

Committees:	Dates:
Epping Forest & Commons Committee - For Information	3 July 2017
Open Spaces Committee - For Information	17 July 2017
West Ham Park Committee - For Information	17 July 2017
Hampstead Heath, Queens Park and Highgate Wood Committee - For Information	17 July 2017
Subject: Open Spaces Events Policy	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Summary As part of the ongoing preparations for the passage of Open Spaces Bill through Parliament, we are required to develop a formal events policy. This report provides an update on the proposals to develop proposals and consult our communities. It is proposed the consultation takes place from autumn 2017 to early 2018 with the local Consultative Groups. This would allow the events policy to then be considered by each Committee prior to the spring. Recommendation Members are asked to note the report.	

Main Report

Background

1. The Open Spaces Bill is currently moving through parliamentary process.
2. The provisions of the Open Spaces Bill require that the Open Spaces Department have a formally established Events Policy for each of our sites, and that this policy be consulted upon.
3. There is a strong history of events at our Open Spaces. The policy framework which is being developed will draw upon previous experience licensing and running events, the existing legal obligations for each site and the requirements of the Open Spaces Bill.

Current Position

4. In recognition of the differing characters of the open spaces and heritage assets managed by the City of London Corporation, it is proposed that the principles of a departmental policy framework is established supported by site specific policies.

Consultation and Committee process

5. It is proposed that the events policy framework and site specific policies be subject to consultation with local consultative groups before being submitted to each Committee for approval early in 2018.

Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	9 October 2017	Local Consultation
Highgate Wood Consultative Group	1 November 2017	Local Consultation
Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group	1 November 2017	Local Consultation
Burnham Beeches Consultation Group	TBC January 2018	Local Consultation
West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Commons Consultative Group	TBC January 2018	Local Consultation
Ashted Common Consultative Committee	23 January 2018	Local Consultation
Epping Forest Consultative Group	TBC	Local Consultation
West Ham Park Committee	5 February 2018	Committee approval
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	5 February 2018	Committee approval
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	21 February 2018	Committee approval
Epping Forest & Commons	12 March 2018	Committee approval

6. Members will be aware that the Epping Forest Consultative Group has not yet been formally established. It is anticipated that this group will be established later this year and will therefore be able to be consulted on the events policy framework and Epping Forest site specific policy.
7. West Ham Park does not have a consultative group but benefits from local representatives sitting on the Committee. The West Ham Park Manager will supplement the Committee process with consultation with the Friends Group.
8. Should there be any substantive issues raised during the course of the consultation process, it may be necessary to extend these timeframes or consider additional meetings.

Conclusion

9. The creation of a formally approved events policy is an opportunity for the department to codify practice, create greater clarity and transparency, and most importantly, to ensure that each of our sites is protected.

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