

Friends of Lordship Rec: Notes of general meeting, 5th February 2023

Attending: Joan Curtis, Liz P, Geoff A, Sally Haywill, Dave Morris, Chuku M, Nina P, Caroline Jepson, Katherine D, Angie B, Aurora B, Adrienne C. **Apologies:** Catherine Collingborn, Dan B

After introductions, Dave reported that he had just shown 10 members of The Friends of Cranford Park, Hillingdon, around the Rec. They had been awarded £4 million by the Lottery for the regeneration of their park and, as suggested by the Lottery Fund, they wanted to visit a successful regeneration project elsewhere. .

Minutes of last meeting on 8th January 2023: Were agreed to be an accurate record.

Reports from our regular Projects

Lake: Unfortunately the dipping platform, which is at least 15 years old, is now structurally unsafe and needs replacing. Joan and Caroline are looking into how to fund a replacement and what design(s) we should consider. Caroline met with Mat of Haringey TCV to get ideas for possible alternative designs and current costings, which had been very helpful. Feedback from those present was that the current design, which extends slightly into the Lake, was very popular. Joan did make a funding application to Thames Water but the result will not be known until March. In the meantime, we will ask for the structure to be removed as it is dangerous and warning tape is taken down by park users. . This will be discussed at the Spotlight walkabout with Haringey Parks Department staff on 14th February (Update: this was discussed and agreed with Haringey that they will arrange for the dipping platform to be removed - newer wood from ramp will be kept in the yard). Notices will be put up to explain the situation to park users.

Lordship Woodland.

Catherine Collingborn sent a report to the meeting that a session was held on 21st January when the Woodland volunteers had continued with coppicing and litterpicking. Unfortunately the difficulty with getting woodchip delivered continues (because of the LTN making the Downhills Way gate inoperational). This problem has been brought to the attention of the Council. (Note since the meeting, there has been a small delivery of woodchip). The next session will be on 18th February, so it does not clash with the Moselle working group on 11th February.

Aurora B ,who organised forest school activities and seasonal celebrations in Lordship Wood last year, and is planning to do the same this year, has been offered access to funding (via Wild about Woods CIC) to enable her to offer some free places for children and families who are underrepresented in outdoor activities and use of the Rec. Aurora would also like to organise quarterly open family days in the Woodland, but through the Hub. She would send the information to Dave as Chair of the Hub, as this was not a matter that could be decided at a Friends meeting (Note: The Friends and the Hub are two separate organisations, which work very closely together.).

Orchard.

The Wassail celebration on 15th January was very successful with about 150 people attending. Katherine D. helped families make lanterns for the parade over to the Orchard. Sally and Katherine were successful in an application to Tottenham Grammar School Foundation for this event.

At the end of January Suz Williams ran a very successful coppicing workshop and volunteers coppiced several hazels on the boundary fence and created lots of wood offcuts which can be used by Sally and the volunteers for making fences and stakes. Sally will use some to create a fence around the flower bed at the Higham Road entrance. [Update – now done]. Sally will apply to People Need Parks for funding for other skills

workshops, such as pruning, but if this is unsuccessful the Friends do not have the funds to pay fees to anybody leading the workshops. As well as planting more trees (Alex G will be informed) and putting up notices to discourage dog poo, Sally is also considering Green woodworking workshops.

The following special events are being planned for the Orchard area:-

April 7th, probably (Easter) - making and flying Kites, in homage of Caribbean Easter tradition.

9th/10th June: Sally, and other volunteers Mike and Rebecca are working on organising a Bioblitz the focus of which will be on engagement activities for young people in finding and recording the bio-diversity of the Orchard and Meadows. Unfortunately, an application to the Mayor's Rewilding fund was not successful, but Sally would apply to Tottenham Grammar School Foundation.

Early October: (so does not clash with Halloween) Apple Day

River Moselle:

The next Haringey Water Squad volunteers session will be on Saturday 11th February, and will be focusing on clearing the outflow grille, which will be tackled from within the Brook. Thames 21, the water improvement charity, will be paid by Haringey to supervise the work. The HWS mailing list for work in the Moselle now has 16 names. Sessions through the year will take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Caroline and John Miles of Haringey Rivers Forum, organising the HWS, met with Chris Patterson of Haringey and Carolina Pinto of Thames 21's River Restoration Team, to get her thoughts on ways to improve the working and bio-diversity in the Brook channel and in the Silt Pond. Chris Patterson is also consulting other sources on ways to engineer improvements in the Silt Pond.

London Rivers Week will run from Monday 29th May to 5th June. Joan and Caroline have started planning events on Sunday 28th May - probably a walk from Markfield Park to Lordship along the route of the Moselle in the morning and talks and films in the Hub in the afternoon. Caroline will plan a walk through the meadows around the Brook in the park on Saturday 4th June using the iNaturalist to look at flowers and insects, as a celebration of the habitat created around the Brook and as a prerunner to the BioBlitz the following Saturday.

Litterpicking Group: Regular work continues on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and there are other park users who are also regularly picking up litter but more informally. Caroline and the Litterpicking group have discovered an area hidden by trees and brambles where anti-social behaviour is occurring. The group is proposing that undergrowth is cut down, sightlines created and a clearer woodchip path is made in this area. Caroline would discuss with Dave and Joan and with Haringey staff.

Tottenham Flower and Produce Show. This annual event organised by us will be held on 9th September. Joan has met with Paulette, who is the other main organiser of this event and they have decided to focus on the theme of food, and healthy growing, cooking and eating, so that activities can include children's cookery classes, international food tasting and a Harvest Festival. Joan will apply to the Lottery again but success is not guaranteed. Joan is seeking to expand the planning group so there are fresh ideas and to share the tasks. Katherine D. offered to be involved. Joan will call the first open planning meeting in March.

Friends internal Communications and need for a Calendar

Dave reminded people to be on the Friends Core Co-ordination email list if they are active in the Friends - this list has about 25 names of our most active members.

From the report backs above the need for a shared Calendar to aid communication and planning is becoming obvious. There is just so much going on! Joan offered to devise a calendar that could be shared.

New developments and news from other Stakeholder organisations

Water bottle filler

Adrienne reported on her research. There is an opportunity to piggyback on the ground works for the accessible toilet and changing area which will be built onto the Hub soon (no date confirmed) and have a public water bottle filler plumbed in at the same time. Adrienne has been researching the models of water bottle filler suitable for the Rec and associated costs and she circulated images of the possible models to the meeting. She explained that between the Friends and Hub we have approximately £2,500 available. but more money will need to be found through crowdfunding for a minimum of £1,000. It was agreed to go for the simpler model suggested by Adrienne, without the dog bowl as this would have cost an additional £1K. This model is also Thames Water approved. There will be a maintenance contract cost of £250 per year. It was also agreed to commence the crowdfunder which Adrienne has drawn up, which will be also advertised to the weekly ParkRun (150+ runners each Saturday).

Tottenham Clouds. Following on from the very successful Luke Howard anniversary celebrations last November, we now have the new weather station in the Hub fully functioning with also the solar energy gain from the roof displaying on the screen. Tottenham Clouds want to continue activities in 2023 and have sent Dave a list of suggestions such as kite flying. World Cloud Appreciation Day is 16th September this would seem an appropriate day for cloud and climate change linked activities in the Rec. Sally will liaise with Margaret B (Tottenham Clouds) and Linda R (of UFC) about the activities they are planning and how they might dovetail in with any similar activities being planned by others.

Shell Performing Arts Collective.

Unfortunately the new painting of the Shell Theatre, has now been affected by graffiti some of which is high up. Due to lack of resources anti graffiti paint was not applied over the new design so it is more difficult to wash off and needs to be painted over. Joan and Chuku have found the leftover paint to retouch the design. Dave and Chuku are in touch with Dan B and Benjamin H. about the current difficulties and are offering support.

The Shell Performing Arts Collective are planning a performance day at the Shell on 10th June.

Blockarama, the steel pan celebration is on 24th June, which is also the 75th anniversary of Windrush. The Hub will provide Caribbean food and vibes on the day.

Rockstone Bikes. The organisation is trying to get sorted out since Rocky's sudden death and there are some complex issues to sort out. Some old hands who are familiar with the background, Clasford, Hesketh and Ricardo, have met and are determined to make sure this valuable service continues.

Disability access improvements. Haringey commissioned an access survey of Lordship Rec and Queens Wood to look at what improvements are advisable to ensure effective access for people with mobility difficulties. Dave has received a substantial report and we will need to go through it and see what is being suggested. Unfortunately, we don't think there is any funding attached to implement the recommendations. Joan showed a photograph of a wheelchair accessible swing which she had seen in another park.

Broadwater Farm improvements: The current works (which will take 2-3 years) include taking down two blocks and rebuilding/landscaping. Our interest is in the interface between the estate and the park, and any improvements that could be achieved for areas on the eastern side of the Rec. Dave has met with David Sherrington who is chief officer overseeing the works to discuss the importance of the interface and the need for ongoing discussions as the landscaping and any firmer proposals develop which may link up with the Rec.

20th Anniversary of the Lordship Rec Users Forum (LRUF): Over the winter of 2002/3 - the beginning of the collective community effort to improve the Rec - we linked up with the Broadwater United football club, the Mother and Toddler Group and the Council to establish a stakeholder body involving all the user groups and statutory bodies to help plan and share ideas and realise the vision for the regeneration of the Rec. This is the LRUF, the co-management body for decision-making about the Rec. It has generally met monthly ever since, chaired by the Friends. It has gone through a number of phases – initially bringing people together, then developing and consulting over plans for improvements followed by lobbying for the resources needed, then overseeing the regeneration works. In the last few years it has morphed into a body mainly concerned with day to day management and maintenance. This has mainly concerned the Friends and Parks Service officers. Attendance by some of the other dynamic organisations in the Rec has fallen off. We are planning a celebration evening in the Hub on Wednesday 5th April at 6pm to 9pm to enjoy how far the Rec and its stakeholders have come together - with a film show, discussion/review of where we are now, and a little bit of an exhibition. We also want it to be an opportunity to discuss whether we need to do anything differently to support joint working and planning affecting the Rec and its users.

Friends AGM - 2pm on Sunday 2nd April. This will be our annual get-together to review what we've achieved over the previous 12 months, and ideas and plans for the next 12 months! The catering will be minimal because catering will be required for the LRUF 20th anniversary celebration on the evening of Wednesday 5th April. We will think about the nomination process so there is more explanation circulated about the roles of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and how people can put themselves forward for officer roles or to act as 'shadows' to these roles.