

FRIENDS OF LORDSHIP REC: Notes of monthly meeting, 4th July 2021

WHO WAS THERE: Geoff, Joan , Friedrich, Benjamin, Caroline (note taker), Sally , Dave, Liz, Nina APOLOGIES: Alyson, Catherine

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING ON 6TH JUNE: These were agreed

REFLECTIONS ON 26TH JUNE FESTIVAL: All agreed it had been a very enjoyable event and there had been excellent feedback on the Friends Facebook. However Haringey Council's organisational arrangements on the ground had been lacking in some respects. The Council did not print enough detailed programmes covering the whole site. There also needed to be clearer information on dealing with lost children. Luckily the Friends had printed a leaflet about what was happening in our area, south of the bridge, and we gave out 700 from our stall. We also signed up 20 new members.

A very good film had been made of the event which was available on the Friends website and Facebook, which really highlighted the diversity of park users and the huge range of ways in which people use and enjoy the Rec.

FRIENDS PROJECT UPDATES:

Orchard: A couple of the young trees have got fungi, but generally trees are doing well – no need for watering this year, which is a huge bonus. Sally was liaising with the park staff on getting the outside path mowed. Sally had set up a Whatsapp group for the volunteers (sessions are on Thursday mornings, 9-11) and this group were really developing their understanding of what to do in the orchard.

Woodland Group: Catherine had circulated her report prior to the meeting. Volunteers from the Friends (12th June) and TCV (29th June) had worked on water management, including digging out new pond where water enters wood, woodchipping the path, litterpicking and digging out invasive species (3 cornered leek and dogwood). Next Friends session is 10th July as trying to run this woodland group on 2nd Saturday of the month. Catherine has also sent information to Helena Taylor of TCV for the Conservation Action Plan.

River: Caroline reported that she and Joan had resorted to clearing the eastern grille on two occasions which had helped the River to keep flowing. There was still a problem where it narrows as it leaves the silt pond, but the eastern grille was crucial. An onsite meeting with Chris Patterson of Haringey, who is responsible for the maintenance contract, and Stuart Hopking of the operational staff, to discuss managing the debris on the eastern grille is scheduled for 21st July.

Lake: Joan was meeting Annabel Foskett, Haringey Conservation Officers at the Lake on 5th July, together with Salix River and Wetland Services Ltd and Jeffrey Lennon, the Haringey Parks Project Officer, to discuss a project for improvements around the Lake.

WALKABOUT WITH ANNABEL FOSKETT ON 2ND JUNE: Dave has circulated notes of the meeting to ensure there was a record. Annabel had added some actions but Dave has sought clarification on how the actions suggested by Annabel link in with Helena Taylor of TCV's request for information from Caroline, Joan, Catherine, Ruth and Sally for the Conservation Action Plans she is developing

HARINGEY FRINGE, PLANNED FOR SATURDAY 31ST JULY: Benjamin explained that he was a regular park user, actor and runs a small theatre company. Inspired by the history of festivities and performances in the Shell Theatre and Rec, he came up with the idea of a Haringey performance festival. With the help of the Hub, his plans for a trial run on 31st July has been approved by the Council. The trial will only take place in the Rec, at the Shell (no tech) and the Hub (some tech), but if it is successful the ultimate aim would be a Haringey-wide Fringe. He had been liaising with Haringey Shed, New Tottenham Singers, and has 20 groups coming on the 31st, but is trying to meet up with everyone (a huge task, as he is being given more and more contacts in diverse and creative Haringey!).

FOREST SCHOOL: Linda and Angie ran a stall at the 26th June Festival to meet park users and help them work up their plans for regular sessions in the Rec, engaging with outdoors and nature.

FRIENDS – OUR COMMUNICATIONS Dave created a basic Volunteers questionnaire for the Festival; Joan agreed to make it more attractive with pictures – we will need to get it online. The Hub reopening will help with communications as we will have our information table back again. We need leaflets about the Orchard, Spinney, Harmony Gardens, to complement the ones we have on the Woodland, Lake and River. Social media is ticking over and the Facebook is a positive place. Creating Booklet about the history and work of the Friends: Joan and Dave to meet to discuss the booklet and how to proceed. Joan's Timeline showing key points in the Friends history was great to show people at the Festival – it was well worth printing in colour despite the cost. Dave and Joan need to submit invoices for printing to Caroline.

FUNDRAISING:

Awards for all: Joan's application for a year's worth of funding for events and activities has been turned down. She has made another application to the Lottery for the Flower and Produce Show, which is scheduled for 11th September.

We have had some more positive noises coming out of Haringey that the ringfenced Small Grants pot for Lordship Rec still exists. So Dave will be making a couple of applications on behalf of the Hub and Joan will be putting in an application for the Flower and Produce Show.

There have been a couple of commercial organisations filming in the Rec – BTSports on Football and the Windrush Generation, and H & M Christmas commercial. This will result in some funds coming to the Friends.

Trees for Cities will also be starting up again in the Autumn, and a fee will be payable to the Friends each time they bring corporate volunteers to the Rec, (amount depending on number of volunteers) in recognition of the time Friends give to the administration of these days.

PARK ISSUES

Unauthorised events: Large informal gatherings in the Rec, sometimes publicised through social media have increased recently and the Council has been concerned about how to manage the consequences of music/food/large numbers of people and avoid this type of usage escalating. The official position for staff and volunteers of the Friends and Hub is that i) if we are asked by members of the public about organising events in the Rec we will always direct them to the Council to get the relevant permissions and ensure correct procedures on health and safety etc and ii) if gatherings are actually taking place in the Rec we do not have any responsibility to support, object or engage with people involved – this is a matter for the regulatory authorities.

The Lordship Lane gate: The area around the entrance is used by many people, some of whom engage in a degree of anti social behaviour including drinking, loud music and using the bushes as a toilet – this is difficult for people in the flats. The Council, and park user groups agreed to discourage people gathering there by moving benches and log and relocating them further into the Rec. This was to encourage people to gather further into the Rec away from the flats, not to stop them using the Rec. Unfortunately things have not gone according to plan and despite Dave's efforts the log has been chopped up and the benches are still in the depot. We will push for them to be relocated.

Lorries: These are regularly being driven on the grass, which they should not, as it causes a great deal of damage. This has been raised with the Parks Department. Apparently Haringey are trying to acquire vehicles with narrower wheels to solve this problem.

Path going westwards from Higham Road entrance. Agreed that the need for action before the autumn/winter makes the mud and puddling situation on this path much worse, will be raised with Haringey at Practical Co-ordination meeting. We know that this has been a long term issue for park users, esp. for buggies and children walking to school.

Advertising labels on seats, lampposts. We agreed Nina can just remove these, as we want to discourage this practice.

Bats: Dave will contact Jeanette again to see if a public walk can be arranged.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Sunday 1st August, which is the first Sunday of the month, our regular meeting time.