

<b>Committees</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	09 July 2018
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	05 September 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Review of the Annual Work Programme January 2017 to March 2018.	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Declan Gallagher – Operational Services Manager Jonathan Meares – Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager	

### Summary

This report provides a review of an extended 15 month Annual Work Programme (AWP) carried out on Hampstead Heath from January 2017 until March 2018.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee note the works undertaken in the review period and provide feedback.
- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their September meeting.
- Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee note the works undertaken in the review period and provide feedback.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The January 2017 to March 2018 15 months AWP was discussed with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) at their meeting on 7 November 2018 and approved by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) on 21 November 2016.
2. Traditionally, the AWP has centred on the nature conservation, ecology, trees and the management of the formal areas and sports fields. For completeness, the 2017/18 AWP has been expanded to incorporate all service areas, including the Constabulary, Operational Services, Supports Services, Swimming Facilities, Waste & Recycling and Learning.

## **Review of 2017/18 Annual Work Programme**

### **Tree Management**

3. In an increasing biosecurity focused environment, the Tree Team have needed to prioritise and balance their work activities carefully between Oak Processionary Moth (OPM), tree diseases, veteran tree management, core tree survey works, as well as the operational tree work across the Division.

#### Biosecurity and tree disease issues

4. The first meeting of the joint City of London and The Royal Parks Biosecurity Working Group was held on 4 October 2017 at The City of London Cemetery and Crematorium. The meeting was chaired by the Director of Open Spaces and the Group has been set up to share expertise and provide mutual support on London's biosecurity tree issues.
5. OPM has continued to develop as a major issue for the Tree Team during the 15 months review period. 64 new trees and approximately 120 nests have been located across the whole of the Heath. 94 Oak trees from 2015-2017 have been sprayed in May with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (or Bt) a Gram-positive, soil-dwelling bacterium, commonly used as a biological pesticide. Nests were removed by contractors in June and July 2017.
6. Massaria, the London plane fungal disease continues to be found during targeted survey and ad hoc inspections. Removal of infected branches is carried out and there has been a focus in the South End Green and Queen's Park geographical area which has a high population of plane trees.
7. Ash Dieback (*Chalara*) monitoring has also been a continual focus in 2017/18. The Tree Team has mapped locations of outbreaks and it has been noted that only sapling trees have been infected to date.

#### Veteran and ancient trees

8. The Tree Management Officer and the Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager have continued to promote and develop management of the veteran and ancient trees on Hampstead Heath. The Team have led tree walks for professionals from the USA, Hong Kong, Spain and Poland.
9. A two-year project involving all the City of London Open Spaces Department has led to the creation of veteran tree management demonstration sites for public and professionals to observe. Ten different management techniques are currently being monitored.
10. During the 15 months reporting period, tree re-survey work has been carried out on 240 veterans and added to a veteran tree specific ArborTrack tree management data base.

#### Core work and tree inspections

11. Tree inspections and tree safety work has been completed for 23 out of 31 zone areas on Hampstead Heath. High and medium risk area zones are the primary focus for the Tree Team. There will be a further focus on inspecting the higher priority 'Low Risk Zones' during 2018 (This is in accordance with the City of London Open Spaces Department Tree Safety Policy.)

12. The Tree Team have continued to undertake external technical works for Local Authorities and Consultants including air-spading, decay detection and compost tea applications. Income generated has been used to subsidise the purchase maintenance of new decay drilling equipment.

## **Nature Conservation Work**

### General habitat management

13. The majority of the Conservation AWP has been completed, however, some thistle and bramble control remain outstanding as well as the completion of the grass mowing programme. These have been prioritised in the 2018/19 AWP.
14. Management of invasive species and pest control has been an important element of the Conservation Teams work during the review period. Several problematic invasive species have been controlled including Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan and yellow balsam, creeping thistle, hogweed, blue green algae and the New Zealand pigmy weed.
15. The Orchard Area adjacent to Kenwood staff yard has been fully planted with Hazel saplings and is now managed as a fully functioning coppice. Coppiced material has been utilised across the Open Space Department.
16. The West Heath Sphagnum bog continues to show improvement. Clearance work has been undertaken on a second seepage point, these works showing new sphagnum moss cover where there was previously none.
17. A hundred metres of hedgerow were laid across the Heath with the majority in the Parliament Hill area, along the stream line on the Heath Extension and in Springett's Wood.

### Hampstead Heath Ponds Project and related ponds works

18. The Ponds Project restored grassland was monitored by the Heath's Ecologists, and once established several kilometres of fencing was removed by the Conservation Team. In addition, a range of snagging works were completed, including securing timber revetments around the Model Boating Pond and marginal planting has been supplemented where necessary.
19. Top dressing material was applied to some eroded grass areas, such as spillways and earth paths, to give a better mineral soil base. These works will need adding incrementally over time to help establish a strong sward.
20. Oxygen levels across the ponds were monitored in accordance with the annual schedule. A sudden drop in oxygen levels at Golders Hill Park required emergency aeration. A large bloom of filamentous algae formed on the Vale of Health Pond due to the relatively high level of nutrients in the water.
21. Several methods were trialled to reduce the bloom, including aeration, manual removal and jetting by the London Fire Brigade. The possibility of reducing the nutrient levels in the pond, e.g. with the application of Phoslock, a compound which removes phosphorus from the water column, is under consideration.
22. The Fleet Stream has been opened through clearance and coppicing. New pools have been created enhancing the catchment for improved biodiversity.

### Grassland management

23. Over 11 hectares of grassland were mown and baled on the Heath during the summer of 2017, considerably more than the 7.3ha cut in 2016 (this excludes the Kenwood Estate cutting of approximately 5ha). Priorities included mowing the restored grassland of the Ponds Project compounds in Pryors and Tumulus Fields, totalling 5.2ha, as well as the 3.8ha of grassland used for the filming of BBC Countryfile *One Man & His Dog*.
24. In addition, all the pond spillways and dams were mown as required before the Reservoirs Inspections in Spring and Autumn 2017. There were difficulties through much of the season with disposal of bales, largely due to resurfacing work at Kenwood Yard causing access and storage difficulties, however, this was mitigated by the creation of an alternative bale storage area on East Heath allowing the Team to complete all of grass cutting the grass cutting programme.

### **Volunteering**

#### Volunteer sessions

25. There has been a record number of 220 plus registered volunteers across the Open Spaces and activities have now surpassed 12,000 hours for the first time. Weekly practical sessions have been delivered throughout the year at Golders Hill Park, the Hill Garden, East Heath, Heath Extension, Highgate Wood, Kenwood Estate and Parliament Hill.
26. The Conservation Team continued to work closely with Heath Hands. Physical work included gorse and acid grassland management and invasive species control. Heath Hands manage Whitestone Gardens, Athlone House Gardens and the Old Orchard Garden and support Heath staff in managing Athlone House and Keats House Gardens.

#### Volunteers programmes and projects

27. A Community Heath Project have been launched to help individuals and groups with additional support needs, to get involved in recreation and volunteering across the Open Spaces. Highlights have included 'Confidence on the Heath' for people with learning difficulties, a Women's Walking Group and sessions for Mental Health Support Groups.
28. Open Wednesday walks and drop-in conservation sessions at the Hive have welcomed new visitors. The Weekly Recovery Through Nature Sessions have continued with Phoenix Futures with the assistance of the Heath Ranger Team. Community Heath is kindly supported by the City Bridge Trust and Tesco Bags of Help. The Wild about Hampstead Heath (WaHH) project delivered by Heath Hands since 2015 has engaged over 7,000 visitors on free weekend activities. In addition, volunteers support the Leisure and Events Manager in delivering events on the Heath.
29. Other volunteer programmes delivered during the review period have included ecological topics such as tree and bat identification as well as training in safeguarding and emergency first aid.

30. A successful Hampstead Heath 2018 calendar has been published in partnership with Heath Hands and a local photographer.

### **Ecological Work**

31. A programme to monitor dragonflies was initiated with staff and Heath Hands. The Ecology Team partnered with the Zoological Society of London to monitor hedgehogs in Golders Hill Park with the use of wildlife cameras. A Heath-wide survey is currently being undertaken, and a Heath Ecologist also participated in several educational activities and led a very successful walk for enthusiastic pupils from a local secondary school.
32. The London Bat Group was assisted with several surveys for Nathusius bats, an uncommon species, during which several were caught. A mammal survey was carried out in the Bird Sanctuary, revealing a large population of wood mice as well as field voles and common shrew.

### **Heath Ranger Team**

33. The Heath Ranger Team works covers a large area of the Heath, including East, West and Sandy Heath, the Highgate and Hampstead chain of ponds and the Heath Extension. In addition, to their day to day duties and project work, the Team provide an important weekend emergency tree service for the Division.
34. The Team continue to work closely and collaboratively with the Heath Constabulary on lost children and lost dog incidents, and anti-social behaviour.
35. The Team are frequently called out during the spring and summer months to assist with rescuing injured swans from the Heath Ponds. The Team work closely with a local sanctuary who rehabilitate the swans before release.
36. The Heath Ranger Team play an active role in preventing members of the public swimming in the non-bathing ponds during the summer season. This issue is usually prevalent at the start of the school summer holidays and during particularly hot weather.
37. The Ranger Team in collaboration with the Conservation Team have also managed to deliver some significant landscape projects including the ongoing work to improve the view point at Parliament Hill, reinstatement of memorial benches and vegetation management inside the fencing at South End Green. The Ranger Team have worked alongside the City Surveyor's Department to remove the old wooden fencing and open the "Cathedral sight lines" along this entrance to the Heath.

### **Parliament Hill and Golder's Hill Park**

38. The Gardening, Sports and Recreation Keeping Teams have carried out general grounds maintenance for the formal areas at Parliament Hill Fields, Golders Hill Park, Heath Extension Sports Areas, The Hill Garden & Pergola and Keats House Garden. Collecting litter, cleaning toilets, managing filming and providing a public interface have been important roles undertaken by the Teams who have worked closely with the Heath's Ranger Team.
39. Key projects delivered during the reporting period at Golders Hill Park include installation of a permanent Christmas tree, Swan Pond edge protection and

replanting works, along with the second phase of planting works in the Hill Garden North boundary boarder.

40. At Parliament Hill the Team have carried out snagging works at the landscape improvement works at the Orchard and Swains Lane entrance and reduced hawthorn hedge along Highgate Road by a third in height.

### **Operational Service Team**

41. The Operational Service Team have maintained the Divisions fleet, managed the general stores, whilst overseeing Health & Safety and management of the built assets in conjunction with the City Surveyor's Department.
42. The Team have lead in the reduction in the Heath's fleet and equipment, ensuring purchase of replacement equipment which is sustainable, consistent and in line with the Departmental and Corporate requirements.

### **Waste and Recycling**

43. A review of the service is in progress which will focus on three strands a) public awareness, b) operational improvements and c) cost savings.
44. Challenging targets are being proposed, for example, firstly to reduce general waste volume (500 tonnes per year) by 20% by 2020 and to increase recycling component of general waste, most of which is recyclable materials.

### **Leisure & Events**

45. Installation of solar panels has been completed at the Lido building. The 25Kw system will generate an estimated 22,000Kw per year and costs were £41,000.00. The funds were generated from the sale of surplus plant, machinery and equipment in 2016/17. This work represents Phase 1 with Phases 2 and 3 planned over the next two years. When completed the combined PV installations will reduce electricity demand by up to 30% for the Lido.
46. Weather proofing works started on the South West corner of Lido roof in March 2018 and is due to be completed in May 2018. Rubber Rubaroc surfacing has been procured for the Paddling pools at the Parliament Hill Playground and Lido. The surface is longer lasting, more flexible than paint, has greater slip-resistance and adds cushioning. Theses works been managed by the City Surveyor's Department under the Cyclical Works Programme.
47. The 2017/2018 Hampstead Heath Events Diary has been procured and was published in April 2017. Copies have been distributed to Heath users, libraries, museums and local schools.

### **Constabulary**

48. The Hampstead Heath Constabulary have continued to deliver their Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan 2015–2018. Through the delivery of this plan the role of the Constabulary has been to:
  - Protect and ensure the safety of persons visiting Hampstead Heath.
  - Protect and ensure the safety of persons that work within the Heath.
  - Work with other Departments and agencies both internal and external to achieve the above objectives.

49. Through engagement the Constabulary Team have focused their efforts on several priority areas which have included public engagement, dog control, cycling and anti-social behaviour. As part of its engagement within the local community, Constables have worked closely with the 19<sup>th</sup> Islington Scout Group, supporting badge work.
50. The Constabulary Team continue to be regular attendees at both the Highgate and Hampstead Local Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meetings, responding to concerns raised which relate to Hampstead Heath.
51. Several projects have been delivered by the Constabulary Team in the reporting period and these include targeted dog control with Constables engaging with both commercial and non-commercial dog walkers, in relation to their responsibility to keep their dog/s under proper control and to ensure that any dog waste is picked up and disposed of appropriately.
52. Constables have worked on cycling operations to ensure cyclists on the Heath are informed and educated as to the correct cycle routes to use.
53. Cycling on non-designated paths across the Heath and dog control are the two greatest concerns expressed by members of the public visiting the Heath.
54. In the previous 15 months the Constabulary Team have been working closely with London Ambulance Service and London Fire Brigade in carrying out training exercises covering water rescue, Nuclear Biological Chemical Decontamination and extraction exercises. This has involved direct operational training and the completion of grid referenced mapping to ensure the Emergency Services are familiar with the layout and access points to the Heath.

#### Public Sex Environment

55. The Constabulary have continued to work in partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and the Camden LGBT Forum to engage with the users of the Public Sex Environments (PSE) on Hampstead Heath. This is to promote sexual health, drug awareness, reporting crime and to ensure responsible use of these areas.
56. The THT were contracted in 2017/18 to provide specialist outreach support on Hampstead Heath PSE. In this period THT delivered 34 outreach sessions and engaged with 497 service users, averaging 15 users per shift. During the outreach sessions 317 service users have been referred to an appropriate third-party service. In addition to this basic signposting, outreach workers deployed their experience to facilitate more in-depth interactions with service users and made signposting referrals to a range of appropriate local and national third-party agencies.
57. The Constabulary will continue their outreach partnership with the THT and the Camden LGBT Forum in 2018/19.
58. The Hampstead Heath Sexual Activity Working Group will continue to monitor the impact of this outreach work.

#### Prosecutions

59. The Constabulary Team have successfully prosecuted in relation to 21 offences with fines and costs ranging from £100 to £645 with a total in fines of £4,791.00.

- 8 Dog Control offences
- 11 Cycling offences
- 2 Anti-social Behaviour offences

#### Enforcement Actions

60. The Constabulary Team have issued 2,120 enforcement actions during the period of this report, these include Formal Written Warnings and stop and accounts for suspicious behaviour.
61. In relation to Car Parking Enforcement, the Constabulary have issued 436 Parking Charge notices during this period.

#### Incidents

62. Between the period 01/01/17 to 31/03/18 the Constabulary have recorded 2,796 incidents
  - Byelaw: 1,713
  - Misc: 1,002
  - Criminal Offences/ Police Codes: 81
  - Arrests: 12
63. The Constabulary Team have responded to crimes on the Heath, e.g. robberies at Parliament Hill Fields, and patrols have been increased in those areas where an increase in crime has been reported by the Metropolitan Police Service or through local intelligence.
64. 12 arrests have been made by Constables for various offences including failure to give correct details for bye law enforcement to outraging public decency, exposure and theft.
65. Large events have been supported, with Constabulary engaging with our visitors, these include annual fun fairs, circus, Affordable Art Fair and Athletics meetings.
66. The Constabulary continue to maintain a close working relationship with the Metropolitan Police Service and the City of London Police. Constables carry Airwave Radios giving them a direct link to the Metropolitan Police Service control room.
67. A Trigger Event Policy has been rolled out across the Division, supporting strategic planning and the operational effectiveness of how the Division and its resources are managed during those few critical days every year when normal working practices are not sufficient to cope safely with the increase in risk to public safety.
68. The Constabulary Team continue to maintain professional operational effectiveness with regular Officer safety training and medical defib training, sharing intelligence and operational procedures with the Metropolitan Police Service and partner agencies and ensuring the public are given the best possible service.

#### Drones

69. Following consultation with the HHCC, the Superintendent presented a Drone Guidance document to the HHHWQPC at their July 2017 meeting. Following Committee approval, the Drone Guidance has been made available online on



the City of London, Hampstead Heath web pages and is available upon request in a paper format. Constabulary Officers will refer to this guidance when they engage with drone users.

70. Over the last 18 months the Constabulary have engaged with 4 individuals about the use of drones on Hampstead Heath. However, the Constabulary have noted that there have been occasions when a drone has been seen above the Heath, but the location of the pilot has not been identified.
71. The Civil Aviation Authority have made some changes to the Air Navigation Order and these include the requirement for owners of drones weighing 250 grams or more to register with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and for drone pilots to take an online safety test to ensure the UK's skies are safe from irresponsible flyers. These requirements will come into force on 30 November 2019.
72. The Constabulary will continue to monitor and report on the incidents of drone use on Hampstead Heath.

### **Support Services**

73. The Support Services continue to provide the conduit between a range of City Corporate functions and the Division, for example finance, Human Resources and Business Planning.
74. The overview for sound financial management and compliance, along with a wide range of day to day support for staff has been the heart of the Team's work, along with providing information to visitors, neighbours and Stakeholders.
75. The priorities completed in 2017/18 include the on-going implementation of the Bench Sponsorship Policy and sponsorship scheme, to ensure that the service operates effectively and generates income to support the services provided by the Division, finalising the rollout of the Division's out-of-hours call-out-rota, to ensure effective cover is maintained.

### **Open Spaces Learning Team**

76. Since October 2017, the Open Spaces Learning Team have undergone several staffing changes and the Team is currently at a full complement of 10 full time and 1 part time staff with approximately 25 casual staff, delivering learning programmes and projects on Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park.
77. The University of Derby have been commissioned to develop an evaluation tool kit to measure the programmes and projects contribute to the learning impact areas of understanding, confidence, well-being, connection and involvement in green spaces. The Team is currently implementing the tool kit with the visitors to the school programme on the Heath.

### **Schools Service**

78. Since the start of the Open Spaces Learning Programme, Hampstead Heath Education Centre has welcomed 15,545 students through its doors, which has far exceeded the target set. An established Team of Education Rangers deliver the schools programme which has been updated and developed in line with the new learning principles for schools. The school learning principles have been developed in consultation with the Team, focusing on development and delivery of learning through active engagement with the unique space and through being

learner-centred in approach in addition to and aligning practices with findings from relevant research.

79. The Head of Learning and the Learning Manager have delivered two workshops, at national and local learning events, to share best practice regarding developing a shared understanding of learning. A new literacy programme has also been developed for the Old Orchard Garden, to increase the number of schools that visit this teaching garden.
80. The funding for the Ponds Education Project has been extended for an additional year from October 2017 by the Policy and Resources Committee. There now is the opportunity to embed all the learning that has been captured over the last three years, and to build our approach to engaging with secondary schools.

#### Play Service

81. The Adventure Playground and One O'clock Club at the Peggy Jay Centre have continued to receive excellent numbers of visitors, exceeding their targets. To date there have been 17,245 children and 13,391 adults who have visited the One O'clock Club; and 18,428 young people who have taken part in the activities at the Clubhouse. An established Team of Play Rangers support the delivery of play alongside the Play and Learning Officer and a part time Play Learning Assistant.
82. A set of play principles has been developed by the Team outlining the child-centred approach to play, supporting and enriching child development. Inclusive play opportunities which inspire children to connect with green spaces is a focus of the development of the play programme. The play experiences have been diversified and developed to include natural play as well as fun, interactive activities for all.
83. A consultant has been commissioned to develop a concept design for the Adventure Playground and Peggy Jay Centre playground. The Adventure Playground has been prioritised for development this financial year and users have been consulted and attend an engagement event delivered by the designers. Young people made excellent models and provided feedback to the designers to incorporate into the next stage of the design. A 3D model and costed design for the Adventure Playground is being prepared. It is anticipated that the project will be tendered over summer 2018. Fundraising for the development of the Peggy Jay Centre playground will be a priority in the next financial year.

#### Green Talent

84. The Green Talent Programme has exceeded its targets for working with young people who are furthest from education or employment, providing facilitated opportunities for participants to reflect on and build skills relevant to their career aspirations. To date there have been 114 young people participating in longer term work experience placements. Four local Pupil Referral Units have participated in 26 week programmes, which enable participants to recognise and develop their individual talents and skills, and to explore careers in the environmental and green space sector, including conservation, leisure and education.
85. Green Talent has recently been nominated for a Horticulture Week Custodian Award for Best Community Initiative. The programme has been accredited

through an education charity and awarding organisation. The qualification is flexible and multi-level qualification in land-based sector vocational training.

86. The young people taking part in Green Talent will now be able to obtain credits for their work, which will help them and others to recognise their achievements. A shorter work experience programme has also been established and is in popular demand with local schools. The programme links to the work of a variety of Teams on the Heath, including education, play, conservation and recreation. This programme is currently being considered as a standardised approach to work experience across the Division. In addition, 13 one day career taster events have been delivered and 114 young people participated in a one-day career taster.

#### Playing Wild

87. The Playing Wild project is on track with reaching its targets. To date 1,233 participants have engaged in 58 natural play events and 13 bespoke events have been delivered. Monthly natural play events occur in Queen's Park and there is a weekly programme of events planned for the summer holidays on Hampstead Heath as well as in Queen's Park. A local early year's group have recently taken part in a series of natural play sessions on the Heath as part of the Playing Wild Project. Playing Wild has also supported wider Heath events such as the 'Give it Go' festival and Queen's Park Day.
88. The first self-guided play trail for Parliament Hill Fields is now available online. The trails incorporate activities and games encouraging families to explore the Heath independently. Play trails for Queen's Park, Golders Hill Park, Kenwood and East Heath are currently being developed.

#### Learning volunteers

89. The Playing Wild Project has engaged with eight volunteers and the schools programme has engaged two volunteers to assist with implementing the new evaluation tool kit.

#### **Consultation**

90. In addition, Members are updated in the site walks on completed and progressing works.

#### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

91. The AWP supports two of the three aims set in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23, contribute to a flourishing society (1-4) and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).
92. Also, the AWP meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2018-19 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.

#### **Implications**

93. The costs of implementing this comprehensive AWP has been met primarily through the Superintendent's Local Risk Budget which requires effective prioritisation of resources and funding.

## **Conclusion**

94. The successful delivery of the 2017/18 AWP has been a significant milestone in implementing the new Divisional Management Framework.
95. A number of incomplete projects from the 2017/18 AWP have been carried forward into the 2018/19 AWP. Notably this includes bramble control across the Heath, the Golders Hill Park log garden and entrance improvement works at Nassington Road.
96. Members are asked to note the works undertaken in 2017/18 and provide feedback to the Superintendent.

## **Background Papers**

Review of Annual Work Programme 2016 and the Proposed Annual Work Programme and Projects Plan for Jan 2017 to March 2018 (November 2016).

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