

Minutes of meeting 2 September 2017 *draft*

Attendance: David Warren (Parkland Walk), Mandy Hawting (Wolves Lane/Woodside), Robin Thomas (Alexandra Park), Pamela Harling (Meadow Orchard/Hornsey Church Tower), Katy Ferguson (Albert Rd Rec), Clif Osborne (TCV/Railway Fields), Richard Bagnall-Oakeley (START Environmental Group), Joyce Rosser (Priory Common/Rectory Gdns), Quentin Given (The Paddock), Ann Scott ((WH Lane Rec), Rodolfo Alvarez & Anna Muller (Bruce Castle Park), Simon Hunt (Finsbury Park), Alison Watson (Queens Wood), Joan Curtis (Lordship Rec), Clare Parry (Downhills), Martyn Ball (Down Lane), Victoria Midwinter (Coldfall Wood), Leyla Laksari and Mark Adams (LUOS), Dave Morris (Lordship Rec / Tottenham Cemetery). Plus Tony Healey (Haringey Parks Service) from 11am. **Apologies:** Phil Chinn (Wolves Lane), Anna (Tott Cemetery), Deborah (Paignton/Markfield), Ceri Williams (Chestnuts),

1. **Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes not produced yet, but meeting had been well attended and productive. Issues included relations with ward councillors, dealing with minor operational issues in parks, strategic issues.
2. **Forum meeting with Cabinet reps.** Dave, Joan and Ceri met with Peray Ahmet and Alan Strickland and planning officers. Discussed need for adequate funding for the parks service, and development threats to green spaces. All agreed on need for better long-term revenue funding for parks. Notes circulated separately.
3. **Planning applications / policies.** Dave and Joyce met with Council planning officers to discuss, and help improve consultation with Friends Groups and Residents Associations etc over planning applications and policies . Will collaborate to produce up to date lists. Written notifications to households were to have been stopped but this has been maintained for the moment. All friends groups encouraged to sign up for digital notification of applications that might affect their green space. Question raised as to whether parts of Finsbury Park are within Haringey Development Vehicle scope? Noted that there is a protest march against the HDV on 23 Sept (meet Tottenham Town Hall, 12 noon), and legal challenge in High Court 25/26 October.
4. **Scrutiny Review of Parks resources.** We welcomed the commitment by Scrutiny to hold a scrutiny into resourcing parks, very much on the terms of reference the Forum has sought. Details set out on draft paper from Council. The Scrutiny Panel will hear evidence by December and complete its report for the Overview and Scrutiny Cttee mtg 26 March. This would enable the Forum to press parties to commit to a properly-funded Parks Service in run up to borough elections in May. Agreed Dave, Clare P, Ceri, Joan, Simon to be working group to prepare evidence from Forum, but all groups encouraged to submit evidence on the key issue, the impact of the reduced staffing and budget levels on maintenance and safety of our parks. We expressed special concern at lack of progress recruiting nature conservation and projects officers.
5. **Fields in Trust** - scheme to covenant parks and open spaces and so give extra protection from loss, development etc. Noted that Lordship, Down Lane and some others have already been covenanted. Hammersmith and Fulham are covenanting all parks. We'd like Haringey to do all our public open spaces. Individual Friends groups can pursue their own spaces.
6. **Love Parks Week/year.** This will be next July, but Joan proposed that we ask Haringey to make 2018 Love Parks Year. Could include a range of activities maybe produce a Forum booklet summarising our parks, and organise a tour of parks. The Forum welcomed this idea. Joan will flesh out a proposed plan.

7. **Green waste.** Concern that charging will lead to more dumping of green waste in parks. To ask Parks re preparedness, and monitor impact.
8. **Foul water misconnections.** This causes pollution to watercourses in some parks and woods. Most misconnections had been identified, and good targets set, but need to ensure remedial actions continue and key officer Joseph Barnett – who has left - is replaced.
9. **Finsbury Park** concern that 8 major commercial events so far in 2017 leading to lengthy periods in parts of park being closed. Friends group is crowd-funding for legal action in October. Forum is supporting this. Noted recent important legal case re Wandsworth, where we understand court ruled that proceeds from sale of building in park should be retained for parks use.
10. **Individual reports.** Tony Healey joined us to hear reports from groups.
 - **White Hart Lane:** had good event in park in April, handed over report. Group wants feedback on the drainage issue. Keen to do more events round pond, and to work with Parks on plan for improvement and development.
 - **Paddock.** Backlog of issues due to lack of maintenance. Rough sleepers issue resolved, and bedding etc finally removed, branches chipped etc. Working with TCV on improvements shorter-term, talking to Simon Farrow et al about further development with S106 money.
 - **St Ann's Hospital Site.** Held joint festival with Chestnuts. Organising walk on 1 Oct, jointly with Tott Civic Society. Have met with GLA and Council to get support, seeking ca £40m to buy site. Setting up environment sub-group to develop sustainability principles and improve open space, and will ask Forum to support these. AGM 23 Sep.
 - **Ally Pally Park** Over 300 members, lots of activities. Concern about use of Park for 30 commercial events a year, would like scrutiny into disturbance from noise etc.
 - **Downhills.** Joint work with TCV and Council to renovate pond. Need help to keep it topped up. People interested in helping tree maintenance. Successful Art in the Park event organised by Friends – financial support was provided by Haringey Council, Tottenham Grammar School Foundation and Pocket Living. Concerns were subsequently raised about taking funds from developer Pocket Living. Travellers in June moved on swiftly and efficiently thanks to good joint work with Council. Steps to Midnight Alley repaired. Mixed views about landscaping. Pond at last working again. Good joint work re war memorial site on West Green.
 - **Railway Fields.** Open event went well, plus dawn chorus walk. Raised Green Flag. Bat walk 9 Sep.
 - **Albert Road.** Visited twin town outside Paris. Froglife helped install pond but liner was faulty, needs replacement. Got plants from Sunshine Garden centre, held action days with TCV. Concern about low level of maintenance. Want to regenerate bowling area, extend pavilion.
 - **Meadow Orchard** open every Saturday. Run by volunteers. Problem of low visibility/access to site.
 - **Hornsey Church Tower.** All well.
 - **Lordship.** Lots of activities at Hub. Organising major River/Harvest festival 16 Sep. Still waiting for management plans for the Moselle and Loop Track. New Friends' tree care group going very well. Adventure Playground needs replacing. Had a second visit by DCLG Govt Parks Office.
 - **Woodside.** Got Green Flag. Jazz picnic 3 Sep. House being redeveloped for weddings etc. Parks depot will close, probably move to Downhills.
 - **Wolves Lane.** Organic Lea took over from beginning April. London Grown, and Crop-Drop using the site. Bringing back school groups, people with learning disabilities. Organic Lea got

£14k to do survey on public needs. Friends Group going very well and now collaborating with the new management. Still concerns over lack of public access and uncertainty over the finalisation of lease.

- **Parkland Walk.** Walk, Friends and TCV featured on BBC Countryfile 30 July. D Bevan has done flower walks. Had bat walk. Pop-up Shakespeare as part of Crouch End Fest. Have written to Simon Farrow about lack of nature conservation officer. Major issue is planned bridge repairs, some of which need road closures. Has to be coordinated with bridge works on Goblin line.
- **Queens Wood.** Good events inc D Bevan walks. Hedgehog survey joint with UCL, using camera traps. Cllr Ahmet visited, noted path maintenance issue. Again keen to deculvert Moselle. Lack of nature conservation officer hampering plans. Risk of falling branches from ageing trees. Oak Processionary Moth found and part treated. School groups using wood, which is good but potential compaction problem.
- **Priory Common/Rectory Gardens.** Weekly work sessions on orchard. Started work on Rectory with Parks. Concern about rain garden – doesn't seem to collect rain water and looks a mess. Needs interpretation board.
- **Finsbury Park.** Ongoing issue of people camping. Police reported lots of arrests for drugs, assault, offensive weapons around festivals esp Wireless. Doing clean up of Hope Space, got grant, potential performance space. *Preparing for 150th anniversary 2019.*
- **Bruce Castle Park** Small group but doing regular litter-picks and talking to users about litter, generally good response. Good 'Get Together' event. Good 125th anniversary event 13 August with Tea on the Green, Antwerp, F of B Castle. Green Flag raised. Concern that no Parks rep attended event. Problem of fencing along Bruce Castle Road.
- **Down Lane.** Masterplan is nearly completely implemented. Problem of branches cut but then not cleared up. Missing dog poo bin. Lack of cleaning of play equipment. Working with LUOS on bowling green/hub/cafe, which will make a huge difference to the park. MUGA going ahead but will controversially have to be shared with Harris Academy.
- **Coldfall Wood.** Good events (fungi walk, Winnie the Pooh walk, picnic). Travellers evicted swiftly from adjoining playing fields. Concern about patches of Japanese Knotweed on adjacent sites, broken notice-boards. Wood contains tributary to Pymmes Brook which feeds into Lee.
- **Tower Gardens.** No Friends group, and suffers from lack of care and maintenance.
- **Tottenham Cemetery:** Work to build relationship with Dignity is now bearing fruit, resulting in extensive repair work.
- **Chapmans Green.** New very enthusiastic group is organise a range of events and tackling problems of antisocial behaviour etc.
- **Living Under One Sun:**
 - i) Working with new Friends group at **Stamford Road Park.** Did clean-up, working to set up 18 food growing beds, will then extend to 36. Support from Diamond Build company. Event 9 Sep.
 - ii) Down Lane Park bowling – Cafe Connect. Only need £1k more.
 - iii) LUOS allotment. Seeking longer term licence from LVRPA as currently have to apply each year. Issue about public access as condition of funding.

11. Response from Parks Service. Tony Healey responded:

- To his knowledge only senior events officer post advertised so far. Andrea Keeble working on sports etc. Simon Farrow on development, Lew Taylor on maintenance. In meantime Parks is working to nature management plans agreed with Ian Holt.
- Agreed that Dave W and Quentin G will follow up on nature conservation officer.
- Tony will chase Kelly re W H Lane drainage.
- Dog bins: new regs mean you can put dog poo, in bags, in general waste bins, so maybe no need for dog bins in future. Need stickers explaining this.

- Albert Rd – tackling worms in pond (?). Problem of foxes digging up sports areas.
- Litter – 13 dedicated agency staff dealing with litter. Warm weather has meant more eg BBQs so harder to keep on top of.
- Trial scheme with using Kingdom private enforcement agency on littering, using cameras. Could be extended to parks if a success. But we need education as well as sensitive enforcement.
- Lettings – dealt with by Property Services. Don't know where income is allocated.
- Woodside – will have to move depot, probably to Downhills, but this means Downhills depot will stay.
- Bridges on Parkland Walk – Kelly Lloyd dealing with.
- Queens Wood – work to paths is planned, and unsafe branches.
- Finsbury Park.- some rough sleepers are vulnerable people so have to deal with sensitively. Outreach worker currently working with 5 groups of sleepers.
- Bruce Castle Pk– good relationship with Friends. Will ask why no one attended from Parks.
- Down Lane – branches will be chipped, waiting for machine.
- Play equipment – currently Abdul + 1 other working on as priority – this means no-one is attending to other basic repairs odd jobs..
- Doing works at Tower Gardens following prompts from users.
- Aware of Coldfall knotweed issue, asking school and cemetery to deal with.
- Will ask Linda (?) to look at getting contractor to deal with notice-boards
- Will check with James Hunt about Wolves Lane situation.

12. **Scrutiny Review** – agreed we want Parks service to tell the panel the real situation, not pretend everything is OK.

13. **New green spaces created through regeneration** – to ask Simon Farrow about this. Tony said the Parks service would be responsible for maintenance of new spaces. Govt has confirmed Community Infrastructure Levy can be used for revenue costs as well as capital.

14. **Green waste issue** – Parks will keep an eye on it and see if it's an issue.

15. TCV:

- i) Working on maintenance and new projects on Paddock, liaising with Friends.
- ii) Albert Rd and Downhills – working to improve ponds
- iii) Springfield park – working on pond and info boards.
- iv) Lots of other activities / liaison with Friends Groups across Haringey.
- v) Currently have to tender for the work every 1-2 years but seems OK for foreseeable future.

16. **Misconnections** – we want Parks to keep up pressure to tackle this

17. Other matters:

- Tottenham Town Hall Regen event 9 September
- New London architecture regen event 21 Sep in Wood Green
- 9 Clarendon Road - Ann Scott asked what is happening.

18. Proposed future agenda items.

- i) Making it easier to book parks for community events
- ii) Scrutiny
- iii) Motorbikes/scooters in parks