

Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

Notes of General Meeting held on Saturday 6 March 2021 (online by Jitsi)

Present: Friends reps: Clare Parry (Downhills) [**Chair**], Victoria Midwinter (Coldfall Wood / MH playing fields) [**Notes**], Martin Ball (Down Lane Park), Ceri Williams (Chestnuts), Susan Beckett (Nightingale Gardens), Phil Chinn (Wolves Lane), Liz (Railway Fields), Mary (Granville Rd), Pamela Harling (Meadow Orchard Project), Robyn Thomas (Alexandra Park), Klaus Kuerner (Bruce Castle), Leyla Laksari (Living Under One Sun), Glenys Law (CREOS and SHIFT), John Miles (Parkside Malvern and Haringey Rivers Forum), Mat Pendergast and Helena Taylor (TCV/Railway Fields), Quentin Given (The Paddock and Bruce Grove Cloud Garden), David Warren (Parkland Walk and Queens Wood), Joan Curtis (Lordship Rec) **Council Representatives:** Lewis Taylor, Lily Labonte. **Apologies:** Annabel Foskett (LBH), Dave Morris (Lordship Rec)

Note 1: *Technical difficulties resulted in some people unable to join the meeting*

Note 2: *These notes are incomplete due to the above problems*

1. Minutes of last Meeting held on Zoom 2 Jan 2021 accepted as true record.

Matters Arising:

- Go Green report – to be circulated by Robert Thairu
- The need to ensure that responses are received from the Council to questions raised in the meeting
- Paul Ely to set up a further strategy meeting on how the Council communicates with Friends Groups and vice versa

2. Open Space Strategy Meeting [See Report sent to list]

3. Biodiversity issues: by the Conservation Officer

Annabel couldn't join the meeting (see her report at end). Quentin said we should encourage the Council to be imaginative and practical in creating the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and hopes Forum will be involved.

Helena Taylor has recently joined TCV. Volunteering has resumed and people had enjoyed lockdown quizzes and on-line training. She mentioned iNaturalist app as an informal way of monitoring species in the borough. 499 are using it.

Helena is working closely with Annabel and the layout of the various Conservation Action Plans is nearly finalised. They want to create up to date and simplified maps showing pathways, habitats. They will contact Friends before site walks and get input. We can send her pictures to include. Looking forward to seeing sites in the summer.

It was agreed that a follow-up meeting with Annabel would be requested.

4. Friends' Reports

Note several reports submitted in advance

Parkland Walk: Crowdfunded the Art Trail. Met with Annabel and Alex Fraser – zero response. Cathy flagged the current situation regarding tree removal from Parkland Walk.

Chestnuts Park: Update circulated before meeting. The playing field is rutted and boggy, There are misconnections to the culvert and water samples are going for analysis. Big building site being developed by Catalyst

Queen's Wood: Had spotlight walk. Works identified have not yet been carried out. Flood mitigation proposal is out for consultation. Friends were finally given the design details on Feb 5th. A storm sewer will drain into the Frog Pond which means road run off polluting it. Floating pennywort will end up in the Moselle.

CREOS: Mudbath! Looking forward to TCV restarting and hoping to use new dead hedging to block the new paths that have been made by trampling. The new hoggin path has been a great success and 30 saplings and seedlings seem to have survived intact.

SHIFT: This campaign for trees has been inundated with requests for help. They have a new Facebook page.

Parkside Malvern: John wants to know what input there will be from Parks in ongoing maintenance of SUDS and raingardens in terms of practical work and ongoing horticulture. Silt – plan is clearer. LB Enfield consider their visible streams to be 'Blue Space'. Haringey should do same. John mentioned campaign for more toilets: The Toilet Manifesto for London Group. Public toilets in Parks should not be lost.

Wolves Lane: There is only one member of the original Consortium still active. The Palm House heating broke. A local family are looking after the fish. There has been no progress and there is a threat to fill in the fish ponds. Edible London was thrown off the site and all the growing is now commercial. Simon needs to come back to the Friends with plan.

Living Under One Sun (Down Lane Pk): Leyla said they are feeling they are on their own. They are in an intimidating open space in the middle of a big development and want help to move forward positively. She requested more support for working together.

Down Lane Park: Friends are campaigning to expand the Park but Council refusing to engage despite developing 300 more neighbouring homes.

Alexandra Park: Some anti-social behaviour. They are going to have traffic wardens moving cars on.

Coldfall Woods and Muswell Hill Playing Fields: Friends were told in Feb that 7 trees were to be felled as causing subsidence to a house, very similar to Queens Wood threat last year – same insurance company AXA. Friends submitted reports to Council internal meeting on 5 March and asked for agreement not to fell the trees or at least to postpone for 6 months pending further investigation of other options. Two mature oaks had been felled in same location in 2018/19 with no consultation with Friends and without remedying the subsidence. A petition on Change.org has over 60,000 signatures!

Nightingale Gardens: Maintaining 8 flower beds. Some flooding. Want grass cutting to be less aggressive this year than last. New trees always seem to be put in the wrong place despite discussions with Alex Fraser. They would prefer to plant them themselves. They are on Instagram.

Granville Road Spinney: A resident has created and is using an entrance into the Spinney without permission. This is with Haringey's legal team.

Tottenham Cemetery: Friends relaunched recently

Lordship Rec: Annual Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Very busy year, despite the pandemic.

5. Council Officer updates and questions (incl. brief lockdown news/relaunch (Lily), budget and small grants issues, reorganisation, Local Plan)

- **Lily Labonte** is Parks Activator and is helping the Parks Team out. They are aware some sections of communities are not using parks and have a new campaign to encourage girls and women, lower income groups etc. She will get back to Leyla. Sat 26 June they are launching a 10 week programme with free activities. Friends can apply for small grants if you have any suitable activities from June. Email Lily at lily.labonte@haringey.gov.uk

- **Lew Taylor** will pick up issues with other colleagues; Simon, Annabel and Pankit. Blue spaces are going to increase in Haringey. He is putting together a small landscaping team to pick up SUDS. Will need to cost it up but knows it needs more resource. Restructure is being consulted on next week. Homes for Haringey want their own maintenance team.

Lew agreed that communication had fallen down with Wolves Lane and Martin. He would talk to David Shipp from Enforcement about Leyla's issues.

He will pick up Nightingale tree issues with Alex and grass cutting with Stuart Hopkins.

He will ensure Coldfall Wood gets feedback from meeting on 5th.

He'll pass graffiti on benches in Queens Wood to Veolia.

6. Open Spaces Strategy: brief update and next steps Meeting with Forum on 23rd March re developing better collaboration

7. Climate Forum and expanding green space. Support for Quentin agreed.

8. Ward Panel Meeting.

9. AOB

Simon Farrow had said there would be further news about improved communications but nothing further so far.

10. Date of next meeting: Saturday 1st May 2021. [Later changed to 8th May]

Post- Meeting Report from Annabel, LBH Conservation Officer

(unable to access the meeting)

Hi Clare

As outlined at the January Friends of Parks meeting. Conservation Action Plans (CAP) are currently being updated over the next 12-18 months. The review of CAPs will be carried out in four stages Plan+Engagement+Review+Adopt. Helena (TCV) and I commenced this review mid-January and meet fortnightly. We are currently at stage one 'Plan'. Once we have finalised stage one, I would be very happy to organise a separate meeting with the Friends of Parks. I will provide an update to the Friends of Park at the next Forum meeting in May.

Biological Records - what are they and why submit them?

Biological records provide evidence that an animal or plant was present in a particular place at a specific time. They can help put together an action plan, identify impacts and the potential for biodiversity gain. Biological record contains four essential pieces of information:

- 1) What species was it? (preferably scientific name of species, but common names usually OK and genus level acceptable)
- 2) Where was it? (preferably a precise grid reference but site names, postcodes etc. are usually OK if necessary)

3) Who saw it?(preferably an individual's name, but things like 'Butterfly Conservation volunteer'• or 'member of public'• OK if necessary)

4) When was it observed? (preferably a date, but year or date range is OK if date is uncertain and cannot be clarified).

I would like to encourage all Friends Groups that have any biological records for their site, to share these with the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) the London local environmental records centre database, especially if they hold multiple records from years back?

Submitted records are entered into the GiGL database and shared only with partners (like Haringey Council) who have signed data use agreements for their own work. Your record's full details will not be passed on to anyone else.

GiGL also provide an alternative recording spreadsheet suitable for use in public events, e.g. BioBlitz surveys, or by schools. A new recorder may also prefer to use this spreadsheet.

What kind of format should I send to GiGL?

Record format	Instructions
Electronic copies	Please send all electronic copies to both GiGL email addresses: lyndsey.cox@gigl.org.uk benjamin.town@gigl.org.uk **Please use the following subject line, remembering to add of your site
Spreadsheet	A template can be found here: https://www.gigl.org.uk/reco
Paper copies	GiGL can accept paper as well as digital or online records. If you have facilities to digitise it we may be able to help. Single reports to lyndsey.cox@gigl.org.uk or benjamin.town@gigl.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or questions about recording or submitting biological records.

Annabel Foscett MSc (EnvMan)

Nature Conservation Officer

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