

4/6/2016

FOHP FORUM MEETING

Parks represented: Coldfall Woods, Downhills Park (Clare Parry), Priory Common (Joyce Rosser), Wolves Lane (Mandy Hawting, Philip Chinn), Tottenham Cemetery (Anna Murnane), White Hart Lane Rec (Anne Scott), Avenue/Nightingale Gardens (Sue Beckett), Down Lane Park (Martin Ball), Edible Landscapes (Gemma), Rockstone (Ricardo), Lordship Rec (Joan), Queen's Wood (David Warren), Meadow Orchard (Pamela Harling), Chestnuts Park (Ceri), Markfield Park, Paignton Park, Manchester Gardens (Deborah Cawkwell)

Council represented: Sarah Jones (Client & Customer Services Manager (interim), Parks Service), Tony Healey (title?)

Minutes & Matters Arising from Last Meeting:

Wolves Lane requires a correction (email sent to Mandy & Phil on Monday 30 August – pend reply)

Items

Council Scrutiny Meeting on 9 June

Charles Wright – pre-briefing??

The Slope – St Ann's Community Garden, Hermitage Road

Volunteering/Commissioning New System

Ceri thinks confusing emails from someone we've never heard of before by an external. Why were we not warned? No one attended first meeting. Supporting volunteering will be. TCV

Joan:

Queen's Wood guy – Sarah tried to explain it at a previous meeting.

HAVECO work has been given to the Bridge (?) supporting volunteering in parks.

TCV – enough capacity??

1 contract – support parks across Haringey

2 contract – long-term aim of Simon & others – they want to see some parks run by Friends

£70k Groundwork

Parks Survey (closed 26 May)

Events

Finsbury Park judicial review supported by group. FP moat: not just one high fence, but 2 fences

Other councils have rejected Wireless Festival, eg, Hackney & Royal Parks. Lack of stakeholder

engagement. 'Real' discussions seem to be with commercial parties. FP reparations & explicit

budgets. Commercial events in our local parks? Queen's Wood: lack of information about groups

coming in, eg, groups of 50 children, similar in Finsbury Park (Martin), mechanisms of licensing.

Our Parks Fitness Classes

Key Staff Replacements

Ian Holt, Martin Hall

Oak Processionary Moth

Spurs – Parkland Purchase - Rumour

Somewhere along White Hart Lane towards Wood Green.

CS1

Following objections, some routes have been diverted to 'quiet routes'

Charity Status

Some people interested; Queen's Wood asking what other people's experience is/whether other people have charity status?

Local Friends' Reports

Coldfall Woods: Damaged bridges; concerns there may be an accident ; tape get removed from problem area.

Council response: feedback of when this will happen; it may have to go out to tender.

Downhills Park: Closure of Hale Cafe as no water or toilets, without which it can't operate.

Council response: Shame that Hale seem to have moved out. Structure owned by adult services. Sarah will link up. Hale board mtg on monday. Loss of £90k over yrs. Fallen into state of disrepair. Not Parks, but Parks will not ignore it.

Priory Common: Joyce: Rain gardens; Meadow Orchard: big lunch – email sent. Alex, Claire, George, Dick (4 Council Tree Officers).

Council response: no issues for Council response.

Wolves Lane: Attended Cabinet meeting: funding extended to March 2017 + expression of interesting the centre – late June – end August. Negative is: met Simon Farrow – essential to have good relationship with council to put forward good business case/potential partners. Said he would see Stuart – Centre Manager a bit later, but no (essential) financials. Deflating. Some redundancies. Would like an agreed timeline. Martin Ball suggested using FOI.

Council response: Sarah Jones to raise with Simon Farrow

Tottenham Cemetery: Dignity maintenance on trees – 200 year old tree cut down in error. Dave emailed Simon. Tree Preservation Orders. Conservation area. Ongoing poor state of the paths, especially by War Memorial. Anna Murnane has been chasing Dignity for 14 months. No response from Dignity – constant battle. Problem is not just trees & paths but also communication.

Countrywide good re cutting grass.

Council response: Sarah Jones will ask Simon Farrow to feed back re trees – at contractor review meeting. There had been a Simon Farrow/Dignity meeting a couple of weeks previously.

Council/Dignity meetings are held quarterly.

White Hart Lane Rec: In state of disrepair with trip hazards. Is there not a duty of care to ensure that parks are safe? Regular photos have captured the problem & have been shared with Lewis Taylor (Haringey Parks Services). Is there capital funding to renew all paths? Anne has tripped even with a

guide. Patching has made it lumpy & difficult plus it looks awful. Drainage problem by schools exit: Thames Water, Mamoud, Lewis Taylor have been involved. Friends have no clear picture of what has been done. Mixed response from Thames Water & Haringey Council: Thames Water says they need to link to a building. Feeling that photos & conversations are not shared with Haringey Council. Walking Group has to change its meeting point.

Council response: It's a school kitchen issue linked to school expansion relating to 2 drains. School is working with Thames Water. It's a massive problem. Sarah will get Lewis to brief Anne. Indy Thames water – came on 19th. Drainage problems aggravated by downward slopes in park, London Clay & weather conditions. FA moving funding from drains to 4g pitches (all year round) – pitches get water-logged. Sarah – sounds like problem needs to be clearly identified. Change in use due to water-logging/bogginess. Need to think about strategy for next 20 years.

Avenue/Nightingale Gardens: Have taken over management of obelisk (in Trinity Gardens). Repaved, but needs new lights. Applied for money in a ward bid, but that wouldn't be sufficient: estimate of £4k for new lighting & can only bid for £2k – contacting new owners of community pub – Prince of Wales as directly in front of them. Clarity required re possible bike path, as pathway too narrow for both pedestrians & cyclists. Beds are improved. Communication issues.

Council response: New lights 2 years ago, but focused on sky not obelisk. Because they are located at ground level one got broken, even though 'anti-vandal'. However, the infra-structure is there. Bike path – Sarah Jones to find out. Path put in by mayor. No room for widening. Sarah doesn't think will happen.

Down Lane Park: Good. Tennis courts being used, use of outdoor gym, missing green flag, issue with litter. 2 Action Days - 20 Scottish days; smaller group from Lloyds. Veolia & bins at entrances – not a good solution – Martin Ball has raised with Veolia. Bowling Green – back in park. Problem with use community rooms as currently no toilets.

Council response: Sarah Jones has spare green flags. Veolia decide re bin location – unknown on what reasoning. Sarah will find out about bowling green plans.

Edible Landscapes - Nursery & teaching hub. Ongoing discussion about moving to another site: would like to know why, especially as the demo garden is well established & is quite mature. Trustees drafting doc to send to Council.

Council response: Sarah will have to get back.

Rockstone – Ricardo - bike repair workshop. Discussion with Sarah re container (as building). Some assisted walks (with Anne & vouches for what she says).

Council response: Proof is required re whether planning permission is definitely needed or not. It is a 20 X 8ft structure. Sarah suggests contacting planning. Money is in place & ready to be spent on this project. It was hoped that Sarah would be able to liaise within the Council, but not possible. Joan said that she would do it.

Lordship Rec: great; outdoor gym fab; great Riverfest to draw attention to misconnections. Hub going well.

Queen's Wood: 2 immediate issues: fence around frog pool smashed down, dogs getting in – agreement for Council to mend, but not yet done. No adv info about school/filming groups/big events. Not clear who's dealing with what. Could help Council Parks Dept help more with notice. Dog

poo bin.

Council response: Fence is on list & the list is long. Just had quarterly playground inspection & there are higher priorities. Film Office copies in Parks on requests. Additional addresses can be added/changed. Nursery is regular booking & agreed with Ian Holt. Sarah has written to a group who used wood without permission. Usually Nature Conservation Officer with Queen's Wood.

Parkland Walk: Encroachment (taking over part of it & dumping); coherent progress particularly since Lew got Property Services involved (sadly she's leaving). Francis Place: only access is along 80 metres of the walk, no road access. Planning permission has been granted despite being described as deficient. Apparently, Highways will meet – no mention of Parks – would like Parks to be involved. People need permission from Parks to use anything other than a wheelbarrow. Covenants were in place to project the walk. Friends NEED to be involved before a decision is made. Simon Farrow said Parks would NOT give permission. Difficult legal position.

Council response: Planning docs have been submitted. As far as Sarah is concerned, then covenants still in place. Friends/council dialogue will con

Meadow Orchard: Problems with young people using site at night, causing havoc.

Manchester Gardens: Request for Maintenance Plan to be sent through to Deborah. Has been requested but not received.

Council response: Will send.

Paignton Park: Sewage issue. Request for information of where it's at to be sent through. This has not been received.

Council response: Will send.

Markfield Park: Worries re Crossrail2.

Council response: To send update from their end.

Chestnuts Park: butterfly count, orchard, willow, cherry picker (for free). Great support from Council. Lack of staffing starting to bite. Requested grass cutting diagram from Tim. Each park should have a grass cutting diagram. Quite a lot of money for benches – Tim Pyall – wants metal benches. Playground needs repair. Ongoing issue: toilet cottage in front of hospital – highways & council - not safe for children - could be sorted with bit of money & individual cubicles. Toilet facility is essential. Lot of poo in long grass & will not remain long. Agreed but has not been done. Tree plans for each park when? Management Plans for each park – when? When new signs? For Chestnuts with correct email & new logo.

Council response: to follow up

Response from Sarah Jones, Haringey Council

Volunteering/Commissioning New System

Overall budget & timeline for commissioning. Cab/bridge.

None of parks services will be tendered out.

Bulk orders & suppliers bid on the system for the order. Same with works.

Volunteering aspect is new.

Groundwork: £70k ended in april – volunteering ops to be avail to local groups. Eg, pond in Down Hills doesn't work/retain water – project-by-project basis.

Possible organisations: TCV, LUOS, London Wildlife Trust.

On registration, health & safety info is required + Collaboration with Friends.

Landscape strategy (v early stages) – no timeline/ volunteer friendly.

Ideas would be tendered from friends.

Ceri would like landscaping strategy to be submitted first.

Would there be any influence from the park on the receiving end re suitability of the contractor.

Could individuals sign up for it? – Sarah thinks not.

No deadline to sign up & no obligation to bid.

Phil – could groups such as forum not have been consulted first – Sarah says council procedures must be followed. When written down, group would like to see these. How about tott cem? – No, all managed by Dignity.

Not possible for us as Friends Groups to do all maintenance.

Key Staff Replacements

Parks restructuring – focus on ops, contracts/commissioning, other services.

Some dept merging – all in post – Sept.

Nature conservation officer is within one of the new posts - essential for Queen's Wood .

Info about new structure – Council please to circ via email – prior to next meetoing on 3 September.

Parks Survey (closed 26 May)

Locking of parks – which are the 14?

Survey response different depending on whether answered by group or individual.

Spurs – Parkland Purchase - Rumour

Nothing heard. Will be on the alert.

The Slope – St Ann's Community Garden, Hermitage Road

Over to Sarah – we'd like support – Sarah will pass to Simon

Oak Processionary Moth

Traps last Summer

No females, only males

Parks with oak trees: Queens Wood, Parkland Walk, Albert Rec, Priory, Bruce Castle, Downhills , Down Lane, Markfield.

Events

Sarah: Moat apparently not new to large-scale events.

Organisers' Repair Bond: what assurances for better than last year.

Wireless – 8, 9, 10 July.

Walking Weekend – Parks Run & Forum Run

Central Comms – Public Health Campaign