



FRIENDS OF PARKS ACM MEETING

Date: Tuesday 21st March 2023

Time: 18.30pm to 20:00pm

Via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu (Cllr CA)	Cabinet Member for Public Space, Culture and Local Economy, Chair
Shaun Rogan (SR)	LBE
Debbie Gates (DG)	LBE
Jany Badoye (JGB)	LBE (Minute-Taker)
Marcus Harvey (MH)	LBE
Hakema Lasmi (HL)	LBE
Martin Jones (MJ)	LBE
Claire Johnson (CJ)	Aldersbrook Park
Kim Lumley (KL)	Broomfield Park
David March (DM)	Broomfield Park
David Williamson (DW)	Broomfield Park
Joanna Spieszna (JS)	Bury Lodge Gardens
Carol Todd (CT)	Bush Hill Park
Mike Templeton (MT)	Chase Green
Andrew Walls (AW)	Enfield Chase
David Coppins (DC)	Enfield Playing Fields
Ruth Hastings Iqball (RHI)	Enfield Playing Fields
Lisa Chapman (LC)	Firs Farm
Mick McDonagh (MM)	Grovelands Park
Tony Claydon (TC)	Hilly Fields
Helen Greenfield (HG)	Hilly Fields
Dave Watson (DW)	Hilly Fields
Polly Turton (PT)	Hazelwood Recreation Ground (Hazelwood Rec)
Sarah Cotton (SC)	Palmers Greenery
Mollie Kelly (MK)	Pocket Park
Sabrina Babo (SB)	Pymmes Park
Sumishta Brahm (SBr)	Pymmes Park
Noelle Skivington (NS)	Town Park
Paula Phillipou (PP)	Voice of Jubilee Park
Rebecca Maguire (RM)	Voice of Jubilee Park
Sean Wilkinson (SW)	Whitewebbs
Bob Ladell (BL)	Woodcroft

1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies - Chair	
1.1	Apologies for absence received from Cllr Chris James, Cllr Doug Taylor, Chris Scutt (EVA) Carole Stanley (Bush Hill Park), Toni	

	Guiver (Firs Farm), John Cole (Enfield Chase), Kristiana Wrixon (Tottenham Recreation Ground - for technical issues), Christine Seddon (Jubilee Park DTC), Keith Weller (Conway Recreation Ground) and Paula Phillipou (VOJP) for lateness.	
1.2	Everyone was asked to introduce themselves in the chat.	
2.	Actions from last meeting - Chair	
2.1	All actions completed.	
2.2	Minutes read and approved	
2.3	Item 5.5 – not all actions completed for Aldersbrook. Would like all actions completed by end of March 2023 due to CJ stepping down. Actions: MH to contact CJ and contact Cllr CA with timeline MH: Works completed	
2.4	Item 5.8 - SW asked for progress on actions for Whitewebbs. MH reported that officers are booked to visit the park in the first week in April and will arrange a meeting. Action: MH will contact SW MH: visit undertaken and actions agreed	
3	Blue and Green Strategy update including update on the proposals to introduce conservation grazing to Forty Hall - Jamie Kukadia, LBE	
3.1	JK introduced herself as working in the water courses team. The team does lots of projects to achieve the Blue & Green Strategy (https://www.enfield.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13503/Blue-and-Green-Strategy-Adopted-Planning.pdf)	
3.2	JK shared her presentation (please find attached).	
3.3	The Blue & Green projects involved different interventions which JK explained.	
3.4	JK thanked all the volunteers who helped to plant trees to alleviate flooding. AW confirmed the last trees were planted today at Rectory.	
3.5	34,000 trees have been planted toward woodlands creation around Enfield Chase.	
3.6	The team has been working on urban woodlands and have received funding from the Forestry Commission – Local Authority Tree Fund. This will also help plant 60,000 trees in the East of the borough to create small urban woodlands for the benefit of the environment. JK again thanked everyone who is involved in the planting of those trees.	
3.7	Questions: CF asked who is responsible for the maintenance of rain gardens. MH replied that Highways Maintenance Team is responsible in a periodic cycle of maintenance. Action: MH will add to the priority programme MH added rain gardens to maintenance list	
3.8	MM noticed that in the list of ponds development, the wildlife pond in Grovelands was not there. This was not detailed but there are conversations taking place on the wildlife pond. Action: MH will connect with JK for further progress	

	MH added dipping pond on the proposed capital scheme for 23 / 24	
3.9	<p>SBr reported that the wetlands in Pymmes Park are not well looked after and not well maintained. The rain gardens have a wooden guard that has been knocked over. SBr inquired the best way to report issues, should photos be taken and sent to LBE Parks' Team? MH confirmed that for any issues or concerns to take a photo and email it through.</p> <p>Action: Groups to send in photos of outstanding jobs or if jobs not done to satisfactory standard</p> <p>Regarding maintenance some inhouse training will take place to upskills maintenance team to improve the maintenance standards. A training package is being worked on.</p> <p>Action: MH to update on the training package</p> <p>MH no further progress</p> <p>Cllr CA added that for the benefits of the groups, the work pattern/schedule on maintenance should be shared.</p> <p>MH explained that there is a current process with Digital Services to get work programmes on the website, but happy to circulate the work programme, relevant to each group, via email.</p> <p>Action: MH to share each park's work programme accordingly.</p> <p>Colleagues in digital services are working through this document and then will be shared during August 23</p>	All
3.10	<p>MT shared that the FOP for Chase Green is strongly opposed to having a wetland and though they understand the benefits of wetlands, Chase Green is too small for a wetland and it's also a national registered village green so it's different from the other parks. There are also concerns that the Council is creating wetlands, but there are maintenance issues, and their responsibilities should not be passed onto the FOPs.</p> <p>Cllr CA confirmed that it is the Council's responsibility to sort out the issues and concerns in parks and open spaces and these can be escalated by sending in photos and emails to the team.</p> <p>MT asked for the groups to be consulted when working on those plans to include the concerns that FOPs have and not to be dismissed.</p> <p>The Chase Green Wetlands consultation report is being written and will be shared when it is available.</p> <p>Action: The team to find the date of publication</p> <p>Post meeting note from Ian Russell, Principal Engineer LBE: There is still no update on this unfortunately, but we do still intend to release this report.</p> <p>Cllr CA suggested that the FOP for Chase Green to contact MH to discuss issues reported tonight.</p> <p>Action: MT and MH to connect</p> <p>Mike Templeton is in contact with Ian Russell</p>	
3.11	<p>CT asked if there were risks to the cattle while big dogs are running around the park in Forty Hall.</p>	

	<p>The Council will not enforce owners to have their dogs on leash and would encourage them to avoid the areas with cattle. The whole project will be monitored. Once some needed infrastructure such as signage, QR code, and after some volunteering events with consultation have also taken place, the project will start in May/June 2023.</p> <p>Action: Report back from the team at a future meeting MH: Cattle introduced at Forty Hall 24th July 2023</p>	
3.12	<p>AW reported that the final 34,000 trees have been planted in Enfield Chase, the project is not finished. Phase 4 is ready to start later in the year.</p> <p>AW also added although it is down to Council Management to be responsible for the projects, they do not have sufficient resources to run projects at the pace the groups would want, and the groups should help/support with the management. AW also thanked MH for his time to come and visit the park and offered to help as much as the FOP Enfield Chase can.</p> <p>Cllr CA thanked AW and agreed that the Council has the responsibility, and the groups do a lot of work, there will be an understanding of what work is being done.</p>	
3.13	<p>SW asked when a project has been set is there maintenance included in the budget?</p> <p>MH explained that a lot of capital project does not hold a revenue, but the Council has an annual surplus capital fund, some projects will benefit from inhouse provision. Unfortunately, some projects do fail, and reprogramming some work and having them on a schedule will solve issues.</p> <p>Action: SW will discuss further in a site visit Action: JK has taken notes MH: Site visit undertaken and review of capital projects and revenue support underway</p>	
3.14	<p>JK also added that together with MH, they are working on specific maintenance plans for each wetland site going as they are different to each other. There will be aspects of the maintenance, such as litter picking, that the FOPs can help with, but the Council is not relying on them to get major maintenance done.</p>	
4	<p>Boundary Brook Park Update - Freddie Hambly-Barton, LBE / Martin Jones, LBE</p>	
4.1	<p>Cllr CA introduced the project as part of activities around the borough for creating better and safer environment, which started 2 years ago, where an initial conversation started, via a door knocking.</p>	
4.2	<p>The project has taken longer as the Council was seeking external funding.</p>	
4.3	<p>Boundary Brook Park is in Jubilee Ward. The neighbours decided to create a FOP. Cllr CA has asked if they would like to join this group.</p>	
4.4	<p>MJ shared his presentation and explained that Ian Russell is the lead Officer for this project and was happy to explain more about the project tonight.</p>	
4.5	<p>The project will create:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new route entrances, bringing the park more onto Hertford Road - flood storage areas to resolve flooding issues - wetlands - scoups in the river - habitats for existing wildlife - play features, with logs and plants 	
4.6	The Council has received some funding from 'The 2022 Grow Back Greener Fund' and another funding from the Council to deliver this project.	
5	Terms of Reference - Shaun Rogan, LBE	
5.1	SR thanked all the FOPs for the input received.	
5.2	Hopefully the TOR has been helpful, to develop the working relationship between the Council and the FOPs in order to generate even better outcomes.	
5.3	Final views and comments can be emailed by the end of the week to shaun.rogan@enfield.gov.uk	
5.4	This is the FOPs and would like the groups to set the agenda and to help guide the Council to make better use of the parks as assets.	
5.5	The website presence for parks and parks support has been increased.	
5.6	This will be used to share events, exchange information, calls out for volunteers.	
5.7	DG will send a link of the web page to the FOPs and to check the contact details if there any changes to inform DG on debbie.gates@enfield.gov.uk Action: DG to send website link - completed	DG
6	Updates from Friends Groups (Roundtable) - All	
6.1	SBr: The Pymmes Park visitor's centre hall hiring details, including kitchen and interactive screen, is now available for hire– in kind for some groups (exchange instead of cost) - £35 per hour, £30 per hour without facilities – can be hired for weddings, class or events Action: Sumishta Br will email DG the details to add to the website refresh - ongoing	SBr & DG
6.2	CF wanted to know if the dog licensing scheme still exists. It was noticed that some people are walking over 10 dogs+ in the park who are not aware of the scheme. MH will find out this information and share as the team has received related enquiries and Public Realm will have the answer. Action: MH to share dog licensing scheme information No further update Cllr CA suggested having the information on the website once the update is received. Action: Add scheme to the website refresh – completed - Licensing of activities involving animals added	DG
6.3	CJ reported that the Friends of Aldersbrook Park will close down, after achieving a lot over the last 9.5yrs, unless Natasha Shaw, the Chair, is able to get further support. CJ also asked if the FOP will be	

	<p>charged for the planting completed last weekend. If there won't be a charge, then the FOP will offer some funds available to another park if they are going to cease.</p> <p>MH will contact colleagues on the work done and then contact CJ with an expenditure/update. MH believes the Council could cover most of the costs.</p> <p>Cllr CA and MH thanked the group for their hard work.</p> <p>Action: MH to contact CJ and update Cllr CA on outcome.</p> <p>Works completed</p>	
6.4	<p>KL-Broomfield Park informed the group that they are organising a family volunteer day on 8th May for the King's Coronation 'The Big Help Out'. The theme on the day will be focused on butterfly, conservations and planting wildflower plugs to help develop habitats, amongst other activities.</p> <p>Cllr CA encouraged everyone to support the group by attending.</p>	
6.5	<p>SW-Whitewebbs wanted to know if there were other groups looking at the City Nature Challenge from 28th April to 1st May. City Nature Challenge is an annual four-day global 'bioblitz' nature hunt, to assist in recording and protecting wildlife in urban areas. Every year, cities all over the world take part in friendly and fun competition to see who can gather the most observations of nature and find the most species. Whitewebbs FOP is participating in the challenge.</p> <p>Find info: https://www.citynaturechallenge.org/</p>	
6.6	<p>PP-Jubilee Park shared that all the raised beds have been adopted by several community groups as part of a sensory programme.</p> <p>PP asked MH if more topsoil would be delivered to allow planting by the Men's Mental Health group? MH confirmed. Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Men's Mental Health group is also using the building and the facilities to get their voice heard. - Post-natal fitness group - Steel pan lessons for children playing Caribbean music on Sundays 	
7.	Any Other Business	
7.1	<p>Officers have been working on an updated Licencing form, as requested by the legal team. But when the new form went out, it was highlighted by the group that there have been a lot of changes to the form</p>	
7.2	<p>This has resulted in groups to have a lot of concerns as it is more difficult to fill in, with technical wording and Cllr CA agrees with them.</p>	
7.3	<p>Cllr CA has spoken with the Director of Environment, Doug Wilkinson (DW) who will look at the form again. Cllr CA has requested that although the form will contain a level of technical terms that need to be in there, it needs to simple, shorter and easy to digest. If certain things can't be changed, then to offer face-to-face drop-in sessions at the Council to enable groups to complete the form.</p>	
7.4	<p>For events of 700-800 people there needs to be a risk assessment and groups will be offered support to complete this form too.</p> <p>Cllr CA apologised for any issues caused.</p>	

	<p>If there are any issues spotted on the licencing form, then please do inform the team.</p> <p>HG shared that it was a complicated document that was difficult to complete over two months and thanked Cllr CA for any help in this. The groups may not be able to complete a licensing and risk assessment forms for Coronation events as time is limited.</p> <p>MH confirmed that there should be a risk assessment for each event, and each is specific to the event. In case any group wants to run an event to please contact Hakema or MH.</p>	
7.5	<p>MH has also had a meeting with DW and the team will use their external consultants who carry out the Council's risk assessment for large scale events to support this process.</p> <p>MH will contact them tomorrow morning and will have a meeting tomorrow talking to officers about the licences as a priority to support the groups.</p> <p>Action: Groups to contact Cllr CA should they require extra help</p>	All
7.6	<p>SR reminded that there will be some tree planting carried out for the Coronation event.</p> <p>Action: MH will circulate the locations to groups</p> <p>Event and activity complete</p>	
7.7	<p>SR shared that Jo-Ann from Forty Hall FOP was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her hard work and commitment. SR encouraged the groups to nominate their volunteers to say thank you.</p>	
7.8	<p>TC confirmed that he has resigned from Hilly Fields FOP after 26yrs due to frustration.</p> <p>Cllr A apologised profusely and thanked TC for his hard work, and asked TC to reconsider his decision and promised to work closely with TC should he decide to stay and progress things.</p>	
7.9	<p>Cllr CA wants to see positive and permanent changes for the groups.</p>	
8.	<p>Future Meeting Dates TBC</p> <p>Post meeting note: 2023/24 meetings confirmed:</p> <p>All at 6.30pm-8pm on MS Teams.</p> <p>Monday, 24th July 2023</p> <p>Monday, 18th September 2023</p> <p>Monday, 18th December 2023</p> <p>Monday, 18th March 2024</p>	