

Committee	Dated:
Queen's Park Consultative Group	14 June 2017
Subject: Superintendent's Update – June 2017	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion
Report author: Richard G Gentry –Open Spaces & Heritage Department	

Summary

This Report provides an update on management and operational activities including; operational working arrangements, income generation, sustainability, conservation, infrastructure and facilities to Members of the Queen's Park Consultative Group since November 2016.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that:

- Members note the report.
- The views of the Queen's Park Consultative Group will be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in July 2017.

Main Report

Current Position

1. Following the recruitment of a Team Leader at the Golders Hill Park Zoo the Queen's Park Animal Keeper and Engagement Assistant has been working with the Team Leader to develop a Vision, Mission and Values statement for the Queen's Park Farm. As a Team they continue to work across the Division at both the Zoo in Golders Hill and the Farm in Queen's Park. A separate report will be presented to this group on the vision for the Farm in Queen's Park.
2. The Queen's Park Team have changed their working arrangements. All staff are following the same working pattern of a seven day rota, working one weekend in three. The Team has been through a restructuring process and the Park Manager is currently recruiting a second Team Leader. The current Team have a full time equivalent of eight members of staff. The Park continues to utilise casual employees throughout the year to respond to increased demand / usage in the Park.

3. Queen's Park has entered the Green Flag and Green Heritage awards and the London in Bloom awards this year. Having gained gold in last year's London in Bloom awards the staff are determined to repeat this again this year.

Operation Management

4. Daily waste collections from waste bins are completed by the Queen's Park Team and Veolia continue to remove recycled waste at a cost to the City of London. The City of London waste contractor, Amey remove general waste on an as and when required basis. A different contractor is being used to collect the green waste skips.
5. Scheduled works in the City Surveyor's Department 20 Year Cyclical Works Programme (CWG) has seen the main public toilets and the paddling pool pump room rewired. The paddling pool has been resurfaced and the pool opened on the 27 May. The Café toilets have been refurbished. Works included painting the walls, ceilings and doors, the removal and replacement of sanitary ware items, new wall cladding and new flooring. Works were funded by the City Surveyor's Department and the Superintendents Local Risk Budget.
6. An updated map has been designed for the main park entrance boards. The new maps are easy to read and informative as to where the facilities are located in the park.
7. A particular project of significance over the winter has involved over 75 benches being washed, rubbed down, repainted and returned to their location in the park. The task was completed by a member of the Queen's Park Team and it's estimated their work has saved the City of London over £4,500 should these works have been completed by a contractor.
8. Bedding and hanging baskets are now sourced from an external supplier following the closure of the West Ham Park Nursery.
9. Filming and photography in the park generated an income of £5,150 in the financial year 2016/17.

Visitors and Community

10. Daffodil bulb planting was carried out by local school children with the help of Queen's Park staff in the autumn of 2016. Over 250 children took part and 3,000 bulbs were planted in the Field of Hope, on the bunds and in the Quiet Garden. The Team at Queen's Park continues to facilitate work experience sessions for students with special educational needs from Westminster College. The sessions are for two hours and run in six week periods comprising of two pupils at a time. The students carry out various tasks that include cleaning out the animal houses in the Farm and gardening in the Quiet Garden under the supervision of Queen's Park staff.

11. Events have been scheduled to take place over the summer months, these include; brass bands on the Bandstand, children's entertainment, outdoor cinema screenings and Queen's Park Day which will be taking place on 17 September 2017. Apart from the cinema screenings these events are provided at no cost to our visitors.
12. In the financial period 2016/17, the Bandstand attracted 43 bookings for gatherings. This generated an income of £2,860.00 that was reinvested back in to the Park.
13. The redevelopment work in the Children's Sandpit will be completed in the autumn/winter of 2017, reducing the impact of any unnecessary disruption to users.
14. The introduction of Junior ParkRun in the Park has been well received.

Ecology and Environment

15. The Divisional Arboriculture Team continue to monitor trees in the Park for Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). Signage has been placed in areas close to previous sightings of OPM to keep members of the public informed. The Arboricultural Team visit the park regularly to respond to Massaria and the London Plane fungal disease, which continues to affect a number of Queen's Park plane trees. The privet, hornbeam and beech hedges that make up the perimeter of the tennis courts have all been reduced. Other works have included reducing the mixed hedgerow and trees along the fence line of the pitch & putt course and cutting the laurel in the staff yard and beech hedge in the farm. All the low hanging branches around the perimeter of the Park and on the main interior pathways have also been lifted.

Sports and Recreation

16. ClubSpark, the online booking system for the tennis courts has been successful. The park has seen an increase in the usage of courts by 17%. New trim trail equipment has been installed in the Park. The equipment was funded by Section 106 money from the London Borough of Brent. Licenses are either in the process of being agreed or have been agreed for a number of chargeable activities including Tag Rugby, Little Foxes and KiddiKicks. There are 5 local schools booked in to use the Park for their annual sports days so far this year.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. This report will help fulfil the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan 2015-19; to provide valued services, such as education, employment, culture and leisure, to London and the nation. The report also meets the Department's Strategic Goals and Objectives; To protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites, Embed financial sustainability across our activities by delivering identified programmes and projects, Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing high quality and engaging educational and volunteering opportunities, Improve the health and wellbeing of community through access to green space

and recreation. The report also contributes to the Departmental values of quality, inclusion, environment, promotion and people.

Implications

18. The operational requirements highlighted in the report will be met from the Superintendent's Local Risk Budget.

Conclusion

19. The City of London and the Queen's Park Team continue to provide a much loved and respected open space for the benefit of the local community and wider London, meeting the charitable obligations for the use by the public for exercise and recreation.

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