

QUEEN'S PARK CONSULTATIVE GROUP
Wednesday, 29 November 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Queen's Park Consultative Group held at Park Manager's Office, Queen's Park, London NW6 on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Ruby Sayed
Virginia Bonham Carter (Ark Franklin Primary School)
John Blandy (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)
Helen Durnford (Queen's Park Area Residents' Association)
Giovanna Torrico (Friends of Salusbury School)
Vicky Zentner (Kensal Rise Residents' Association)

Officers:

Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	-	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Alistair MacLellan	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anne Fairweather, Cllr James Denselow, Cllr Neil Nerva and Cllr Eleanor Southwood.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE REPORT

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

Operational Management

- The Queen's Park Manager noted that two recruitment campaigns had been conducted for the vacancy of Team Leader, but the preferred candidate had declined the role in favour of a secondment in the Ascension Islands. The Queen's Park Manager added that he was working with City of London Corporation HR to review the job description, and a further recruitment round would be conducted in early 2018.

- The Queen's Park Manager noted that a range of cyclical works had been carried out in the Park, including rewiring of the Play Area Toilets and the Pool. Further cyclical works were planned, including to paths and fencing. Park users would be updated on the progress of works via social media.

Projects and Programmes

- The Queen's Park Manager noted that some movement had been detected in the Ladies' Toilets. Temporary repairs had been carried out by the City's City Surveyor's Department, and the building would be monitored for further movement. The Manager reminded Members that a proposed extension to the toilet block had been proposed at the June 2017 meeting, at a cost of £45,000. The recent movement presented an opportunity to review whether a wider, more ambitious, project could be undertaken.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Queen's Park Manager confirmed that monitoring the building for further movement was being undertaken.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Chairman noted that any increased project scope would be subject to the City of London Corporation's Project Procedure. The Superintendent agreed to map out a draft project timeline and share it with Members outside of the meeting.
- In response to requests from Members for the Group to be involved in the process as much as possible, the Superintendent agreed to share the designs for the Ladies' Pond at Hampstead Heath as a potential example of what any future project for the toilet block in Queen's Park could involve.
- In response to comments regarding potential funding sources for the project, the Queen's Park Manager noted he had approached Accessibility who had advised they had limited funding to offer. The Chairman noted that she would also approach the City's Chief Grants Officer to see if the project qualified for any City grants. A Member encouraged officers to liaise also with the London Borough of Brent.
- The Queen's Park Manager noted that the tender for works at the Queen's Park Sandpit had been unsuccessful, and he would therefore be re-approaching potential contractors.

Sustainability

- In response to a question from a Member, the Queen's Park Manager replied that some green waste was composted at the Park, but that the bulk was removed by a contractor as the cost of disposing with all green waste at the Park itself was prohibitive.

Ecology and Environment

- The Queen's Park Manager noted that the City's Director of Open Spaces had formed a Biosecurity Working Group consisting of officers from the Royal Parks and the City of London Corporation to encourage a joined-up response to biosecurity threats such as Oak Processionary Moth.

Visitors and Community

- A Member welcomed the fact the Park was licenced to hold marriages and civil partnerships at the Bandstand, with accompanying marketing potential.
- The Queen's Park Manager noted the ongoing popularity of the RSPBs 'Wild Park' sessions.

Events

- The Queen's Park Manager noted an application had been received for a further *Shakespeare in the Squares* to be held in the Quiet Garden on 23 June 2018.
- The Queen's Park Manager thanked the Queen's Park Area Residents Association for their role in delivering a successful Queen's Park Day, which was attended by over 11,000 people.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Queen's Park Manager replied that local business involvement in events in the Park included an alcohol stall for *Shakespeare in the Squares* and a local caterer for Queen's Park Day. The Chairman commented that it was important that the Park Café was given as much support as possible.

Sport and Recreation

- The Queen's Park Manager noted that two tennis courts had not yet been allocated a contractor. He would be meeting with the Lawn Tennis Association on 4 December 2017 to explore grant funding opportunities, and would also review whether any potential funding could be claimed from the Wembley Stadium Trust. In response to a comment from a Member, he agreed to liaise with the City's Central Grants Team to ensure any grant application best practice could be applied to bids from the Park.

Financial Implications

- Members considered a tabled paper setting out income for the Park for both 2016/17 and 2018/19. In response to a question from a Member, the Superintendent noted that income from donation boxes at

Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood secured c. £80 per month, and that similar boxes could be trialled at Queens's Park.

- In response to a request from the Chairman, the Superintendent agreed to provide an analysis at the next meeting on the effectiveness on the online booking system used in the Park.
- In response to a further request from the Chairman, the Superintendent agreed to draw up options for improving the fencing around the paddling pool for the next meeting.
- In response to a suggestion from a Member, the Superintendent agreed to investigate whether the listed telephone box near the Park could be converted into a community use, such as a pop up coffee shop or heritage library. He nevertheless noted that the box was still operational.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

5. **QUEEN'S PARK CAFE UPDATE**

Members considered a tabled paper of the Superintendent regarding potential options for Queen's Park Café and the following points were made.

- The Queen's Park Manager noted that Members had before them four anonymised bids for the licence to operate Queen's Park Café. They had been graded using a matrix of 60% quality and 40% price. Of the four bids, bid 6 and bid 12 had proved most popular in terms of their menus during public consultation.
- In response to a question from the Chairman, the Park Manager confirmed that each potential café operator's social offering had been evaluated as part of the catering concept element of their bid. He agreed to amend the title of that section accordingly to reflect the fact it included a social offering.

Giovanna Torrico left at this point of the meeting.

- The Park Manager noted that bids 6 and 12 had plenty of catering experience but not necessarily in a park context. Bid 1 had less experience and was more geared towards hot drinks. Bids 1, 6 and 12 were all local to the Queen's Park area.
- The Chairman noted that she would welcome a community statement from bid 1.
- A Member commented that she would welcome a provider was creative in terms of menu, and planned to use the whole range of space in the café.
- A Member encouraged the Park Manager to interview all four bids, not just the top two. If only two bids were brought forward for interview,

officers should be clear on their reasons for not inviting the other two bids.

- In response to a question, the Superintendent agreed to confirm whether the Chairman and the Chair of the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association could observe the forthcoming interviews. The Park Manager noted that the interviews were scheduled for mid-January 2018.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. **DEVELOPING A DIVISIONAL PLAN FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD, KEATS HOUSE AND QUEEN'S PARK**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent regarding the development of a Divisional Plan for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park and the following points were made.

- The Superintendent noted that 19 projects listed within the report and its appendices related to Queen's Park. A further project concerning the Ladies' Toilets would be included, and a Red/Amber/Green column added to future iterations to aid interpretation of project progress.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

7. **QUESTIONS**

Anti-Social Behaviour at Lychgate

In response to a question from a Member regarding an increase in anti-social behaviour at the lychgate on the south-eastern corner of the Park, the Park Manager noted that the local policing team had recently had a change in personnel which had meant there had been some interruption in night-time patrolling. He would provide the policing team with a key to allow them to access the Park after hours. A Member added her thanks to the Park Manager for his efforts to secure policing presence – she noted that the Police had attended her Association meetings monthly but had not attended for the past six months.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

9. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The date of the next meeting on 24 April 2018 at 3.00pm was noted.

The meeting ended at 4.50 pm

Chairman

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