. The Consultative Committee will be consulted prior to completion of the tender report.

Golders Hill Park Zoo – Vision & Collection Plan

The Vision

7. There have been animal enclosures in Golders Hill Park since the early part of the twentieth century. The Animal Collection Plan was last reviewed in July 2011 and agreed by Committee. The City has a legal duty to comply with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, including its Appendix 11 Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice. Inspection takes place every three years

and the Zoo retained its license following the most recent inspection on 11 November 2016. It was noted and commented by the inspectors that the Collection Plan and Vision were being reviewed. Appendix 1 is a first draft of this and includes an overarching vision, together with four key themes (Welfare / Welcoming / Engagement / Collection) for delivery of this vision, plus an outcomes framework with key indicators and performance measures.

The Collection Plan

8. The aim of the Collection Plan is to develop a strong narrative thread that runs through all aspects of the Animal Collection. This will influence the choice of species, site aesthetics, learning opportunities and the overarching message we aim to deliver to the public. So far as is possible, we will also maintain a clear connection with wildlife found on the Heath, particularly through our interpretation and Learning Programme. The guiding story will be that of 'Wildlife in Britain'.
9. This focus encompasses past, present and future species inhabiting the British Isles, reaching back as far as the loss of the eagle owl as a native inhabitant, through the losses and gains coinciding with human history, and looking ahead to the future impact of species newly arrived on our shores. To this end, it is our intent that eventually, every species housed in the Collection will fit into at least one of the following overlapping categories; current native species, historic native species and introduced/invasive species.
10. **Current Native Species:** Those species that reside naturally in Britain today. Some such as the red squirrel and wild cat are often used as champions for native conservation efforts and are being considered as part of the Collection Plan. The number of native British mammals surviving today is greatly reduced from historical levels, leaving us with only around 30 terrestrial mammal species. The collection will use some of these to highlight the degree to which wildlife in Britain has changed over the centuries due to human impact and conflict with invasive and introduced species.
11. **Historical Native Species:** The British Isles were once home to a great many more mammal species than survive today. A combination of natural climate change, human intervention and habitat loss has meant that many species have been wiped out or naturally receded from Britain, although most persist on the European mainland. These include Eurasian eagle owl (one of our current visitor favourites), together with many unexpected species such as grey wolf, brown bear, wild boar*, Eurasian beaver*, Eurasian lynx*, aurochs (wild cattle), elk, reindeer, European bison and even wolverine. Security concerns mean that many of these species are unsuitable for the Collection at Golders Hill Park, but they will form an important aspect of our interpretation and learning programme.

**Have either been reintroduced or are currently proposed for reintroduction.*

12. **Introduced / Invasive Species:** A significant number of species have only inhabited the British Isles, forming successful breeding populations, in more recent times. These species arrive either by natural spread (little egrets since 1996), escapes (parakeets in the 1970s) or unauthorised releases (wild boar 1970-90s). In addition, some of our most commonly seen mammal species are the result of intentional releases. This includes both brown and black rats (spread from Asian with maritime travel) the grey squirrel (introduced in the 1870s) which has had a catastrophic impact on our own native red squirrel population.
13. Other examples of introduced / invasive species currently living, breeding and competing for resources in the British Isles include: red-necked wallaby, Reeves muntjac, Sika deer, water deer, fallow deer, common pheasant, edible dormouse, rabbit, hare, terrapins and the American mink. While some of these species are obvious outsiders, many visitors will be surprised by the presence of at least some of these names as being non-native. The impact and integration of this type of species are a significant part of the tale of the changing nature of Wildlife in Britain.
14. In summary, implementing these three overlapping categories will enable us to transform the Zoo Animal Collection into a well-structured, high quality public resource which reflects the changing nature of Wildlife in Britain and promotes engagement with wildlife.
15. The Superintendent seeks feedback on the draft Golders Hill Park Zoo Vision & Collection Plan (see Appendix 1) and the draft enclosure plan (see Appendix 2).

Cross Country Running

16. The Southern Counties Cross Country Championships took place on 28 January 2017. The weather was dry in the lead up to the event, and on the day itself, so consequently the ground conditions were very favourable. As a result, less restoration works will be required when compared to previous years. Oak chippings were used in replacement of the Christmas tree chippings which have been used in previous years to protect asphalt surfaces. The Ranger Team installed temporary barriers following the event to aid the recovery of particular sections of the course. A map detailing restoration works undertaken and proposed works has been prepared (see Appendix 4).
17. On 18 February 2017 the North West London Young Athletes Cross Country League held a pilot fixture on the Heath Extension. 114 boys and 87 girls took part; the event was well organised and proved to be successful. The Operational Services Manager has reviewed the ground conditions following the event. Due to the favourable firm ground conditions, leading up to and during the event, and the number and ages of the runners, there is minimal impact on the ground. The Sports Advisory Forum will undertake a review of the event and the outcomes of this review will be reported to the Consultative Committee.

Cycling

18. The Superintendent and Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager met with a member of the public and a representative from Camden Cycling Forum on 24 February 2017 to discuss the shared use of the Lido to broadwalk path for both pedestrians and cyclists. The route runs north south and would potentially link the main cycle path running from Highgate Road to Nassington Road with Gordon House Road and designated cycle routes going south to Kentish Town and Central London.
19. This proposal has been discussed by both the Consultative Committee and HHHWQPC previously. The most recent proposal was withdrawn following the failure of the Heritage Lottery Fund application to create a new vehicle route to the Service Yard at Parliament Hill.
20. The Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager is working with a small cycling group to discuss how the current cycling provision can be maintained on Hampstead Heath. It is planned to incorporate this proposal in the groups discussion. The group which involves a Local Councillor and a representative from Camden's Cycling Forum will be meeting again in March with the Superintendent to discuss this proposal and other cycling issues. Two representatives from a campaign group known as 'Heath for Feet' and two Members of the Consultative Committee will be invited to attend this meeting. The Superintendent will chair the meeting and report to the June Consultative Committee with the outcomes.

Eruv

21. The Superintendent has established that the location of the proposed Eruv pole at Windmill Hill does form part of Hampstead Heath. Minutes of both the Consultative Committee and the Management Committee have been provided to the applicant and a further site meeting is being arranged to consider how the visual impact of the Eruv on the Heath could be minimised.

Drones

22. On the 7 November 2016 the Superintendent reported to this Committee that Heath Lands were considered a 'congested area' as defined in the Air Navigation Order 2016. The Metropolitan Police, Aviation Policing Operational Command Unit and the City of London Police have been consulted with as have the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).
23. Draft Drone Guidance has been produced, which sets out the City of London's approach when responding to drone usage and requests to fly drones on Hampstead Heath.
24. The introduction of a Drone Guidance will enable City of London Officers to signpost drone flyers to the Air Navigation Order 2016 (ANO 2016) and support

the education of drone flyers on Hampstead Heath who are in compliance with the ANO 2016.

25. Drones are widely available on the market for commercial and recreational use. If these small unmanned aircraft are not used responsibly, they have the potential to cause injury to persons or damage to property. Drones are subject to safety rules which are underpinned by U.K Legislation.
26. The City of London will expect people flying drones to abide by the Air Navigation Order 2016 and follow the CAA Drone Code.
27. In simple terms, a camera drone may not be flown on or even close to the Heath without permission from the CAA. A drone that does not have any surveillance equipment may be flown on the Heath for personal use, without permission from the CAA, subject to certain restrictions. A more detailed explanation is set out in the Draft Drone Guidance Document.
28. The Superintendent seeks feedback on the Draft Drone Guidance Document (see Appendix 3).

Benches

29. Work on the Bench Project continues, with the mapping and surveys that took place in 2016 providing detailed information about the location, construction and condition of over 550 benches across the Heath. Supervisors are preparing a Bench Work Plan for 2017/18 as set out in the Annual Work Programme. Priority areas include continuation of the improvement works at the summit of Parliament Hill, reinstatement of benches affected by the Ponds Project, and benches across all areas that are reaching the end of their lifespan.
30. Recommendations for the provision and management of bench dedications at Hampstead Heath:
 - i) Maintain the current cap on the number and distribution of benches across the Heath and prepare and maintain a Schedule of Locations which will be updated annually to reflect Annual Work Programmes and reviewed periodically (a ten year review period is recommended to align with review of the wider Management Plan for Hampstead Heath).
 - ii) Apply a design standard to bench renewals and replacements to ensure benches are in keeping with the landscape characteristics and achieve a consistent standard. To this end, a schedule of appropriate bench styles will be developed, expanding on the current styles found across the Heath (and phasing out less desirable styles).
 - iii) Continue to implement a standard dedication period of ten years for all benches with an option for applicants to extend their sponsorship on a ten yearly cycle (at the published fee).

- iv) Continue to maintain a waiting list for bench dedications and to offer benches for re-dedication as they become available. Aim to reduce the waiting list for a bench dedication on Hampstead Heath to a maximum of 50 applicants and to cap it at this level in future.
- v) Revise the current guidance for dedicating a bench to ensure it aligns with the wider offer across the Open Spaces Department.
- vi) Prioritise the renewal and re-dedication of benches that are reaching the end of their life span. A large proportion of benches on the Heath are over 20 years old and no current contact details for the past sponsors are held on file. Recognising the sensitive nature of the removal of benches that have been dedicated in the past every effort must be made to respect the wishes of the original sponsors. To this end, the following protocol is proposed for the notification of bench renewals:
 - a) Commence notification 12 months prior to scheduled bench renewal.
 - b) Offer first right of refusal for re-dedication of the bench to registered sponsor (where sponsor records are current).
 - c) Place a notice on the bench at least 3 months and up to 12 months prior to the scheduled bench renewal (where sponsor records are no longer current).
 - d) Retain timber slats bearing the inscribed dedication and store securely for a period of 2 years in the event that a sponsor wishes to claim at a later date.

31. The Superintendent seeks feedback on the recommendations for the provision and management of bench dedications at Hampstead Heath to inform the development of the policy.

Planning

32. The Superintendent will provide an update on planning issues relating to Heath House, The Water House, Parliament Hill / William Ellis Schools, 114-120 West Heath Road and 84 West Heath Road.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly – Art installation at Golders Hill Park

33. The Superintendent has received confirmation that the art installation, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly by Jake & Dinos Chapman will be de-installed from Golders Hill Park on 27 February 2017. The cost of de-installation from Golders Hill Park will be met from the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.

34. The Superintendent has received a proposal regarding a possible new art installation on Hampstead Heath. The Superintendent is currently seeking further information from the artist and, if appropriate, will bring a proposal for consideration by the Consultative Committee in due course.

Storm Doris

35. The decision was taken on 22 February to close Golders Hill Park, The Hill Garden & Pergola, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park on the 23 February, in anticipation of Storm Doris. In addition, the Kenwood Ladies' Pond was vacated in the afternoon of 23 February, and English Heritage closed the Kenwood Estate at 12.30pm.
36. The latest update is 22 trees have been damaged, 14 of which were lost (felled, root plate failures, stem failures) and 8 with significant crown/branch damage. A Lombardy poplar has been reduced on the Heath Extension following concerns that the main stem had moved.
37. The Heath Ranger Team and Conservation Team have been actively working on a number of trees around the Heath to clear the storm damage, and the Tree Officer is continuing to survey the Heath.

June Consultative Committee Walk

38. It is proposed that the June walk will include a visit to the outdoor play facilities on Hampstead Heath.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Golders Hill Park Zoo – Vision & Collection Plan
- Appendix 2 – Draft Zoo enclosure proposals
- Appendix 3 – Draft Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance 2017
- Appendix 4 – Southern Counties Cross Country Championships Restoration Plan 2017

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