

Friends of Lordship Rec

Notes of monthly meeting - Oct 9th 2022

In attendance: Cathy C., Joan Curtis, Sally H., Caroline Jepson, Dave Morris, Nina P., Jane S., **Apologies:** Chuku, Alyson

Minutes of the last meeting on 4th September. Agreed as an accurate record

Project Updates

Moselle Brook: Caroline and John Miles (Haringey Rivers Forum) had proposed two further dates to Thames 21 for volunteers to clear vegetation from the Brook - October 29th and 3rd December and were hoping these could be confirmed soon. After a few clear weeks there had been a deterioration in the water quality around the end of September - this had been reported to Thames Water. Haringey's Tree Officer, Alex Fraser, had met with Annabel Foskett, Haringey's Conservation Officer and Chris Patterson, Parks Project Officer, onsite for discussions on managing the self-seeded willows. Caroline is waiting for notes of the meeting, but understands that Haringey TCV will be approached to undertake a survey of the willows.

Lake: There is another willow branch bending low over the path and Joan has sent a photograph to Alex Fraser. A funding bid for £38,500 has gone to the London Mayor's Grow Back Greener fund and we hope to hear by the second half of November. If we are successful, the dipping platform which has become unsafe, can be rebuilt. Caroline will buy some sticky hazard tape and make some notices that can be stuck on the platform, as the safety tape put up by the Park staff keeps getting taken down. The Lake needs a bit of clearout of wood and plastic bags, but we will wait to hear if the bid has been successful before organising some volunteers.

Woodland: There have been two volunteer sessions on 17th Sept and 8th October, which concentrated on woodchipping the path, litterpicking and removing dumped garden waste. Catherine needed to arrange a special collection with Alex Goodyear to take away the garden waste.

The Lordship Wood was created by volunteers in the 1980s, planting tree species that are representative of the ancient Tottenham Forest (which used to extend to where the wood is now). Haringey's Nature Conservation Officer, Annabel Foskett, has been successful in raising funds for a project focused on restoring Haringey's Ancient woodland, such as Coldfall and Queen's Wood. Dave Morris has asked Annabel whether our efforts with Lordship Wood can be noted, given that it was intended to replicate ancient woodland. On 18th September, David Bevan, who retired as Haringey Nature Conservation Officer some years ago, was shown around the Lordship Wood by Catherine and Colette. David was really complimentary about the care being shown to the Wood and its current state. David is very knowledgeable about flora, so was able to identify many plants for Catherine. He will visit again in the Spring. Over the years there have been many attempts to establish Spring flowers with varied success. The wood anemones seem to be spreading well and snowdrops did appear in several areas early in 2022, but the bluebells and primroses have struggled. Catherine explained that she was unclear what we had agreed with Aurora who is running Forest school sessions in Lordship Wood. It was agreed that Catherine would contact Aurora to request that we were given details and clear notice in advance of any sessions, so that any issues can be dealt with before, during and after session are run.

Orchard and Apple day. The weather conditions have resulted in the Sweet Chestnut and Medlars suffering, but a lot of Oak seedlings are growing and being encouraged. Scything and removing grass is continuing to encourage wild flowers in the grass and around the trees where the schoolchildren planted bulbs so these can be seen in Spring. Mulching of all the trees is a regular task. Sally will try to organise more skill training workshops.

The arrangements for Apple day on 30th October are in hand with apple displays, games and tree planting. Sally has been successful in her funding bid to Tottenham Grammar School Foundation for £400. Sally has seven volunteers lined up but nine would be better! The places for trees to be planted will be dug and prepared beforehand so that families can be recruited on the day to plant a tree.

Sally and Katherine would like to organise a Wassail in the New Year, which would require some funding. The meeting agreed that they could make applications for this as a Friends project.

Flower and Produce Show: Held on 10th September, the annual Friends event went extremely well and there was lots of lovely feedback on Facebook. On the day, several people told Joan that they would like to help with the event next year, so Joan will try to bring other people onboard and involve them from an early stage in planning and delivering this event. So she will start the planning meetings soon.

Shell re-launch: Dan and SPAC had organised a very successful re-launch and showcase event (music and BMXing etc) of the newly painted Shell on the 17th September.

Harmony Gardens. Negotiations are continuing to finalise the lease. Lots of volunteering sessions there.

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Dave reported that the official report from MKA Ecology, recommending the upgrading or creation of new SINCS in Haringey has been circulated to Friends groups across the Borough. Their recommendation is that Lordship Rec is upgraded from a SINC of Local importance to one of Borough-wide importance. Dave had contacted Annabel as he spotted an important error/inconsistency in the MKA report as it appeared in one line to be recommending that the upgrade would be to the lower level of Borough-wide importance rather than to the higher level mentioned elsewhere. Dave would chase this point up with Annabel.

When Lordship Rec does officially achieve SINC Borough-wide status, this can be the focus of a project in 2023. Undertaking a Bio-Blitz, perhaps 24 hour would be a possibility, but it would need funding, and the involvement of experts and a partnerships/working group to pull it together. Sally and Caroline agreed to look at who collects what information on bio-diversity in the Rec at the moment and where they record it.

Forthcoming Events and New Developments

A new mural for the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Dave had been approached by Orla and Hesketh from the Basketball Association about supporting a bid to one of the London Mayor's funds to develop a youth-led mural on the floor of the MUGA. When Dave was approached there was only one week before the bid had to go in and Haringey Council had yet to be approached. As a result of speaking to Dave they had changed certain aspects about the bid and made it broader, drawing in young people from different postcodes and recognising that the MUGA was used for many activities, as well as basketball. Unfortunately in the event Haringey council could not authorise the bid by the funding deadline but they will try to get the funds from other sources. The meeting agreed to support this new project.

Luke Howard 250th Anniversary Celebrations: Another successful planning meeting had been held that morning and a descendant of Luke Howard had agreed to cut the ribbon on the day! The Interpretation board design, by Joan, is almost finalised and it has been agreed with Glynis and David Theakston to site it by the Higham Road entrance. The Weather station for the Hub will be purchased next week and its display panel in the Hub should be ready for the anniversary celebrations. Cloud appreciation society merchandise will also be on sale .

Parkrun: The first Parkrun will be on 22nd October but it will not be promoted to widely so the event can build up slowly. (**Update:** In fact 250+ people came on 22nd October). Lordship Rec ParkRun are being advised by the National ParkRun body. A regular ParkRun makes the need for installing the water fountain even more necessary. The Hub tried to find a volunteer to organise the final arrangements for installing the water fountain but this was unsuccessful. If anybody knows of somebody who might like to work on this project, let Dave know.

Lordship Sports and Activities Consortium (LSAC): The main focus of LSAC is to provide opportunities for young people to get involved in sport of all sorts. The organisation is trying to bring back its links with the community having become very closely linked with Haringey council's sports development work. They recently organised an event in Broadwater Farm and will be working closely with Wheelytots. Joan has stopped being Treasurer for LSAC and has passed documents to them.

Maintenance

The major leak in the Playground, caused by the disintegration of old pipework has been fixed. Both Catherine and Joan have sent photographs of problems with the new 'back' path to Haringey Parks staff and improvement of the path needs to be progressed. The maintenance works on the closed Bike Track also need to be chased up.

Dave will contact Park staff to arrange the next Lordship Rec Users Forum meeting (update - Nov 8th), so maintenance and management issues can be discussed with all stakeholders. .

Lordship Lane entrance. The behaviour of some park users at the northern entrance to the Park, particularly in the wooded area close to the flats, continues to be an issue. When the flats were under construction the builders were advised to set the flats further back, which was ignored. Various steps have been taken within the Rec to try to design out the problem, such as relocating benches and lifting the crowns of trees, but this has not been successful. Complaints have continued and the Friends have now received a report from Haringey including a request from the Police that Haringey considers erecting a fence around that area inside the park. The Friends have been asked for their comments. The meeting discussed this issue and the request for fencing. It was agreed that we would not support this suggestion, as fencing would be unsightly and, as it would be capable of being knocked over unless it was very substantial, not a deterrent. It was agreed Dave would write a response, which would include a request for the Police and Council enforcement teams to clarify what action they have been and were currently taking to try to address the situation.

Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

Haringey TCV doing training at Railway Fields and surveying at the Paddock. www.tcv.org.uk/london/haringey

Bulbs: Haringey is distributing bulbs for Friends of Parks groups to plant. Dave as arranged for some to be briefly stored at the Hub and to be collected by other Friends groups whilst we have our next monthly meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 6th November. 2 pm