

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 29 January 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 29 January 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
Ellen Solomons (Vale of Health Society)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Richard Sumray (London Council for Recreation and Sport)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Attending:

Carol Dukes (Barnet Mencap)
Tony Ghilchik (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Anoushka Kenley (New Philanthropy Capital – Item 5)

Officers:

Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	-	Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	-	Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	-	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Lucy Gannon	-	Projects Management & Support Officer
Yvette Hughes	-	Business Manager, Hampstead Heath Division
Paul Maskell	-	Leisure and Events Manager
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department
Alistair MacLellan	-	Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cindy Galvin (Heath Hands). Members noted that Tony Ghilchik was attending in place of Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) and Carol Dukes was attending in the place of Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap).

2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2017 were approved as a correct record. A Member asked if the word “comprehensive” could be added before the word ecological to bullet point four of item 9. The Committee agreed to this word being added.

4. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD, AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 15 November 2017 were received.

5. **NEW PHILANTHROPY CAPITAL PRESENTATION**

Members received a presentation from a representative of New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) on the draft outcomes diagram which had been developed through a workshop on 11 January 2018. Drawing on the Community Vision for Hampstead Heath the workshop identified pathways to achieve four key outcomes (or benefits) arising from how the Heath is managed to benefit communities.

A culture of collective care/custodianship of Hampstead Heath would be a key element of the work with the aim of creating a culture of inclusion and encouraging people to feel like they were ambassadors of the Heath who were involved in the decision making affecting its management. It was hoped that the feeling of personal responsibility would be complemented with a programme of engagement.

A Member queried what was new and different about the data in this project from the extensive data collected by previous working groups involved in the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project and the work around developing the Strategic Plan in 2007. The Projects Management & Support Officer advised that the aim of this project was to build on past studies and surveys and to review the various issues affecting the Heath, using previous data as a valuable baseline for measuring progress. On concerns surrounding changes at the Heath, the NPC representative advised that outcomes framework/theory was a more accurate description for the tool used, than theory of change.

It was queried what the average age of the workshop members was. Members were advised that the age range was similar to that of the Consultative Committee. The Member suggested that an older age group be included in future work to ensure the data gathered was as inclusive as possible.

Members felt that change was reflected in the emphasis on diversity, shared ownership and the impact on health and quality of life. It was noted that the theme of events (as opposed to activities) was missing from the theory of change which was important as the right type of event could attract a diverse range of people to the Heath. Members also felt that it was important to show

where conflicts had arisen or were likely to arise, e.g. the ground damage at the National Cross-Country Championships event, to ensure the competing needs of Heath users were balanced effectively.

Members added that the overall objective of maintaining the natural aspect of the Heath should remain central to the future management of the Heath, and that thought should be given to how the idea of shared custodianship by all Heath stakeholders could be fostered.

The Chairman advised Members that the deadline to provide written feedback was 2 February 2018 and offered an invitation to NPC to present the final outcomes to the Committee.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent and the following points were made.

Management framework

- The Superintendent advised Members that the first five paragraphs of the report outlined the approach of the Divisional Plan (appendix 1-3) currently in draft form. The Divisional Plan marks a significant achievement.
- The Superintendent drew Member's attention to the Project Record Schedule (appendix 3) which tracks project progress. This schedule would be updated in order for Members to track progress and provide feedback, which would inform the next three-year programme.
- The Superintendent invited Members to provide written feedback by Friday 9 February 2018.

Shared-Use path surfacing

- Members were advised that the Superintendent and the Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager met with Heath for Feet, Camden Cycle Campaign, Sustrans and representatives from the Consultative Committee in October 2017 to discuss a draft report outlining surfacing options for shared-use paths on the Heath. A final report was in progress and the Superintendent noted he would report back to the Committee once it was finalised. Members agreed the choice of materials were vital.

Petition to extend cycle lanes

- The Superintendent noted he had received a petition with 160 signatures for a cycle path leading from Kenwood to the Ladies' Pond. The Superintendent advised that there were currently no plans to extend the number of cycle paths in the Heath and the emphasis remains to maintain the paths already in existence. He would however review the position when formulating the 2018 Management Plan.

- Members noted the importance of stating in the Management Plan when exactly this will be reviewed to provide clarity and openness.
- In response to a question the Superintendent confirmed that the lead petitioner was a regular user of the Ladies' Pond. He noted also that the Heath faced a range of pressures as a result of cycling.

Outdoor Gym

- The Superintendent was pleased to advise Members that a grant of £10,000 has been provided by Camden to update the outdoor gym equipment at the Parliament Hill trim-trail.

Planning

- The Superintendent advised Members that there were a number of planning applications still with Camden Council with most projects still to be determined. These included proposals for an Eruv, a development at Jack Straw's Car Park, and the Garden House.
- **The Water House, Millfield Lane, 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent noted that a revised Construction Management Plan had been submitted to Camden. A Single Joint Arboricultural Expert has been appointed by the Developer and the City to review the proposals to protect the veteran and mature trees along Millfield Lane in advance of making a representation to Camden. One significant mitigation proposal currently under consideration was the use of smaller vehicles for construction traffic along Millfield Lane which would, however, result in increased number of vehicle movements.
- **North Fairground Site, Vale of Health, 2017/4346/P.** The Superintendent noted that there had been no response as yet from Camden.
- **The Wallace House.** The Superintendent noted that the application involved a basement excavation, and that the City had made a representation to Camden.
- **Parliament Hill Lido Gospel Oak, 2017/5886/P.** The Superintendent noted that the application for solar panels on the roof had been granted.
- **South Fairground Site.** The Superintendent noted that the City was objecting to the development of the site and seeking enforcement action from Camden.
- **Parliament Hill William Ellis School, 2017/5395/P.** The Superintendent noted that the Operational Service Manager was a member of the Community Working Group representing the Heath.

Trees

- The Superintendent advised that storms and extreme weather in January, most notably Storm Eleanor, had caused damage throughout the Heath and led to closure of Golders Hill Park and the Hill Garden on 3-4 January in compliance with the Division's Extreme Weather Event Protocol.

City Surveyor's Cyclical Work Programme

- The Superintendent advised Members that projects were now underway, including installation of fencing at South End Green; desilting of the Mixed Bathing Pond; refurbishment of the showers and redecoration of the changing rooms at the Athletic Track; and safety work on the timbers on main walkways at the Pergola. Due to budget constraints, the timbers were simply being made safe but there were plans to pursue a larger bid to fully replace them.

Hampstead Heath Cafés

- The Superintendent thanked Members of the Committee who attended the Café Working Party meeting on 23 January 2018
- The Chairman advised Members that a request had been made for the Café Campaign Group to have its own representative on the Committee. The Chairman asked the Committee Members that sit on the Café Working Party what their feelings were regarding this request. Members felt that as this was a single-issue group sole interested in just one café, it would not be appropriate for them to have a representative on the Committee as this would encourage requests for representatives from similar single-issue groups. It was also felt that the café was adequately represented by the four Members that sit on the Cafe Working Party.
- The Chairman stated that as the Committee was a public forum, any member of the Café Campaign Group was welcome to observe meetings.

Swimming

- The Superintendent advised Members that a main sewer pipe had burst resulting in the Model Boating Pond and the Men's Pond being closed. The water was currently being tested and results were expected by 31 January 2018. The Mixed Pond had been opened to meet demand from pond users.
- The Superintendent noted that he and the Chairman had spent a day recently visiting all ponds and meeting with pond stakeholder groups. Issues such as signage and payment methods had been discussed,

which he would be reviewing and reporting back to the Swimming Forum accordingly.

- The Superintendent updated Members on recent press interest regarding the City Corporation's practice to allow transgender women to use the Ladies' Pond. He reiterated City of London's position of inclusivity, which he noted was supported by the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association. He noted that the Heath's Business Manager would be attending a forthcoming meeting of the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association to discuss the matter further.
- In response to a query from a Member, the Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager confirmed that the bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa*, a pathogen deadly to olive trees, had not yet reached the UK.

7. **DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the draft Annual Work Programme 2018/19 and the following points were made.

- The Operational Services Manager noted that the deadline for Members were to provide further feedback on the document providing details of the proposed works for April 2018 – March 2019 was the 9 February 2018.
- The Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager advised Members that the structure of the report has changed from looking backwards to looking at the year to come.
- The Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager drew attention to the following highlights from the report:
 - A renewed survey of the trees identified as veteran/ancient trees in the last survey ten years ago would be undertaken to update the known numbers across the Heath.
 - Most of the "snagging" items from the Ponds Project have been completed with the remaining items to be addressed in 2018/19.
 - The grassland area, which was not cut last year due to the Ponds Project work, would be finished.
 - Following the shared-use pathways condition survey carried out last year, work would commence as per the priority list of surface repairs.
 - Work with Heath Hands would continue, including working with the Leisure & Events Manager to promote and assist with a number of events at the Heath in 2018, e.g. Give it a Go Day on

15 July 2018. Heath Hands would also host a music volunteering day on 1 July 2018 at the Parliament Hill Bandstand.

- The Ecology Team would be focusing on the monitoring and surveying of the ecological areas around the ponds and the impact of the Ponds Project work.
 - It was noted that a species of damsel fly thought to have been extinct in London had been spotted at the Heath.
 - The Heath Ranger Team would carry out a number of projects throughout 2018-19 including landscape improvements to South End Green, cycle parking spaces at the Mixed Pond and the relocation of the bird feeding platform at Hampstead Number 1 Pond.
- A Member asked if the clearing up of the mud at the National Cross-Country Championships event could be added as an item to the Annual Work Programme. The Chairman noted that this work was already budgeted for elsewhere.
 - Regarding a query on whether works on the eroded small walkways were included in this programme, it was noted that this was included but the work could not take place until the weather improved.
 - It was noted that a decision on the future of the Model Boating Pond island was due.
 - A Member noted that consideration should be given in the work programme to embedding inclusion on the Heath, and inclusion for girls and women in particular given the girls and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) work that had been undertaken as part of the Ponds Project. Moreover, some thought should be given to ensuring that the whole young person 'offer' on the Heath was as holistic as possible.
 - In response to a query, Officers agreed to review what could be done to address the problem of algae in the Vale of Health pond.
 - A concern regarding the condition of a lower path via the Model Boating Pond which was mostly unusable and dangerous when frosty was noted.
 - A Member raised concerns over the impact of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) and the collateral ecological damage caused. It was noted that other countries, for example Germany, regularly carry out extensive work to deal with OPM. Members were advised that treatment was planned to take place during the spring.
 - It was noted that the plaque from the Pitt Arch had gone missing approximately seven years ago. Members agreed that it would be good

to bring this back, given it highlighted the historic nature of the Heath. The Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager agreed to work on this.

8. POLICY FOR BENCH DEDICATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS AT HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the draft policy for bench dedications and sponsorships at Hampstead Heath and the following points were made.

- The Projects Management & Support Officer advised Members that the draft policy followed the recommendations put forward in a report in March 2017 setting out a clear framework for the management of benches at Hampstead Heath.
- It was highlighted that it was special to have a memorial bench and that there was currently a ten-year waiting list to get one. Members were also advised that the City Corporation had no plans to extend the number of benches but would consider re-positioning of benches in the Heath.
- In response to a query over whether sponsorship of benches was limited, the Projects Management & Support Officer advised that benches could be sponsored for ten years at which time they would be replaced (if damaged) or offered to another person on the waiting list if the current sponsor did not reply to the notice from the City Corporation. She added that this approach had been very effective in the pilot to date.
- A Member queried what the percentage of people wishing to renew existing bench sponsorship was. Members were advised that this would become evident once the renewal cycle has been successfully working for at least a year.
- It was noted that there were clear spots within the Heath where a bench would be useful and likewise spots where benches were poorly situated. Members were advised that each bench was tagged and the record of its location updated annually which allowed for benches to be tracked and historical data for past sponsors stored centrally.
- Members discussed the emotional element connected to getting a memorial bench and felt that it was important to keep people on the waiting list informed on what the waiting timescales would be. The Projects Management & Support Officer advised that the team were piloting annual updates of the timescale to deal with this sensitive element. The Superintendent added that great progress on rationalising and updating the waiting list of people had been made.

- It was noted that if the sponsor did not wish to renew their sponsorship of the bench, the inscribed slats on the bench could be given to the sponsor.
- Members discussed the possibility of sponsoring memorial trees, the timber beams at the Pergola, or bricks with dedications at the Heath.
- In response to a query, the Projects Management & Support Officer noted that the number of potential sponsors on the waiting list had been set at 50 for the time being as this was a manageable number to administrate effectively. The total number at which the waiting list would be capped would be kept under review however.

9. **REVIEW EVENTS PROGRAMME 2017 & PROVISIONAL 2018 EVENTS PROGRAMME**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the review of the 2017 Events Programme and the provisional 2018 Events programme. The Leisure & Events Manager provided his highlights for 2017 and an update on what was coming up for the year to come. The following comments were made.

- It was noted that 2017 was a great year for events at the Heath and there were 101 events in total. Particular highlights for the Committee included the “Give it a Go”, “One Man and his Dog” and the Night of 10,000m events.
- The 2018 National Cross-Country Championships would take place on 24 February 2018 at Parliament Hill. It was highlighted that this event encouraged lots of young people to come to the Heath.
- The Highgate Harriers Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests international event would return to the Heath on 19 May 2018. This had extensive media coverage and would bring 40 world class athletes to the track to compete in the Europa Cup.
- Following discussion at the Committee’s last meeting, it was proposed that two Shire Horses would attend the Heath to carry out restoration works following the Cross-Country Championships. Members were also advised that funding was being sought from the English Cross-Country Group to fund the involvement of Shire Horses at the Heritage Day.
- The Chairman drew Members attention to paragraphs 18-20 and asked for feedback regarding the use of animals at the annual circus event at the Heath. Members felt that there was a clear movement against the use of animals (domestic or exotic) within circuses over the last 20 years and took the strong viewpoint that this was an outdated practice in 2018 and were unanimous against the use of any domestic or wild animals at future circus shows at the Heath. It was also noted that Zippos Circus, the elected circus for 2018, did not use any animals at Winter Wonderland. One Member in particular voiced the view that

modern circus was developing beyond the use of animals and towards immersive performances that focused on performing arts.

- A Member noted that the annual Heritage Day was very popular in the past and could be made more eventful if it included people dressed up as Victorians, Romans, etc. The Leisure & Events Manager advised that this was a possibility but there were cost restraints. The Chairman stated that whilst the Committee would like to expand future events, a balance of events was needed.
- It was noted that the date of the Heath's Heritage Day did not match the national heritage days on the first two days of October 2018. Members were advised that this was in line with the annual conker event and the Chairman suggested a possible name change to show a distinction from the national event.
- In response to a question regarding the success of weddings and civil ceremonies at the Heath, the Hampstead Heath Business Manager advised that numbers were consistent with other venues. It was noted that this feature was not publicly advertised and there were plans to advertise locally and on the website.

Members congratulated the Leisure & Events Manager on the success of the 2017 Events Programme and the great 2018 programme. A Member noted that the Events Programme should where possible be supported by Heath volunteers.

RESOLVED –

- Members note the success of the 2017 Hampstead Heath Events Programme in engaging with audiences, attracting new visitors to the Heath, and working with partners to provide a valuable service for the local community and beyond;
- The feedback of Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on the Events Programme be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.
- The views of Members in relation to a proposed exclusion of performing animals for the 2018 events programme, as set out in para 18-20 be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

10. HEATH HANDS

The Superintendent drew Members' attention to a report from Heath Hands regarding the volunteering highlighted for 2017/18. The Superintendent applauded the excellent achievements of Heath Hands, and welcomed the changing demographic of the group.

11. UPDATE ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Members considered a report providing an update on the Secondary Schools Programme 2018. In response to a question about the funding of this programme, the Superintendent advised that this was secured on a three year plus one-year basis. This additional year would allow the programme to be embedded and made sustainable. A Member recommended recirculating the survey to pupils as the last circulation clashed with the exam period resulting in a low response.

12. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting on 16 April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Parliament Hill Conference Room was noted. All 2018 Committee dates would be circulated to Members by the Town Clerk.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chairman

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