

FRIENDS OF LORDSHIP REC

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 3rd April 2022

PRESENT: Gail B, Kate Bell (WheelyTots); Pamela D, Dan B, Joan Curtis, Nina Prieto, Caroline Jepson, Dave Morris, X, Friedrich E, Ruth G, Maryanne H, Sally Haywill, Alyson B, Louise R, Kevin, Elena M

Apologies: Joanna Y, Catherine Collingborn, Christine T, Patience O

1. Annual Report 2021-2022

Dave Morris, Chair of the Friends, welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced the Annual Report and highlighted some of the Friends main activities and events in the last year, which had been the 20th anniversary of the setting up of the Friends. There had been much to celebrate as we came out of being so restricted by Covid. One of the aims of the year had been to increase the number of people actively involved in our work and good progress had been made on this. As well as the public face of running our practical volunteering groups (eg for the Woodland, the Orchard Field, the River and Lordship Rec Litterpickers), and staging a range of meetings and events, there has also been a lot going on behind the scenes. One example was our substantial input into developing a Conservation Action Plan for the Rec which sets out how various specific areas of the Rec will be maintained (mainly by the Friends, supported by the Parks Service and The Conservation Volunteers) in a way which supports wildlife and bio-diversity.

The year has also been a successful one for other community groups (User groups) running and developing activities throughout the Rec. There has been a new activity from the community centred around the Shell Theatre and the Skatepark and an invigorated Shell Performing Arts Collective (SPAC) has a vision for its greater use.

Friends of Harmony Gardens have been successful in recruiting new volunteers, fundraising and are hoping to open at weekends.

Trove Market have run several successful Saturday markets and activities and we hope this will be a regular monthly event.

Local Parkrun enthusiasts have also been working hard on setting up Parkrun in the Rec, backed from the start by the Friends, and we are hopeful that soon this will be a wonderful new activity on Saturdays mornings way into the future.

The Friends and other User groups co-manage the park with the Council, so the community have a substantial role in how it is run. The Friends meet up regularly with Haringey parks staff and other Haringey Council representatives. If any User groups have concerns or issues they want to raise they are encouraged to attend the regular Coordination meetings or inform the Friends and we can keep things on the Agenda. Some things take a very long time to achieve – some take 2 days and some take 10 years! - but we can ensure the issues don't get forgotten.

We noted our thriving comms, with over 1,300 members on our email list (Dave) and 1,400 on our facebook page (Joan). Joan and Dave keep the website up to date. Our working groups have various whatsapp groups and email lists too.

We are part of a network of Friends of Parks groups around the Borough, and throughout the country, where there are estimated to be 7,000 Friends of Parks groups. Our Chair, Dave, is also Chair of the UK-wide federation representing this movement (NFPGS).

Questions and comments:

Question. Can the normal method of dealing with rubbish bags from bins be improved? The Council staff lift the bags from the bins, but then it can be many hours before they are collected by which time the foxes and crows have spread the rubbish around causing more work.

A. Yes, this is an issue the Friends raise regularly, send photographs and we will persist in raising it. The obstacle is that the work is divided between different teams. It is very helpful if individuals contact the Council (eg online) as well and raise their concerns, as this keeps the issue alive.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/report-problem-park>

Question. What is happening about the water running across the main path near Downhills Park Rd, which seems to be getting worse?

A. Haringey officers have been working hard with Thames Water to establish the source of the water and whether it is coming from a natural spring or is mains water. If it is mains water then Thames Water will be responsible. The Friends have created ponds in the woodland to try to manage the water, and allow it to soak away but to little or no avail.

Question: Recycling. Council does not recycle from park bins, which is an ongoing problem.

A. Friends Groups in Haringey are working with the Council on a new 15 year strategy for Parks and Green Spaces and one of the issues is waste management and potential recycling strategies – a challenge in public areas due to the quantity of non-recyclable material in bins.

Question: Such a beautiful park but is it still underused? Did not seem to be many people in the park when I last visited.

A. May be holidays and it varies, but the numbers have increased massively over 20 years, especially after the regeneration works in 2012.

Note: Our Annual Report was accepted.

2. Accounts

We presented the annual accounts 2021-2022. Caroline went through the income for the year and how it was spent. We have slightly more free reserves at the end of the year than the beginning which is great. It is hoped that our arrangement with Trees for Cities will be renewed soon, and although this involves administrative work, it is a very good source of income for the Friends.

Questions were asked and Caroline was able to explain that we have accessed substantial funds from the Lottery over the years, we do approach individuals but usually through crowdfunding, we cannot benefit from Giftaid as we are not a registered charity and explained what PNP and Nesta stood for – People Need Parks and Nesta the awarding body for our two year Community Empowerment In UK Green Spaces project.

Note: Our Financial Report was accepted.

3. Elections

Dave was elected Chair. Eleana elected Vice Chair, pending shadowing Dave.

Joan elected Secretary, and Pamela elected Vice Secretary, pending shadowing Joan.

Caroline agreed to be Treasurer again. We are looking for a Vice Treasurer.

Agreed to ensure there was more explanation of roles and manuals on the various Officers' roles.

4. Plans for the coming year

Reports and discussion included:

Replacing all the current Interpretation Boards has been identified as a priority.

Walking groups. There are many groups operating free walks in the Rec and many starting up in the last year, which are thriving. The Friends could support the groups with a leaflet, similar to the one produced for the Cycling groups. It was agreed that Joan will try to co-ordinate the collection of information from the different groups on the different aspects of the walks and hopefully draft up a leaflet to be discussed amongst the different walking groups. Develop to a wider age group. Kate will support. When collecting the information they will look at whether to expand to include general fitness groups. The range of general fitness groups using the park is widening, but it isn't always easy to find out what is going on and how to contact these groups. If the Friends know they will publicise on the Friends website and there is a noticeboard in the Hub. Sometimes Haringey is also unaware of new groups starting up, so there is no centralised source of information.

5. Some Future Events

May 21st Painting a new mural the Shell? Dan is looking into.

June 4th – People Need Parks event, primarily run by the Council

June 25th – Blockarama, Steel Band competition

Haringey Fringe – Theatre and performance event will probably be end of August.

Tottenham Flower and Produce Show – 2nd Saturday in September, organised by the Friends. See Joan but will have to fundraise which is not easy.

26th-28th November. Celebrating 250th anniversary of local scientist Luke Howard, the Namer of Clouds, and developing a weather station at the Hub and linking it all with climate change.

Regular LRUF Maintenance and Management Coordination meetings – contact Dave for details.