

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	29 January 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Superintendent's Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> 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 October 2017.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- Members note the contents of this report.
- Members provide feedback in relation to the proposed Divisional Plan (appendix 2).

### **Main Report**

#### **Management framework**

1. Development of the strategic management plan for Hampstead Heath (2018 Plan) is progressing well. In January 2018, Stakeholders and staff came together to participate in a facilitated workshop 'Realising the Heath Community Vision'. Consultants have been commissioned to develop an Outcomes Framework which will form the backbone of the 2018 Plan. A presentation on the results of the workshop and on the Outcomes Framework is scheduled for late February 2018.
2. A key component of the Management Framework is the Divisional Plan (see Appendices 1-3). The proposed Divisional Plan has been amended in response to comments and feedback from Members in October and November 2017.
3. Following further comments and feedback from this Committee the proposed Divisional Plan will be submitted to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in February 2018 and implemented from 1 April 2018.
4. The purpose of the plan is to steer the implementation of higher-level strategies and objectives, by prioritising programmes and projects for resource allocation.

This approach will be integrated across all four sites, so that it becomes embedded into our ways of working, and as the principal means of engaging with Members, formal consultation forums and the wider community on how we are achieving our vision.

5. The Superintendent will prepare an annual report in June each year to monitor progress and review in line with priorities and resources. The Superintendent will seek Members' views and feedback in January each year, as the three-year Divisional Plan is revised annually.

### **Shared-Use path surfacing**

6. In October 2017 the Superintendent and the Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager met with representatives from Heath for Feet, the Camden Cycle Campaign, Sustrans and representatives from this Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a draft report prepared by Land Use Consultants which outlines surfacing options for the existing shared-use paths on the Heath. In addition, to discussing surfacing, the group considered ways to improve the waymarking and signage on the existing shared-use paths and strategies to promote responsible cycling on the Heath.
7. The Superintendent is awaiting further feedback before a final copy of the shared-use surfacing report is circulated to Members of this Committee.

### **Petition to extend cycle lanes, north to south on Hampstead Heath, to promote accessibility to the Ladies' Pond**

8. On 21 December 2017 the Superintendent received a petition with 146 signatures.
9. The current policy is to address the condition of the existing shared-use paths and there are no plans to extend the number of shared-use paths at this point. Therefore, it is proposed that the request to add a path north to south be considered as part of the wider review of cycling in the next Management Plan (2018-2028).

### **Outdoor Gym – London Borough of Camden Grant**

10. The Leisure and Events Manager has received confirmation that a grant of £10,000 has been offered to update the outdoor gym equipment at the Parliament Hill trim-trail.

### **Planning**

11. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:-
  - The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P
  - The Wallace House
  - North Fairground Site, Vale of Health 2017/4346/

- Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2017/5395/P
- Orchard Trust proposed replacement of the existing boundary fence.
- Parliament Hill Lido Gospel Oak 2017/5886/P. Installation of roof-mounted solar panels onto the existing metal roof of Parliament Hill Lido Building, Granted 20/12/2017

## **Trees**

### Storm Eleanor

12. There have been a number of significant tree failures across Hampstead Heath. These were the result of strong winds and heavy rain which occurred on 2- 4 January 2018.
  - The eucalyptus behind the main office in the walled garden at Golders Hill Park split in two and fell into the garden.
  - A mature beech failed at the base of the stem in the Golders Hill Park orchard.
  - Three mature birch trees were blown over on West Heath.
  - Mature birch was blown over on South Meadow.
  - Mature London plane and ash were blown over on Sandy Heath & at the north wall on the extension.
  - Locally there were two significant failures of privately owned trees that fell across the highways at Wellgarth Road (hawthorn) & West Heath Road (sycamore).
13. Golders Hill Park and the Hill Garden were closed all day on the 3 January and on the afternoon of the 4 January 2018 in compliance with the Division's Extreme Weather Event Protocol; this covers high winds, heavy snow and heavy rainfall.

## **Constabulary**

14. The Constabulary Manager and Sergeants attended a series of Metropolitan Police, Camden Borough, New Year's Eve Briefings along with other Stakeholders, including TfL, The Royal Parks and the London Borough of Camden to help plan for this annual occurrence.
15. The Division's Duty Manager declared a Trigger Event to cover the period of New Year's Eve, to take account of the substantial public gathering on Parliament Hill to coincide with New Year's Eve celebrations and the view of central London fireworks.
16. Five Constables and four Keepers were on duty to prevent anti-social behaviour and maintain public safety. It is estimated that in excess of 5,000 people were on the Heath between 11:00pm and 2:00am.
17. The public toilets remained open at Parliament Hill until 12:30am with staff available in the vicinity of Parliament Hill Staff Yard and close to the summit. Feedback received from the public was positive with a number complimenting the staff on their presence. This is the first year that Keepers have supported

the Constabulary with the management of the crowd which gathered and it worked well with no serious incidents or occurrences reported.

18. A concerted effort by the Heath Rangers, Keepers and the Waste and Recycling Team meant that the rubbish left by New Year's Eve visitors was all cleared by 9am on New Year's Day.

#### Current Prosecutions

19. There are currently nine pending prosecutions, which relate to dogs (five), cycling (three) and abusive behaviour (one).

#### **City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme**

20. The Superintendent will provide an update on current projects at South End Green, the Mixed Pond, Parliament Hill Athletics Track & the Golders Hill Park ponds.

#### **City of London (Open Spaces) Bill 2016**

21. The Bill had its last Commons stage on 10 October 2017. The Bill has now passed into the House of Lords and is at Unopposed Bill Committee stage. The Committee will be having a further hearing at the end of this month.

#### **Hampstead Heath Cafés**

22. On the 15 May 2017, the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee approved the recommendation of the Superintendent which was to negotiate three-year leases with the current incumbents at the Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park and Highgate Wood Cafés.
23. The City Surveyor's Department have led on negotiations with the current incumbents at each of these Cafés. Although the negotiations have not yet concluded, they are nearing their final stages whereby the terms of the lease will be agreed with the incumbents, which will be three years in length, expiring in 2021.
24. A meeting has been arranged with the Café Working Party on 23 January 2018, following concerns being raised by Members of the group. The Superintendent will provide an update on the outcomes from this meeting.

#### **Koi Herpesvirus (KHV)**

25. There was an outbreak of KHV at the Model Boating Pond in August 2017, necessitating the suspension of Angling on Hampstead Heath. Since 20 November 2017 Angling has been re-opened, during day light hours. Bio-security measures have been put in place at each pond and Anglers are required to dip their nets and equipment before and after fishing.
26. All the ponds will be subject to a minimum of two visual stock inspections conducted during summer 2018 when the water temperatures are conducive for

expression of the KHV disease. The monitoring programme will start again if there is a re-occurrence of the KHV disease at any point during the control period (one year from November 2017).

## **Swimming**

27. The Superintendent will provide an update on the swimming facilities.

## **Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Awards**

28. At the British Construction Industry Awards on Wednesday 11 October the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project received the Civil Engineering Project of the Year Award (£10M to £50M).
29. On 17 November 2017, it was announced that the Ponds Project had won a 2017 Green Flag Special Innovation award.
30. The Ponds Project is one of 7 projects to win at the 2017 Camden Design Awards.
31. The Ponds Project has been awarded in the Science Management and Stewardship Category at the Landscape Institute Awards, which took place 23 November 2017.
32. In total 6 awards have been won. There are 2 further award applications still to be determined.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Divisional Plan Overview
- Appendix 2 – Proposed 2018 - 2021 Divisional Plan
- Appendix 3 – Project Record Schedule, Pipeline Projects and Divisional Plan key.

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