

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Committee | Dated: |
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee | 16 April 2018 |
| Subject: Superintendent's 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 2018.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note the contents of this report.
- Members provide feedback in relation to the recommendations presented in the Shared Use paths report (appendix 2) as outlined in paragraph 5.

Main Report

Divisional Plan

1. The 2018/19 Divisional Plan was approved by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee on 21 February 2018.
2. A 4th Quarter update on the status and progress of the 2017/18 Divisional Plan Projects is attached at Appendix 1. Members are asked to note the progress of the Projects, and in particular Projects with April 2018 milestones.
3. Due to a duplication of Project 3.5 (development of an Events/Culture Strategy) in the 2017/18 Divisional Plan, and additional Project has been added to the 2018/19 Divisional Plan. Project 3.5 is the development of an Events Strategy, and Project 3.14 is the development of a Culture Strategy.

Shared-Use path surfacing

4. 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.

5. Following feedback from the group and the City of London's Access Group, the report has been updated. The Superintendent is seeking Members views on the final draft of the report (Appendix 2), and in particular, on the preferred surfacing material (page 16), the priorities identified (page 20-23), and waymarking (page 29).

Planning

6. The Superintendent will provide an update on the following planning applications:
 - The Water House, Millfield Lane. 2017/3692/P (Granted subject to S106)
 - Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2017/5395/P (Granted)
 - Heath House
 - Athlone House
 - Capri de Monti

Extreme Weather

7. The Superintendent will provide an update on recent site closures.

Constabulary

8. The Superintendent will provide an update on recent prosecutions.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

9. The Superintendent will provide an update on current projects at South End Green, the Mixed Pond, Parliament Hill Athletics Track, and the Lido.

City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018

10. The City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 received Royal Assent on 15 March 2018.
11. A copy can be accessed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukla/2018/1>. This additional legislation has significant implications for the City Corporation and its ability to manage its Open Spaces. The Act focuses primarily on three main objectives:
 - Clarifying general management powers;
 - Strengthening the City Corporation's powers to deal with anti-social behaviour; and

- Providing greater opportunity to generate income to be re-invested back into the running of our green spaces.
12. Exercise of the new powers will be decided by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee following consultation with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

Hampstead Heath Cafés

13. 3-year leases have been agreed for the Parliament Hill Café, Golders Hill Park Café and the Parliament Hill Lido Café. The leases will run to January 2021.

Swimming

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

Workforce

15. The Open Spaces Department has appointed 23 Apprentices as part of the Government's Apprentice levy. Six apprentices have been appointed at Hampstead Heath, in the following roles:
- 1 Conservation - Environmental Conservation NVQ Level 3
 - 2 x Ranger - Environmental Conservation NVQ Level 2
 - 1 Arborist - Arboriculture NVQ Level 2
 - 1 Zoo/Farm - Animal Care NVQ Level 2
 - 1 Gardener - Horticulture NVQ Level 2

Events

National Cross-Country Championships (24 February 2018)

16. 6,444 cross country runners completed the English National Cross-Country Championships at Parliament Hill Fields. The number of participants finishing the race was up 1,156 on the 2015 record, an increase of 21%.

Shire Horses (25 February 2018)

17. Following the English National Cross-Country Championships, two Shire Horses were brought onto Hampstead Heath to undertake chain harrowing to aid ground reinstatement along the race route.
18. The advantage of using Shire Horses, was that they could start the reinstatement work immediately. In previous year staff have had to wait several weeks for the ground to dry out before a tractor was able to access the route.
19. Staff and volunteers engaged with approximately 200 members of the public on the day, and it is estimated that around 600 members of the public gathered to watch the Shire Horses throughout the course of the day.

20. The Shire Horses appeared to be a draw for volunteers as well as the public. There were 12 volunteers helping on the day with the take down of the cross-country course and engaging with the public.

Up-coming events

21. This years Easter Fairs begin on Good Friday, 30 March, and conclude on the Bank holiday Monday, 2 April 2018.
22. The Affordable Art Fair will return to the Heath for its 7th reincarnation between 10 - 13 May 2018. There will be a Charity Beneficiary Preview taking place on the evening of 9 May 2018.
23. Highgate Harriers Night of 10,000m Personal Best will take place on Saturday 19 May 2018, at the Parliament Hill Athletics Track. 2018 will be the 6th consecutive year the event has been held on the Heath. This year the event will host the European 10,000m Cup, which marks the first time this event has been held in Great Britain. The European 10,000m Cup is a Team Competition. 27 nations are expected to take part in the event.
24. Give it a Go! returns to the Heath on Sunday 15 July 2018.
25. Parliament Hill Fields Lido 80th Anniversary. The Lido was opened on 20 August 1938. At a cost of £34,000, it was the most ambitious and expensive of the thirteen Lidos built on parkland sites by the London County Council (LCC). In 1937 the then LCC Leader, Herbert Morrison, vowed to make London 'a City of Lidos'. The aims were to provide open-air recreation for all and to bring the seaside to the City. 80 years on we will be celebrating the opening of the Lido with a series of events organised by the Parliament Hill Lido User Group (PHLUG). The events will include:
- Saturday 5 May 2018 - First swim of the summer season and coffee morning.
 - Thursday 21 June 2018 - Summer Solstice event.
 - Sunday 24 June 2018 - Lido Strollathon. The other Lidos have been invited to a guided swimming tour of the Heath, which will include a visit to the bathing ponds.
 - Friday 13th July - Lido picnic at the bandstand. The Rhythm Kings will be providing musical entertainment.
 - Saturday 25 August - 80th Anniversary Spectacular! Evening swim followed by live music, food and wine.
 - Sunday 2 September 2018 - 20th Anniversary Duathlon.
 - Saturday 29th September 2018 - All Out-Swim Hampstead (for Macmillan Cancer Support).
 - Friday 21st December 2018 - Winter Solstice event.

Learning Team

Schools programme (ahead of target)

26. Primary schools have been participating in our programme throughout January, February and March. We delivered our first outdoor literacy sessions with two classes in the Old Orchard garden in full sunshine. The teachers and students really enjoyed the workshop. The teachers commented that the sessions used a creative learning approach to engage and inspire all pupils. Map reading on the Heath has been a popular session over the last few months, an example of teacher feedback includes: "Very fun and hands on learning. The children enjoyed themselves and it linked to our topic perfectly".
27. The launch of our new secondary Schools website is on track for April 2018. Several new sessions have been trialled on the Heath with a local secondary school. The sessions provided useful feedback that has been used to improve the sessions ready for the website. Example sessions include making model boats and testing their ability to float as well as a fire lighting and shelter building session.

Play programme (ahead of target)

28. Plans for the re-development of the Adventure playground and Peggy Jay Centre grounds have progressed well over the last few months. The designers are currently working on a concept design for both areas and will present this to stakeholders on the Heath on 6 April. The children who use the Adventure playground have been invited to take part in a consultation workshop with the designers, to gather their feedback on the initial designs for the playground. We are looking forward to seeing the designs soon with the aim of starting the build in the autumn.
29. The One o' Clock Club has continued to receive excellent numbers of visitors over the winter, focusing on providing a wide variety of play experiences for children under 5.

Playing Wild – (on target)

30. The first play trail has been developed for Parliament Hill Fields incorporating activities and games encouraging families to explore the Heath independently. The play trail is currently being trialled by families who attend the One O'clock Club. The trail is due to be published online in April 2018.

Green Talent (ahead of target)

31. A two-week project took place in March, providing work experience placements for 9 students. The students were given the opportunity to learn about the various teams that work on the Heath including helping at the One O'clock Club, the

Education Centre as well as carrying out conservation tasks on the Heath, at Queen's Park and West Ham Park.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – 2018/19 Divisional Plan (Including 4th Quarter Status & Update for 2017/18 Divisional Plan).
- Appendix 2 – Land Use Consultants Report (final draft)

Bob Warnock

Superintendent of Hampstead Heath

T: 020 7332 3322

E: bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk