

FRIENDS OF LORDSHIP REC: Notes of monthly meeting, 9th May 2021 on Zoom

WHO WAS THERE: Dave Morris (Chair); Caroline Jepson (notetaker) Alyson Bradley; Catherine Collingborn; Colette, Gary; Joan Curtis; Nina, Sally Haywill

APOLOGIES: Linda, Kate

Notes of last meeting on 11th April: These were agreed with one correction re. supply of woodchip. It was incorrect to state that our normal woodchip suppliers had not been responding to our requests; rather that they had not been able to supply us with woodchip without logs as we requested.

UPDATES ON FRIENDS PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Woodland Group: Catherine, organiser of this group, reported that there would be a Friends workday on 15th May and a TCV workday on 25th May. If woodchip were available then this would be the main task; otherwise chopping back dogwood. Sedges and forget-me-nots had been planted around the new pond. Catherine is reviewing whether to do more digging out of the upper stream as this had recently been blocked.

The recent delivery of sand near the top of the wood is probably intended to fill in cracks in the rugby field in Downhills Park.

Memorial by edge of Woodland: Alyson raised a discussion on whether the bomb shelter memorial should be moved to nearer the Downhills Gate. The present site of the memorial is now waterlogged, as the current constant flow of water in the stream has not been stemmed by the digging of the new pond. The new pond has alleviated the waterlogging down the verge to some extent but it may have increased the water near the memorial. (There are known to be springs in the area between the two parks and they do move around).

The present memorial site also suffers from being by the large dip in the path and the protective fencing placed around the path cracks. The cause of the path sinking is still a mystery as investigations by Thames Water have revealed their pipe under the path is not broken, as thought, but intact. There are ongoing discussions between Thames Water and Haringey Council as to who is responsible for restoring the integrity of the path, but it is presumed that this will be resolved at some point in the near future and the path repaired..

Because of the expected work on the sunken path and cracks, it was agreed to leave the memorial where it is for the time being, but the situation will be kept under review.

Orchard: Sally, organiser of this group, had welcomed a couple of new volunteers to the regular Thursday morning work sessions. Unfortunately there had been some recent damage to one of the hazel coppice guards and the dumping of ivy over the fence had broken a fruit bush. However, Alex has created an amazing map of the Orchard with information on what is planted and some associated QR codes. Once a minor error is corrected by Sally, she will put some notices with QR codes on some trees in the Orchard. The map would also be put up on the website. Alex was thanked for his efforts in creating a wonderful resource.

Harmony Gardens and Broadwater Farm Growing project Joan, reported that the HG community garden continues to be open on Tuesday and Fridays from 11.30 for volunteers and public to drop in. Joan has written a business plan for HG. The Broadwater Farm gardening project which will be located on the terraces of the Estate blocks, will soon be starting. Sally

will pass on to Joan the contact number of a BF resident who was interested in growing vegetables.

River and Lake: Caroline, who is leading on issues connected with the management of the River, reported that Alex Briant from Ebsford, the maintenance contractors, had been in touch asking for a response on how we see the role of volunteers in relation to the river and what training and equipment we require. Caroline will draft a reply and circulate to the core group members for any comments before sending to Alex.

Caroline had also been in email contact with Sam Balch, who is now back in role with Haringey working on tackling misconnections. Sam had said that Thames Water would soon be seeking new misconnections. Unfortunately the rectification of the major primary school misconnection which was completed two years ago has not had the significant improvement it was hoped.

Another island in the Lake has come free and Caroline and Joan will be getting the waders on to tie it back in place.

Lordship Litterpickers: Caroline, organiser of this group, reported that the group is enjoying the task. An extra litterpicking session will be run in the Rec on the weekend of 12/13th June as part of the Tidy Up Tottenham big events weekend which Colette and Emma are coordinating.

Friends Publicity, Facebook and Website: Notes of the monthly meetings will now go on the Website. Facebook is very positively interactive. Joan was thanked for supporting the Facebook to be so positive.

Play Equipment: Joan had written to the two parents, who she and Dave had recently met, who had raised issues about play equipment which needed modifying and who had approached the Council about this issue. Joan had also written to the Council to ask if there was progress. The development of a parents group would be extremely useful to ensure there was progress in developing new play equipment for the Rec – a natural playground near the front entrance was on the wishlist.

Bats: The existence of bats in the Rec has now been established by using bat detectors on two evening walks, but this did not mean that the bats were living in the Rec. A contact of Sally's - Max – had a very sophisticated bat detector and had picked up the calls of pipistrelle bats as expected but also possibly a seratin bat, which is rarer. Local enthusiast Jeanette Sitton was happy to run a public walk later in the summer. Sally would contact Jeanette.

Bio-diversity: Catherine will chase Annabel Foskett, Haringey Bio-diversity officer for another date for the cancelled walk with us around the Rec.

Helena Taylor of TCV Haringey approached Catherine and Caroline to arrange another walkabout of the Rec, as she was so impressed by what she saw in January. This has been arranged for Thursday 13th May and Ruth and Sally will also be meeting Helena.

Sally has prepared a presentation for the Haringey Climate Forum zoom meeting on 17th May where she will talk about improving the bio-diversity of the Rec through community action. She asked for any old photographs of the Rec, which shows how it was before tree planting and other habitat improvement works. Dave provided some context for her powerpoint presentation.

Greenspace Information for Greater London: (GIGL) Dave had circulated the summary report of information on bio-diversity currently held by GIGL. It is very sparse and does not reflect the

habitat and bio-diversity known to now be in the Rec. We have been asked by Annabel Foskett to add information on individual spots to the GIGL database, but this needs further discussion as it is then very difficult to extract the information – you have to request a report.

MAINTENANCE

Dave attended the Lordship Rec User Forum Practical Co-ordination meeting on 15th April, with Jeffrey Lennon and Stuart Hopking from Haringey Parks. Some of the previous site visit proposals for discouraging anti social activity near the Lordship Lane entrance were agreed such as moving the benches slightly further into the park, and the fallen tree into the north east corner of the main field. Jeffrey Lennon had leafletted the houses bordering the Rec to explain that gates should not be created as accessing the Rec this way was not permitted. Dave had met with Mitre, who will be carrying out work on path cracks and divots, to look at what was needed in the skateboard area and Jeffrey Lennon had also walked about with Mitre to look at the extent of the work needed on paths and what was possible within the budget.

FUTURE EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

BIG EVENT ON 26TH JUNE:

Lily Labonte, Haringey Council, was co-ordinating a large event in Lordship Rec, which would launch a borough-wide People Need Parks programme of activities, running during July and August, in Haringey parks and aiming to attract people who do not usually use parks or take physical exercise. Activities would be running each Thursday in Lordship Rec. The 26th June launch event would also be used to celebrate the Friends 20th anniversary. Joan and Caroline were contributing to the People Need Parks project by leading a walk each Thursday, for which under the Service Level Agreement they would be paid. This fee could go towards costs for the Friends 20th anniversary celebrations.

It was agreed that the Friends would have a stall on 26th June and produce our own publicity to distribute. Joan was hoping to run an exhibition of Friends flyers and photographs in the Hub. Dave would prepare a Friends volunteer questionnaire to be ready for the 26th June.

FOREST SCHOOL: Joan and Colette had met with Linda, who is a member of the newly formed Forest School collective and had a good walkabout with Linda around the Rec and Harmony Gardens showing her a range of locations. Joan had also told Linda about the other groups working in the Rec such as Rockstone and Wheelytots as the FSC are keen to work in partnership with other groups and add value to current work. The Forest School Collective is hoping to fundraise for sessions and activities starting in the Autumn. This will be low impact work and may be aimed at adults.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE FRIENDS: Because of the difficulties caused by the pandemic and the demand on funders, fundraising for Friends activities may become increasingly difficult. Joan's application to Awards for All had been turned down and the feedback was that the demand was overwhelming. We can apply for parks Small Grants for £1K but this will not cover the cost of infrastructure for an event like the Flower and Produce Show. How we fund activities in the near future is going to need a lot of thought.

End.