

Meeting Report - Saturday 2 April 2016 – Bruce Castle Museum

Attendance: David Warren (Friends of Parkland Walk), Judith Hanna (Friends of Tottenham Green + Growing in Haringey), Gordon Hutchinson (Alexandra Park), Joan Curtis (Friends of Lordship Rec), Alison Watson (Friends of Queen's Wood), Daniel Hackett (observer), Gemma Harris (Edible Landscapes London), Barbara Banjhan (Friends of Finsbury Park), Anna Murnane (Friends of Tottenham Cemetery), Susan Beckett (Friends of Nightingale Gardens), Phil Chinn and Mandy Hawting (Friends of Wolves Lane), Joyce Rosser (Friends of Priory Common), Dave Morris (Friends of Lordship Rec + Friends of Bruce Castle Park), Zena Brabazon (Friends of Down Lane Park), Ceri Williams (Friends of Chestnuts Park), Deborah Cawkwell (Friends of Markfield Park + Manchester Gardens + Paignton Park).
Council: Lewis Taylor (Parks Service, Operational – West) **Apologies:** Clif Osborne (TCV), Simon Farrow (Head of Frontline Services), Clive Carter (Finsbury Park), Pamela Harling (Meadow Orchard).

Minutes and Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Corrections - www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/minutes/2016_02_06_fohp_minutes.pdf

a. Finsbury Park, Women's Institute (donation) b. Chestnuts Park - Not culvert – is a flooding problem

Marathon - www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/london_marathon_2016.php £142.69 donated to us so far via Paypal.

- link sent to FOHP list. **Compost Giveaway** - Sunday 17 April 2016 10am – 3pm. Paddock car park at Alexandra

Park. **Covenants on green spaces** Various kinds exist, eg, Fields in Trust, land donated to council, acts of parliament etc. Agreed to compile info - Clive to circ request to list. **Park Events: Process** Council set up general

review meeting following our discussion at last meeting. None present had been able to attend. **Park Events:**

Filming Queen's Wood filming notification needed. Someone from Friends attends to ensure no damage if notified.

To feed into review

Walks Council launch of 'Year of Haringey Walks' in Priory Park on 14 May. This follows our initiative to promote walks and walk guides, and a Walking Weekend (1st & 2nd Oct). Joan's vision is loads of walks organised that weekend (which we will promote), and also to produce a major booklet of major walks around the borough - design/printing by end July for August distribution. Our pan-Haringey Walks brochures are free from Joan or Joyce, can be sold for 50p if you wish (groups keep any money raised): a. Ally Pally to Bruce Castle b. Moselle River; c. Palace Gates to 7 Sisters nearly finalised. Council website: www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking/haringey-walks
Forum website: http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/walking_weekend.php

London and National **London:** Next London Friends Groups meeting April 18. Discuss issues of common concern from around all the boroughs. **National:** National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (of which we are a member) have launched a Grassroots Action Manifesto for the friends groups' movement - A5 leaflet (distributed). We agreed to support. In response to the growing underfunding crisis, it is trying to strengthen our influence. Also need national pressure to defend spaces under threat – we agreed to back a proposed NFPGS conference bringing together local campaigns on this. Bexley is selling off some spaces. The government is buying up land in green belt for schools. Spaces in Haringey have been put under threat in recent planning documents eg Monument Way, Lordship Rec (withdrawn), Downhills Park and Nightingale/Avenue Gardens (Crossrail), Finsbury Park (withdrawn).

Local Friends' Reports - www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/haringey_friends_groups.php

Bruce Castle Park - www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Bruce-Castle-Museum-and-Park-491815574176035/ New independent group, previously under umbrella of Friends of Bruce Castle Museum. 1st meeting 3 key things: 1) council planning to bid for approx £10m lottery for museum and park 2) Robby of Albert Rd Rec is now running the Bruce Castle pavilion as café and tennis courts; 3) ways park could be improved. **Council reply:** Great to see a new Friends Group. **Wolves Lane** - www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture-and-entertainment/visiting-haringey/wolves-lane-horticultural-and-garden-centre

After a year of Friends/Council negotiations and positive partnership thinking to secure the future of the unique Centre the Council devastatingly announced in mid Jan that retailing would cease, adult services funding was due to cease, and teaching children would end after the Summer term. Friends have been holding fortnightly crisis mtgs. Met also with MP & Council leader. Launched a petition - 2500 signed so far. Will address council meeting in May. Have now won 12mths extension. Friends must be key partner in future, or may help set up a separate social enterprise to run the Centre. The Council might keep plant nursery, and possibly bring in park staff depots from Woodside & Downhills, and possibly parks apprentices. **Nightingale Gardens** Neglected green space 4/5 yrs ago. Now, sub-group of Residents Assoc is doing monthly litter pick & weeding. 1 bench increased to 5 (originally over 10 benches), 2 more benches coming + shed & equipment on nearby allotment. Would like to offer more for younger families in this big space. Awaiting litter bin. Objecting to threats to Avenue Gardens from CrossRail2. **Council reply:** Lewis Taylor to chase up bin.

Tottenham Cemetery - www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Tottenham-Cemetery-918302674888364/

Friends taking up issues with Dignity managers: Japanese knotweed – course of treatment promised. Bollard reinstalled to stop cars rat-running through. Paths in bad state with potholes especially in front of war memorial. Taps for tending flowers partially fixed but now ongoing leak & supply turned off. Want proper mapping of graves. Seek updated Management Plan due to expire. **Council reply:** Lewis Taylor to raise issues with Simon Farrow.

Downhills Park - www.downhills.org.uk/ Campaigning against CrossRail2 ventilation shaft threat – met with key CR2 liaison officers who said they shared the concern. Ongoing issue with pond, which leaks. Also need follow up from Groundwork proposals. Park looks nice with bulbs planted by Friends. Very popular Friends' free Art in the Park event on 17 July 1-5pm - 15th year! The park's Community Cafe is run by HAIL who are struggling financially. Cafe was campaigned for by Friends (they have keys and use it for meetings). Friends need to consider future of cafe if HAIL can't run it. Staff depot located at park but there is concern it may be closed / sold off. *Council reply: pond installed by Froglife. Will chase up Groundwork's proposals.* **Finsbury Pk** <http://thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk/> Group gets good turnouts these days. Mailing list has grown massively in last year to 400 from under 50. Over 1,000 Twitter followers. Reason: strong feeling about Wireless Festival which takes over a huge chunk of the park for weeks each year. Friends opposing Wireless, but building links with other key stakeholders, including schools. Plan for orchard. *Council reply: We hold regular chats with the Friends' chair. Re orchard, Friends could liaise with Friends of Chestnuts Park where this has been done.* **Edible Landscapes** - www.ediblelandscapeslondon.org.uk/ Based at Finsbury Park. Soil testing done for salad-selling scheme for Haringey CropDrop delivery scheme: <http://cropdrop.co.uk/> Possible move to the park's Lodge garden. *Council reply: Met with group. Lodge garden is neglected – more positive use desired. Maybe showcase bed by entrance. Wolves Lane connection.* **Priory Common / Rectory Gardens** <https://sites.google.com/site/priorycommonorchardn8/> New SUDS/rain gardens going really well. As is open-plan community garden. **Queen's Wood** www.fqw.org.uk/ Need council conservation rep for next management meeting (18 April) held twice yearly & for 10-year plan. Lots of Friends' events planned as always – see website. New dog poo bin needed as damaged. *Council reply: Will follow-up on rep & dog bin.* **Parkland Walk** - www.parkland-walk.org.uk/ Developing nature trail. £10k grant from Tesco bag scheme. Plan to be agreed, then implemented. Francis Place developer threat to Walk still an issue. *Council reply: Meeting soon re how to spend £10k, and will support where they can. Progressing the encroachment issues caused by some homes backing onto Walk eg. everyone who had leased an area has been written to seeking to take the land back.* **Down Lane Park** - www.fdlp.org.uk/ Park pitches used to maximum – problem with new Harris Academy school having failed to create play space – Friends insist council honour their promise that Academy would not use park. Adjacent recycling site to be relocated to Marsh Lane? *Council reply: Will get back re school access.* **Hartington Park** - www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/z-parks-and-open-spaces/hartington-park No Friends Group. Dumping problems & bins urgently need emptying. **The Paddock** - www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/z-parks-and-open-spaces/paddock Friends group dissolved some years ago but its revival is now much needed. Site neglected, lots of dumping. Massive overdevelopment of tower blocks planned for nearby. **Tottenham Green** - www.facebook.com/friendsoftottenhamgreen Good walkaround recently with Parks Service.. Sunday market restarting – good relationship with organiser. War memorial restored. Main issues East Green - surrounded by housing – more used by local people + street drinkers. Problems with poo & rat/pigeon feeding – could council provide official notice to discourage? Aiming for more local involvement - getting people in & contesting the space. **Alexandra Park** - www.friendsofalexandrapark.org/ Friends just celebrated 10th anniversary. Over 240 households members. Latest monthly talk on insects. Next talk geology. Litter pick - contractor does great job & friends top up. Recent 'Xplorer' event very successful - Friends will run some more during the summer. Usual programme of walks. Wood Green regeneration: an aim is improving east/west connectivity via east side of park. However, main transit route seems to be tunnel under railway, where it was felt dangerous to increase people traffic due to a sharp tunnel. Better would be a footbridge. **Lordship Rec** – www.lordshiprec.org.uk/ New outdoor gym going in. Friends got £7k grant for lake improvements from Trust for London. 'Snagging' from original restoration 2 years ago finally starting. Community-run Hub/Cafe is chocka with people, activities, classes etc – but tough financial challenge and no grants received. Overall visits to the park steadily rising (now 900k per year). Lots of community events planned by user groups. **Markfield Park** Historic Beam Engine run by volunteers publicly 'steaming' on Easter Monday. Bulbs coming up from planting last Autumn. **Manchester Gardens** Local Residents Assoc overseeing things but concerned there's little maintenance. **Paignton Park** No Friends Group at mo. Could council clarify maintenance & update on park sewage leak? **Chestnuts Park** Friends putting in 1000 hedging plants. Wildlife garden, orchard, and willow sculptures – all made by the Friends - will be finished by summer. Grass-cutting issues.

AOB Growing in Haringey network - www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zzZboZqwHBkQ.kqnGWx6e-vXw&hl=en_US Started by Sustainable Haringey. Loose network. Social lunches 4th Tues of every month at Lordship Rec with Wildlife Group in pm. Annual Seed Swap – appalling weather this year! Rethinking traditional 'Seedy Sunday'. **Volunteering 'Projects'** Council has ceased its contract with Groundwork and has made the equivalent money available to organisations to promote volunteering projects. It was felt that TCV have best record working with Friends groups and volunteers and should be asked to take this on rather than outside third parties. **LBH Capital Funding Pot** Awaiting info on Park Service application to this for the next 5 years. **Community Safety Strategy** Lew to remind Simon to send. **Small grants** Season open for Friends to apply. **Dogs** Used to be dog warden service – what has replaced it? If worried about aggressive dogs, 101 is anti-social number. 999 if emergency. Lewis Taylor will try to get info to us all. **Parks Job Roles Replacements** Martin Hall, project officer, retiring in May – replacement? How will his extensive knowledge be captured for the future? Recently lost Bio-Diversity Officer. Council promises about services being supplied/bought in 'when required' is poor substitute. It was suggested Bruce Castle Museum be a repository of all relevant maps and documents. Should we set up Forum working groups on various issues (biodiversity / planning / etc). **Forum Website** Deb plans to expand: Gallery, Calendar, extra pages etc. **Next Meeting - Saturday 4 June** 10am at Bruce Castle Museum.