

Friends of Lordship Rec: Notes of monthly meeting - 5th March 2023

Attending: Caroline Jepson, Joan Curtis, Nina P, Louise O, Chris S. Sue P

Apologies: Catherine Collingborn, Sally Haywill, Dave Morris

Minutes of last meeting held on 5th February 2023: Agreed as accurate

Project Updates

Joan, Caroline and Eddie had been on a Spotlight walkabout of the Rec on 14th February with Chris Poore and Glynis Kirkbride of Haringey Parks Department. The walkabout included several of the areas of the Rec where the Friends are heavily involved in practical management, so this had been a good opportunity for us and Haringey to update each other on maintenance issues. Caroline wrote up a detailed report for circulation.

Lake: It was agreed on the Spotlight walkabout that the Dipping platform was unsafe and that Haringey would action its removal. The wood on the ramp which was still in good condition would be stored in the yard. Park users would be informed why removal was necessary through notices and Friends social media.

Fundraising for a new dipping platform is a priority for the Friends, followed by new interpretation boards and greening the island which is very barren. We are awaiting the result of a bid Joan submitted to Thames Water for the platform (Update: This has been successful! We are discussing with Haringey TCV)

Haringey are planning to replace the litter bins around the Lake very soon with larger double bins including a recycling bin.

Caroline would find a gap in the diary when we can organise a Lake action day, to remove debris from the water and cut back vegetation. (Update: a successful action day was held on March 18th)

Lordship Woodland: The problem with woodchip seems to be resolved as a pile had been delivered at the Downhills Park Road gate. The Woodland group held a workday on 18th February and the next session is scheduled for 11th March. Both sessions concentrated on coppicing, laying woodchip and collecting litter.

On the Spotlight walkabout Chris Poore had confirmed that he was regularly being updated by Thames Water who were still working on tracing the source of the leak from their system into the wood. There is still doubt as to whether this is the total cause of the water which flows over the path as it does increase when it rains heavily.

Chris P. also confirmed that he had ordered the wood for the path edging to replace the edging damaged by the contractors last year. He would liaise with Catherine C. who organises the Woodland group and Haringey TCV who would be asked to do the replacement repairs.

Orchard: On 19th February, Russell Miller founder member of the Hackney Tree Musketeers ran a pruning workshop in the Orchard for a dozen people and under his guidance attendees pruned most of the young and some mature fruit trees. Russell was able to use his experience on the Medlar trees which have suffered from canker. Newly planted trees were pruned at the regular Thursday session. Several of the attendees have joined the Orchard volunteers and the WhatsApp group and it is hoped

they will come along to the once-a-month Sunday morning sessions which are planned to start in the Spring and will be in addition to the current Thursday morning sessions.

Moselle Brook: On 11th February the Haringey Water Squad had tackled the extremely mucky job of clearing the outflow grille and the surrounding area. Investigations of the area had revealed that the work could be done from within the Brook as there is a wide concrete platform in front of the grille. This method reduced the risk of anybody having to stand on top of the grille and lean over. It is hoped the next HWS session would be held on 18th March but this would depend on finalising funding from Haringey to pay a works supervisor from Thames21. (Update: funding was not available so the volunteers worked in the Lake instead). If funding is agreed the next HWS session will be 15th April. Haringey LA have engaged Haringey TCV to undertake a survey of all the trees around the Brook as the first step in drawing up a Management Plan, particularly needed for the self-seeded willows. On the Spotlight walkabout Haringey were once again asked to action the removal of the willow, which has fallen across the brook, near the outflow.

Haringey Rivers Forum would be holding their first in person meeting for two years (due to Covid restrictions) on Monday 13th March at the Hub to review action on improving water courses in Haringey and across London. (Update: The Forum was very well attended with an inspirational speaker, Paul Powlesland, from the River Roding Trust)

Litterpicking: The group runs sessions on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, but there are many informal park users also picking up litter. On one litterpicking session a month ago the group had found a hidden area behind brambles that was being used for anti-social behaviour. On the Spotlight walkabout it was agreed that this needed to be addressed and Haringey would ask Haringey TCV to cut down some of the substantial brambles, create sightlines and lay a woodchip path through the area.

Installation of a Water Bottle Filler: Adrienne C. had finalised the work on the Crowdfunder which has now gone live. The target was £2,500 as this would top up the funds already held and allow for a couple of years maintenance. If the funds can be raised then the water bottle filler can be installed at the same time as the construction of the Changing Places extension on the side of the Hub in July.

New Developments and Forthcoming Events

Need for Shared Calendar: With so many volunteer groups and events planned in the Rec it was agreed that the Friends need to create a shared calendar. Joan had not been able to progress this as yet, but Chris S offered to help her think how to go about it.

Tottenham Food and Growing Show: This is scheduled for 9th September. Joan has held some preliminary brainstorming sessions with Paulette and they had settled on a theme of healthy food and eating. She hoped that other local organisations such as Wheelytots and OK Foundation, who provide free food at the Hub on Thursdays, would be interested in this theme. She will be organising a first open planning session towards the end of March, perhaps on a Sunday to help with attendance. Louise O. said she was interested in helping.

Use of Parks by Teenage Girls - 13-18. Nationally, the underuse of parks by teenage girls has been identified. Research has shown that facilities aimed at teenagers in parks, such as skateparks and multi-use games areas tend to be used by males rather than females. This is an area for development across stakeholder organisations within the Rec to develop a strategy. Haringey are

working on initiatives such as These Girls Do and Wheelytots introducing new initiatives such as Sunset walks. The Youth Festival will be held in the Rec later in the year so this may be an opportunity to get views from teenage girls.

Updates on work of other stakeholder organisations

Harmony Gardens: Louise O. reported on developments including that the polytunnel had been reskinned and that there was a new Friday session for adults with mental health concerns and more Sunday sessions were planned. Now that Edible London was no longer using half the beds, they were working on a new annual planting plan. As ever, more volunteers were needed. Two memorial benches have been put in the gardens near the greenhouse.

Rockstone Bikes: After the shock of Rocky's death, Rockstone Bikes have opened up again. Some of the people who are now taking over need to be registered into official positions within the Community interest Company structure.

Community cinema. Chris S. is planning to show free films in the Jazz cafe at Broadwater Farm Community Centre. He would like to hold a screening in the open air in the Shell Theatre and draw on other people's experience of how to go about using the Shell and funding the project. Joan explained that the Shell can be used as a venue by everybody and that approaching the Shell Performing Arts Collective concerning practicalities, as Chris had done, was the right approach to make.

Maintenance

Paddling Pool: Has been repainted and a ramp has been installed to help children with mobility problems. This has generated a great deal of positive reaction on the Friends Facebook. Unfortunately the repaint is now attracting people to use the area for other purposes such as practising roller skating and exercising dogs! (Update: the gate has now been padlocked to stop misuse)

Other reports from Spotlight walkabout on 14th February: Chris Poore had reported to the Friends that he had raised an order for further repairs and improvements to the sides and surface of the back path (downhill east/west from Higham Road gate); that work is going ahead to install a 360 degree camera on the lamppost outside the Lordship Lane gate for a trial period to address anti-social behaviour (there will be notices); that a No Dogs allowed sign would be installed in the MUGA; and that works should be starting soon to fill in the cracks and put down a limestone overlay on the surface of the Loop Track. The Spotlight walkabout also highlighted some new areas of concern such as the gaps in the hedge on the northern boundary of the Rec and between the path and playing fields and the loose slats on the vehicle bridge over the Moselle.

Any Other Business: AGM and 20th anniversary of the Lordship Rec Users Forum

Annual General Meeting: Everyone is invited to attend the Friends AGM which will be held on 2nd April. It has been agreed to only offer basic refreshments as the following Wednesday 5th April, the Friends have organised a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Lordship Rec Users Forum from 6.30-8.30.