

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: Primrose Hill
REPORT TITLE Primrose Hill Briefing – Royal Parks	
REPORT OF Director of Royal Parks, Royal Parks.	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 10 th July 2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report provides the Committee with an overview of the role of the Royal Parks in overseeing and regulating Primrose Hill Park, and current strategies for stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Tom Jarvis, Director of Royal Parks, The Old Police House, Hyde Park, W2 2UH tjarvis@royalparks.org.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Members are asked to consider the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:

Date: 22/06/2023

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Royal Parks estate comprises over 5000 acres of historic parkland in London. They are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, Richmond, Park, and St James's Park. More information can be found [here](#).
- 1.2 The Parks are owned by the Sovereign in right of the Crown, but, under the Crown Lands Act of 1851 statutory responsibility for their management rests on the Government (The Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport). Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the upkeep of the estate.
- 1.3 The Royal Parks is a charity and public corporation that was established in 2017. It has a contract for services with Government for the day-to-day management of eight Royal parks and several other open spaces in the capital.
- 1.4 The charity has an independent Board of Trustees appointed by the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London. The terms of appointment are for four years with the possibility of reappointment for a further term.
- 1.5 The London Mayor has invited London Councils to nominate three Council Leaders to serve on the Board. At present these are the Leaders of Westminster, Greenwich, and Richmond upon Thames. Until recently the Leader of Camden also served as a trustee. Trustees are legally obliged to act within The Royal Park's charitable objects.

2. Policing and Park Regulations

- 2.1 The Royal Parks are policed by an operational command unit of the Metropolitan Police Service. Its role is principally to enforce the law within the TRP estate. They are supported by local Borough forces. Ultimate responsibility for policing each park rests with the MPS Borough Commander in which a particular park is located. Additional central MPS support is provided during large ceremonials, events and demonstrations taking place within the parks. The parks remain some of the safest places in London although, like all public spaces, they can from time to time be the subject of anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2 Royal Parks Constabulary operate in Primrose Hill Park between the hours of 0700–2300hrs Monday to Sunday. Depending on the level of seriousness of reports made, Royal Parks Constabulary will deal with minor investigations and pass on serious offences to Camden's Borough Command Unit.
- 2.3 It is difficult to compare crime rates in Primrose Hill Park with other Royal Parks due to the locations and other influences. Crime statistics covering Primrose Hill do not support the suggestion that it is a crime hotspot.

2.4 The Parks are covered by Regulations that can only be enforced by the police. They cover a wide range of issues such as illegal assemblies, litter, animal control and use of motor vehicles. Breaching the Regulations is a criminal offence. Park Regulations are made under powers granted to the Secretary of State by the Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926. Changes to the Regulations can only be made by Parliament by Statutory Instrument. They are kept under general review and updated periodically.

3. Stakeholder Engagement in Regent's Park and Primrose Hill

3.1 The Royal Park engages frequently with partners in each of the parks it manages including Regent's Park and Primrose Hill. This includes stakeholder meetings every six months to which representatives covering a range of interests are invited. These include MPs, councillors, the police, concessionaires, and many others.

3.2 Additionally, The Royal Parks has regular and frequent contact with the Friends of Regent's Parks and Primrose Hill.

3.3 There are Safer Park Panels which have been set up for the parks. They meet quarterly and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss policing priorities with the MPS representative

3.4 An engagement survey, which ran during November and December 2022 gathered the views of residents and park visitors on a wide range of issues experienced in the park. These included litter, noise, cycling and behaviour, and whether the park should be routinely locked. It was determined that the Royal Parks will install gates on Primrose Hill to facilitate closures where necessary. Gates will be installed at park entrances and remove the current unsightly Heras fencing which detracts from the important Grade II-listed landscape and is prone to damage. The new gates will be in keeping with the landscape and will match the height of the existing railings.

Briefing Ends