

## Haringey Friends of Parks Forum minutes of meeting 5th November 2022

**Present:** *For Friends Groups:* Dave Morris *chaired* (Lordship Rec), Ceri (Chestnuts Pk), Liz [online] (St Ann's Green Spaces), Joyce (Priory Common), Vicci (Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields), Jane Dadswell (Bluebell Wood), Rachel Seldon (Hartington Pk), John Miles (Parkside Malvern Open Spaces + Haringey Rivers Forum), Quentin Given *took minutes* (The Paddock), Martin Laheen *For the Council (after 11am):* Sahina Choudhury (Operations) and Michelle Lindson (Volunteering)

**Apologies:** Sandra (Harmony Gardens), Jane (Tottenham Cemetery), Aarti (Bluebell), Joan (Lordship), Clare (Downhills), Cathy (Parkland Wk), Klaus (Bruce Castle Pk), Phil Chinn, Cassandra (TCV), Paul Ely (Strategy Consultant), Hilary Bournas (Council Projects Team).

- 1. Minutes of last meeting agreed.** No matters arising.
- 2. New groups** – Not entirely new but Friends of Crescent Gardens (N22) are getting organised. Not new but its come to our attention that Friends of Stanley Rd Open Spaces (N15) have not attended the Forum but are active – have now been added to our email list.
- 3. Parks strategy consultation.**
  - The consultation is out for public consultation. It isn't but should be on Haringey's home page, and mentioned in weekly Haringey People e-mail.
  - Haringey Climate Forum had good meeting on it on Thursday
  - Many Friends Groups met up with Cllr Julie Davies and Simon Farrow for a constructive discussion about the new draft Strategy and parks issues on 26 Oct at George Meehan House. Dave distributed some thoughts and Forum minutes at the meeting, and circulated a summary of the meeting afterwards. **[See Appendix 1].**
  - Agreed that the Friends of Parks Forum should submit a response based on key points Dave had drafted, covering resources, need for council to work across its departments, toilet provision; and that Council should give weight to its tree plan when deciding planning applications, even before final adoption. **[See Appendix 2].**
- 4. Communications with officers.** Cathy and Dave's notes of a very constructive Forum reps meeting with LBH Project Team (plus head of Zonal Team) were circulated. Agreed need to follow this up, with meetings on biodiversity (Alex Fraser and Annabel Foskett) – David Theakston agreed to follow up... and with zonal officers – ditto Glenys. **[See Appendix 3].**
- 5. Threats to open spaces.** Noted that Cllr Hakata had referred to some development schemes on green open spaces were being "paused" due to concerns about loss of space.
- 6. Inclusivity and diversity of Friends groups.** Our new working group on this issue met up (Sandra, Dave, Liz, Aarti) – minutes circulated. It was agreed to add Leyla to the working group, and to invite some advisors to take part eg Sonja Camara and Michelle Lindson. Rachel of Hartington Pk also interested. The group may appeal for Friends Groups to send in their ideas and experiences, and focus next meeting on sport. Noted that lack of toilets is barrier to older and disabled people. **[See Appendix 4]**
- 7. Haringey Rivers Forum.** John reported that the new Strategy mentions rivers, but in practice there is muddle. The appointment of Cllr Jameson as Moselle Champion was good move. The Rivers Forum welcomed the offer from Adam Broadhead of Arup Architects to develop a vision for the Moselle. Agreed that the Friends Forum will support the Rivers Forum in working on this. John re-emphasised need for coordination over eg SUDS.
- 8. Haringey Community Action Network** is bringing together groups working on poverty and public services, food banks, claimants, trade unions. We agreed to have a rep to this, and Dave was chosen.
- 9. SINC**s – Dave noted an error in the new Report for the borough's SINC's re Lordship rec. He recommended others check their SINC references. We need to know what process exists for corrections and changes to be made. [Contact Annabel]
- 10. Paddling pools.** Reviews of the 3 sites taking place, meeting up with the Friends Groups. Agreed to support eg Friends of Priory Park to protect and enhance pools.

**11. Friends Groups contacts.** Dave (for the Forum) and Michelle (LBH Volunteering officer) have created a joint table listing all the existing Friends groups and their contact details. 71 organisations listed so far (4 or 5 may be inactive), and the two of them will keep the table updated.

*Council reps arrived.*

**12. Friends groups reports:**

- i) *Paddock (Quentin).* TCV continue to run volunteer sessions. Major stakeholder meeting 8 Nov will hear on latest plans for dealing with knotweed and re-landscaping.
- ii) *Hornsey Park Community Gardening (John)* – worked on digging out tree affected by insurance case. Such work has negative impact on volunteers.
- iii) *Crescent Gardens (John)* – doing litter picks and maintaining planting in the rain gardens. Hard to access horticultural expertise. But better liaison with waste services. In general, need better coordination in managing SUDS and other mini sites.
- iv) *Hartington Park (Rachel).* Site was created from slum clearance in 1970s. Based on the work and vision of the Friends, officer Jake Jones has led on developing new plans, due to start December, delayed by lack of suitable path materials. Need to update equipment eg benches to improve access, discourage ASB, encourage use of bins. Thanks to the Forum for supporting the group and helping establish connections with officers. London Sports did consultation with users, 291 responses. Cleanliness and hygiene top issues. But responders not fully representative of local community (ages and backgrounds etc), need to address this. Also keen to get TCV sessions again.
- v) *Lordship Rec (Dave)* lots of activities. Organised the annual Tottenham Flower & Produce Show in Sept, and Apple Day in Oct. In partnership with Tottenham Clouds and others organising Luke Howard ('namer of clouds') 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in November including talks, exhibitions, new weather station at the Hub and declaration of Lordship Rec as the first Cloud Appreciation Park in the world! Also helping organise volunteer efforts with the Rivers Forum 'water squad' to clear up Moselle channel. Put on a showing - 55 attended - of a 1988 C4 documentary about Broadwater Farm (for Oct Black History Month). Plus Halloween kids event. Supporting a new Parkrun every Saturday – 250 attended launch.
- vi) *Chestnuts (Ceri).* Friends are liaising with zonal officer about broken equipment. He has responded about the basketball hoops. Also talking to Lawn Tennis Association about upgrading the courts, but if not maintained acid leaf mould will destroy the surface as it has done before. Need to be swept weekly. Liaising with Sam Neil of Highways about rain gardens, and maybe moving basketball pitch. Maybe funding from developer of St Anns site, will link to GLA funding. Veolia clean the public loos but no one in council seems responsible for them. Friends do most of the gardening and litter picks but relies on a few older people, need younger people and staff input. The three paladins by Cornwall Road entrance attract dumping. Still big issue with so-called "Friends of Chestnuts" [not their group] events, unlicensed parties and sports tournaments.
- vii) *St Anns site (Liz).* Friends extend invite to Michelle and Sahina to visit. 60% of site being developed - it should be providing green corridor linking railway embankment to Chestnuts etc, but current plans don't do that. Shocked to find they will lose 114 mature trees including rare specimens. Have petition of over 1,000 signatures. The group wants the draft Haringey tree plan to be given material weight in deciding planning application. Dave had received e-mail noting other loss of green space in the area. Is anyone in Council monitoring cumulative impact of these losses of green space?
- viii) *Priory Common orchard.* Noted that owner had proposed controversial development which would destroy orchard. Opposed by Council. Plan went to Planning Inspector but

no decision after 11 months [Update – thrown out!]. Local tree surgeons unofficially leave woodchips on site and people use it.

- ix) *Coldfall Wood/Muswell Hill Playing Fields (Vicci)*. Problems of people lighting fires under trees but wet weather now dealing with that. Met with Alex Fraser over three threatened trees. Site is in line for wildflower meadow pilot project – see Annabel’s written report to the meeting, circulated to Forum list. Thames 21 now looking at the stream and its drainage issues. Repairs needed to footbridge.
- x) *Bluebell Wood (Jane)*. TCV activity day over half-term was v good. Awaiting report on soil conditions. Concerned that house extension could cause conflict with tree roots in the wood. Friends are doing monthly work sessions to complete work started by TCV. Duke of Edinburgh award volunteer is helping with diversity issues. Awaiting new fences and noticeboards.

### **13. Officer responses.**

- Sahina noted that Zone 3 officer had moved so there is a vacancy, but she wants to build relationships with eg Crescent Gardens, Hornsey Park groups.
- Michelle reported that an officer is being recruited to deal with small sites and work with residents.
- Michelle can help get TCV engaged on Hartington.
- Sahina said she has only 2 officers (and 2 temps in summer) to deal with parks hygiene in zones 5 & 6 - this is not enough especially after busy summer weekends. Also it is very hard to recruit gardeners, they advertise but get no one appointable. [Note: The Forum sent the ads to all our groups].
- Michelle will try to recruit more volunteers for Chestnuts (sessions are last Saturday of the month, 10-12). Friends groups can send Michelle descriptions of what volunteers can do at their site, and she can try to find suitable people.
- Sahina will organise meeting with Chestnuts to look at sweeping of sports pitches, and ask David Theakston who will take responsibility for WCs.
- Michelle looking at setting up litter-pick stations in parks, maybe in liaison with cafes etc, so people can just turn up and do a bit.
- Sahina will raise St Ann’s concerns with Alex F and Annabel. We think there is an officer dealing with trees and biodiversity in planning dept, can we confirm who this is if appointed?
- Sahina will pursue delays to repairs in Coldfall.
- Michelle will raise issue of proposed Forum meeting with zonal officers.
- Rachel pointed out that Friends Groups should have one system for reporting things [eg through the zonal team], so we all get equal treatment, and not who shouts the loudest/copies in most councillors.
- Friends Forum meeting on biodiversity – Michelle reported that request for meeting had been escalated. Michelle will also ask about how we respond to SINC review, to point out errors etc.

### **14. Volunteering officer.**

Michelle explained her role – she has been finding out how the council works, getting to know the parks and officers. It’s a new post so no blueprint exists. Keen that we keep the joint Forum/Council contact list for Friends Groups updated so she can use it. She can help recruit new volunteers for Friends groups, help with strengthening diversity, and seek out corporate volunteering opportunities especially local businesses.

**15. TCV and NCO [TCV See Appendix 5]** Nature Conservation Officer’s report was circulated to Forum list.

**16. Forum meetings in 2023:** Saturdays, Bruce Castle, 10am-1pm – Feb 4<sup>th</sup> / April 1<sup>st</sup> / June 3<sup>rd</sup> / September 2<sup>nd</sup> / November 4<sup>th</sup>

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**Appendix 1**

**Brief Report of meeting between Haringey Friends Groups and Cabinet Member for Parks**

**26.10.2022** at George Meehan House, N22

**Present: *Friends Reps*** - for Bruce Castle, Priory Common, Nightingale Gardens (Res Assoc), Avenue Gardens (Res Assoc), Queens Wood, Brunswick Park, Myddleton Road Community Garden, Tower Gardens (Res Assoc), Woodside Park, Markfield Park, Fairland Park, Lordship Rec, Down Lane Park, Chapmans Green. ***Haringey Council reps*** - Cllr Davies (Cabinet Members for Parks), Cllr Brabazon (Cabinet Member for Children), Cllr Blake, and Simon Farrow (Head of Leisure Services).

Cllr Davies, earlier this year elected as Cabinet Member for parks, had asked for an informal meeting with Friends Groups to discuss greenspace issues. She had attended the June 2022 meeting of the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum and felt an additional more informal discussion would help her get to grips with some of the key issues. The meeting had been publicised by the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum. She explained that she had recently decided to ask Simon Farrow to kick things off with a presentation about the draft new Green Spaces Strategy - which he did - and views expressed would be noted as part of the current public consultation over the Strategy.

There was then open discussion covering a wide range of topics. This included: how to respond to anti-social behaviour; dog free zones; bye-laws and signage; encouraging all sections of the community to use public greenspace; recycling; improving facilities generally including playgrounds, public toilets and sports pavillions; biodiversity and climate change; protection of greenspace; bringing back 'park-keepers'; and the value of active Friends Groups for all sites and the Friends Forum as key partners. Regarding the last point, the document below was circulated to all present, along with minutes of the last Forum meeting and the notes from a recent Forum/Parks Service officers meeting to improve collaborative-working.

Dave Morris

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**Appendix 2**

**Haringey Friends of Parks Forum** [www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk](http://www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk)

November 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 FOR THE CURRENT PUBLIC CONSULTATION [Final]

**Some thoughts regarding the Haringey Green Spaces Strategy**

Friends Groups in Haringey - our added value and co-production with the Council's Parks Service

As acknowledged by the Council's new Haringey Green Space Strategy draft documents out for public consultation, especially the Community Engagement and Volunteering Plan:

- there are over 55 local greenspace Friends Groups in Haringey, with thousands of local people as members.
- They generate the equivalent of around £600,000 per year in added value through their hours of volunteering, and a similar amount in funding/grants to enhance the borough's green spaces
- The movement is co-ordinated through the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum which has been meeting bi-monthly for the last 20 years (including attendance from senior Parks Service officers and occasionally the

Cabinet Member for parks). Minutes of the well-attended meetings can be easily accessed on our site: [www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk](http://www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk)

### Collaboration over the draft strategy

Over the last 2-3 years the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum have held around 12 minuted workshop sessions with the Parks Service and the Green Spaces Strategy consultant to help develop the new 15-year strategy. All groups were invited each time, and generally the draft documents were circulated beforehand, and reports of the meetings circulated afterwards. Many Friends Groups reps have put a lot of time and effort into this collaborative process out of commitment to the borough's public green spaces.

### Thoughts re the scope and overall content

- the suite of strategy docs seem pretty comprehensive (although it seems a Funding Strategy doc has not yet been completed/published, and we have called for a proper Feedback Report acknowledging the time/effort/views put in by Friends Groups and the Forum, and other concerned residents)
- the current versions of the documents seem much better than if we'd not been so involved and on the case
- the policies and standards are on the whole fairly sensible and pointing in the right direction in terms of aspiration. But the aspiration should be higher. As we have always said, we should have the highest aspirations that Haringey's public green spaces should be explicitly aiming for the best they can be. This is subject of course to available resources, constrained in the short and possibly medium term by current and future underfunding.
- the text about Friends Groups is mostly accurate, but should be made more prominent due to local groups being in most cases the key ongoing partner regarding their site, and the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum being the key strategic borough-wide partner
- we welcome efforts to ensure high standards for greenspace, that all sections of our community can and do use our green spaces, and that we all need to work together to address the growing climate emergency.

### Some specific additions for adding to the current content of the draft Strategy

There are likely to be many additions and amendments proposed which can improve the specific text contained in the suite of documents. This is in terms of aspirations, and in terms of ongoing practical maintenance, management, communications with partners, and general enforcement of policies and standards.

In particular we call on the Council to listen carefully and take on board the views of those who love their local greenspace and are engaged in volunteering to enhance, animate, promote and protect such space.

We can add to this some strategic points:

1. the need for a clear long term aspiration to return to dedicated onsite staffing for all major sites. This has been cabinet policy for a number of years, following the adoption of much of the Scrutiny report on Parks in 2018, subject of course to the availability of resources over the next 15 years.  
[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/ecs\\_parks\\_rev\\_fin.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/ecs_parks_rev_fin.pdf)
2. the need to commit to effective public recycling in parks (whilst recognising its a real challenge)
3. the need to complete the agreed programme (already underway) of Fields In Trust protective covenanting for all designated public sites
4. a need to protect all the 'undesigned' green spaces which are or could be publicly accessible and advantageous for local communities. Many are unacceptably under threat of development. In particular we note the continual threat to mature trees posed by developers all over the borough and ask that these threats are monitored, their impact aggregated and resisted.
5. the need to ensure access to additional sufficient resources for greenspace (noting the unique range of statutory outcomes they provide) without compromising their integrity by inappropriate commercialisation. This should include the Council lobbying (and supporting the lobbying of) national government to make greenspace a statutory service backed by adequate funding from national taxation.

Effective day to day maintainance, management, and partnership-working

The Service has suffered from years of understaffing and under-resourcing. This has been mainly due to unacceptable national 'austerity' policies cutting funding for public services and Local Authorities generally, which has particularly hit 'non-statutory' services such as parks This inevitably prevents us in Haringey having the facilities and services we deserve and causes frustration to parks' staff and residents alike.

The Service needs to work more systematically and effectively with its key partners, the Friends Groups.

That's why we held a special joint Friends Forum/Parks Service meeting (27.9.2022) to start to address this now that the recent re-organisation and recruitment within the Service has been almost completed.

Final points

- a. We ask that emerging policies be given weight until they are formally adopted.
- b. We call on the Council to ensure that all relevant departments and services sign up to the Green Spaces Strategy and actively support the Parks Service because of its central importance to a whole range of statutory outcomes for the Council (eg health, flood mitigation, social cohesion, climate emergency, travel routes etc)
- c. We call for the maximum possible s106 and CIL planning development gain to be extracted from developers and redirected for capital and revenue funding for the borough's public green spaces.

Dave Morris

Chair, Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

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### Appendix 3

## **Notes of special communications meeting between representatives of the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum and Haringey Parks Service officers 27.9.2022 @ Lordship Hub**

Present: Dave Morris (DM)– Chair of the FoPF and Friends of Lordship Rec; Cathy Meeus (CM)– Friends of the Parkland Walk; Klaus Kuener (KK) – Friends of Bruce Castle Park; David Theakston (DT)– Principal Park Development Manager; Glynis Kirkwood-Warren (GKW)– Parks Zonal Manager; Paul Ely (PE) – Consultant for Parks and Green Spaces Strategy; Neil Cole (NC)– Parks Project Officer; ristie Wilson (KW)– Parks Project Manager; Michelle Lindson (ML)– Parks Volunteering Officer; Jake Jones (JJ)– Parks Projects Officer; Hilary Bournas (HB)– Parks Projects Officer Apologies: Ceri Williams (Friends of Chestnuts Park), Clare Parry (Friends of Downhills Park), Phil Chinn (Friends of Wolves Lane)

Cathy agreed to take rough notes, not formal minutes, on behalf of the Forum. All present introduced themselves and explained their key role.

DM gave a short explanation of the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum (HFoPF) and its long-standing desire for good communication and collaboration with the council parks department. He explained that Haringey's 55 Friends Groups contribute around 50,000 hrs per year of volunteering, promoting and supporting their sites, equivalent to around £600,000, and are the Council's key greenspace long-term partners. They also raised a huge amount of funds for improvements and activities. He had printed copies of the minutes of the recent Forum meeting, and all the officers present said they had read them already.

DM noted current concerns that communications at present are not working sufficiently well, and that the newly restructured service and its new staff provided an opportunity to discuss this matter afresh. The meeting was initially set up with a couple of new project officers but the Council had embraced the importance of the opportunity for a wider discussion involving a greater number of officers from different teams.

DT introduced the new structure of the Parks team (Simon Farrow's chart of the new set up was distributed). He said Andrea Keeble's sports/activity team should be added. He noted that there had been additional resources available enabling additional staffing, and (at least for this year) extra capital funding to be able to crack on with many of the outstanding repairs needed.

Parks Projects Officers (most of which were present) are mainly concerned with developing, co-producing, procuring and implementing mainly capital parks projects and repair and maintenance of larger-cost (over £20k) infrastructure under the direction of DT. There were around 60 such projects at the moment, with each officer managing around 10. Each officer had a

theme, eg play equipment, flooding – although there seemed some overlap or grey areas. Parks Projects will generally deal with purchases/projects over £20,000. Some projects are categorised within a common theme eg ‘renovating or installing MUGAs’.

The three Zonal Officers (GKW, Chris Poore and Mark Bambridge) cover over 140 sites. They are focused on asset inspection and smaller repairs, and updating Green Flag Management Plans. Also memorial benches and borough-wide purchasing of equipment – eg bins. Zonal Officers are also the first point of contact for Friends groups, and Friends Groups are expecting they will redirect communications to other officers as necessary and cc in the Groups so they know what is going on. Starting this year there should have been, and have been, some regular general site visits with Friends Groups and other stakeholders aiming quarterly for large sites, 6 monthly for medium sites and annually for small sites. These should be followed by detailed reports, shared with the Friends. However, it was a small team and Friends Groups needed direct relations with the relevant project officers.

There are a number of relevant site Plans – long term detailed Management Plans for Green Flag sites, and specialist ones for nature reserves. Each of these came with a maintenance Action Plan guiding parks service activity. There were also Conservation Action Plans being drafted (by TCV, the Conservation Officer and Friends Groups) for the above sites, including the work of the Friends Groups. [There was some concern from Friends Groups at the last Forum meeting that they had not yet been involved, or fully involved, in this process]

It was noted that Friends groups needed better communication from the council regarding repairs and how they are being managed. Friends groups reps and the relevant project officers involved at a site needed to share each other’s phone numbers and emails.

Clare Parry’s written statement was circulated and discussed – it set out a range of communications problems and suggested ways it could be improved. Many of the points mirrored the wider conversation at this meeting.

CM pointed out that the officers present at this meeting were not primarily concerned with green assets, the most important aspect of nature reserves. It was pointed out the the HFoPF have been asking for a meeting with the conservation officer but this hasn’t yet happened. DT agreed and would contact Alex Fraser and Annabel Foskett about setting this up.

DT noted that the Parkland Walk Bridges project is being directly managed by him (DT) for the time being, although this will in due course pass to KW. DT is also for the time being leading on Parkland Walk encroachments, which will in due course pass to GKW. Small to medium infrastructure repairs (under £20k) on PW are within the remit of GKW (Zonal Manager). It was also noted by both DT and PE that a huge amount of officers’ time and effort has been directed towards recent Parkland Walk projects.

KK reiterated the need for clear lines of communication. Event management, trees and nature conservation are clear, but understanding the distinction between zonal and project work is more tricky. It was not always easy for Friends to know who is appropriate to contact. His group had developed a good relationship with the project officer currently engaged at his park, Neil Cole.

DM explained that at Lordship Rec the Friends, supported by the Council, had created a Users Forum which has held monthly joint meetings for many years, with a full table of maintenance, repairs and projects updated on a rolling basis. This table, managed by the Friends, was distributed to those present. Other less complex sites could have a simplified version. He said he had learned that relationships need to be developed and nurtured over time, based on ongoing good communications and mutual respect.

PE agreed that Friends groups should have one main point of contact. He said that the emerging Green Spaces Strategy set out the aspirations and a fair bit of detail on how collaboration should work effectively.

CM noted that better communication and collaboration with Friends should be built in at the earliest stages of all parks projects to be effective and reflect the council’s desire for co-production.

KW assured the meeting that a more systematic approach to the involvement of Friends groups will be incorporated into parks thinking in future.

DM asked that Friends groups be copied into all communications relevant to their green space. He suggested that a formal log of repairs and projects of each park or green space should be kept and updated regularly.

DM said that the challenge was a two-way one, and that the Friends groups also were learning to appreciate and respect the complexities of managing repairs and projects, and the resource and staffing pressures faced by officers.

DM had drafted a range of ideas for improving communications and relations over the coming months, which was circulated (see below) – many of the points had come up during the discussion.

GKW suggested a separate meeting between the HFoPF and the Zonal Officers . Agreed.

GKW wanted Friends groups to promote the use of Haringey online apps for the wider public to report problems (flytipping etc) in parks.

ML said that her role was to support volunteering, by Friends Groups - and by others where possible. She (for the Parks Service) and Dave (for the Forum) have co-produced an up to date list of all the Friends Groups and their details.

## **Appendix 1**

PARKS SERVICE / FRIENDS GROUPS

- SOME IDEAS FOR EFFECTIVE MUTUAL COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONS [By Dave Morris]

Principles: Mutual respect and appreciation / efficiency / develop good relations over time

A. Comms

1. All Friends Groups and LBH officers to have the key phone numbers and emails of the relevant officers of each other
2. Who is the first port of call?
3. All communications to be noted and responded to asap, even if just to say it is being considered by X and you'll get a response within Y days
4. Responses to say who will be dealing with any issue
5. People to cc in the relevant people
6. Subject headers to be clear

B. Site visits

7. FG reps to be notified / invited when there's a site visit (re a contractor or proposal)
8. Someone to take brief notes of key conclusions and send to relevant people (standard form?)
9. Regular (quarterly?) meetings and/or site visits to discuss all relevant maintenance and management issues. All ongoing issues to be logged on a rolling table

C. Changes

10. Any changes or improvements to be discussed and agreed in advance.
11. Notification of contractors visits so they can be welcomed/monitored

D. Strategy

12. Conservation Action Plans, Management Plans and Schedules (or equivalent – for all sites) to be taken seriously (but flexibly) and updated by agreement

E. Recognition and celebration of each other's achievements

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**Appendix 4**

**Haringey Friends of Parks Forum Diversity Working Group - notes from 1st meeting, 2nd Nov 2022**

**Present:** Aarti (Bluebell Wood), Sandra (Harmony Gardens), Liz (Railway Fields), Dave (Lordship Rec)

**Background:** At the September meeting of the Forum we agreed to set up a Diversity Working Group. This is the extract from those September minutes: *The Forum agreed to set up a Forum diversity working group to discuss issues of diversity and inclusion within our local groups and the site-based partnerships we develop – especially around the involvement of younger people and people from BAME backgrounds. The idea is to identify and share good practice, strengthen our groups and make wider links. Dave, Aarti, Liz and Sandra to meet (possibly by zoom) to discuss initial ideas – anyone else who wishes to be part of this working group please contact Dave. It was noted that this was a vital issue and that we need to bear in mind that each group has its own history and each site has its own character. It was pointed out that there may be many different reasons for the narrow demographic of many groups (which it was felt the draft engagement Strategy needs to recognise). Different kinds of open spaces will attract different people. All agreed that attracting younger people also helps with greater ethnic diversity, and it was suggested we could promote things in different ways to better engage with various 'seldom heard from' groups. Also need to be able to recognise and address range of different interests.*

The first meeting of the working group on November 2nd was a short zoom discussion to explore ideas re the issues around, and need to address, diversity and inclusion (eg youth, ethnic background, class etc), and suggestions/examples of good practice. This would be in terms of the day to day usage of public green spaces, but also in terms of the active engagement with and involvement in Friends Groups. It was hoped to be the start of an ongoing conversation among local groups and the Forum.

The challenges for attracting a wider range of people to actively and regularly use public green spaces means making our spaces attractive and 'comfortable' for people from different age groups, backgrounds and interests. Additional points raised included (in no particular order): we can learn from specific BAME



greenspace groups like the Muslim Hikers and more local black mentoring groups; people need to feel the space is for them and people who look like them, as well as being a safe and comfortable space; older teenagers need to feel welcome not be treated as a problem; need relevant facilities for various interests where possible; all sites differ, and also different areas of Haringey have different demographics (esp re ethnicity and class); we should organise or encourage a wide range of diverse events and activities for all ages and backgrounds, including faith-related events.

The challenges for attracting a wider range of people to actively engage and get involved with Friends Groups includes diversifying each group's membership and its core/activists/committee, images in publications and its social media reach, organising and encouraging a range of activities attractive to various ages/interests/background, and formal and informal partnerships (onsite eg with sports teams, walking groups, groups of youth using MUGAs etc + offsite eg with schools, nurseries, faith centres, scouts etc). Additional points raised included (in no particular order): make contact with and build relations with a range of youth groups interested in green issues eg local Duke of Edinburgh award programmes, scout groups, youth centres, and climate activists; maybe TCV can involve younger people keen to do practical volunteering; ask to speak in local schools especially secondary schools, and discuss ongoing collaboration with teachers and heads; prioritise talking regularly with the various user groups on site, listen to THEIR needs and views, and build mutual support and collaboration; encourage new user groups to form based around various particular interests; we need to nurture a new generation of young leaders; when there are special events organised by local people, eg from various ethnic backgrounds, offer to help publicise and support, do a Friends info stall and ensure people there feel welcome to join the group.. also develop ongoing relations.

We noted that it takes time to build relations with a wide range of people. There was a recognition that groups are making all kind of efforts to strengthen and diversify their membership, but that we can learn from each other and importantly learn from others in the wider community currently less involved.

This is a challenge throughout London and the UK. Regarding thoughts and examples of good practice around ethnic diversity and empowerment within the Friends Groups movement, please see the recent research for National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces and draft NFPGS checklist for Friends Groups.

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## **Appendix 5**

### **The Conservation Volunteers (TCV): Update for the Friends of Parks Forum. Nov 2022**

Apologies from TCV that we are unable to attend the meeting on Saturday. Here is a brief update from Cassandra on TCV Haringey.

Staff Update: Message from Cassandra Li, Senior Project Officer at TCV Haringey:

As mentioned in last meeting, I am stepping into Helena Taylor's role as the main TCV contact with Friends group. I've been with TCV Haringey for five years and am a local resident in Haringey. Nice meeting some of you in September meeting and on sites. For Friends' group support and advice, please contact me via

[Cassandra.li@tcv.org.uk](mailto:Cassandra.li@tcv.org.uk).

We have another new staff member starting this week. Please join me and welcome Luke Farnsworth, Senior Project Officer at TCV Haringey. This is a new role in TCV Haringey. He will be delivering various projects across the borough as well as corporate volunteer sessions.

Training sessions: TCV are offering a variety of training sessions for Friends groups to build up skills on species ID, practical conservation and family engagement.

Upcoming opportunities:

Bird ID and Recording Workshop:

10 Nov, Thu at Railway Fields

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/429611849607>

Tree Planting Workshop:

3 Dec, Sat at Railway Fields

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/429636673857>

More training sessions will be available on TCV Haringey website and I will continue advertising through the forum email as well.

Volunteer sessions and Winter BBQ: Our volunteer sessions are continuing across Haringey's green spaces and parks. Midweek volunteer sessions are running as usual on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and then our weekend session on Sunday. We invite you to Railway Fields for a Winter BBQ on Tue 29th Nov from 1pm onwards. If you would like to sign up to our volunteer practical sessions or the BBQ in November, please click here: <https://us18.list-manage.com/survey?u=240cee6caea7920c5952fb280&id=c5928176d1>

Or contact Clare: [c.street@tcv.org.uk](mailto:c.street@tcv.org.uk)

Find us on social media: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook @TCVHaringey

Best wishes from Cassandra and the TCV Haringey team.

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## **Appendix 6**

### **Nature Conservation Officer's November Update for the Forum**

- See as circulated to Forum list