

Friends of Lordship Rec: Notes of monthly meeting: 1st October 2023

Attending: Alyson, Catherine Collingborn, Joan Curtis, Caroline Jepson, Friedrich, Mike, Sally Haywill

Apologies: Dave Morris

Notes of last meeting held on 3rd September 2023: Agreed as correct.

PROJECT UPDATES

Woodland group. The volunteer session took place on 2nd September to avoid clashing with the Flower and Produce show and focused on cutting back the western edge and litterpicking. Haringey TCV continued to replace the edging boards in their September session and will continue on 31st October. Catherine has spoken to Chris poore about acquiring additional edging boards. We now have woodchip to renew the path so two sessions are planned for 7th and 15th October the latter moved from Sat 14th to accommodate a Wheelytots bushcraft birthday event.

An issue has arisen about the granting of permission for a new Forest School to run taster sessions in October half term as a prelude to running a Forest School every weekday from January. The Friends only found out by accident, via a flyer, that Haringey had granted permission for this plan, contrary to established procedures which required the permission of the Friends, being the main managers of the Lordship Woodland area. The Friends have corresponded with Haringey officers asking that permission be withdrawn to allow the Friends to consider the application, carry out a site visit and explain the Forest school guidelines (e.g. no fires) which we have drawn up and are in line with Haringey's own Parks policy. Catherine has also been liaising with Wheelytots clarifying rules on fires and Wheelytots have asked for guidelines to be drawn up for bushcraft sessions as well as forest schools.

Orchards and Meadows. The Orchard group is shrinking as some regular volunteers move on; but work continues on Thursdays. There is some damage to apple trees but the pear harvest was very good.

The facebook post did not produce an adopter for the new walnut tree, but Mike will approach a contact he thinks will take it on once the walnut tree is planted on the west side of the Rec.

Sally is working on developing new practical skills training sessions with Cassandra of Haringey Conservation Volunteers which can be offered in 2024 which will enable the coppicing of more of the hazels. She is considering organising a Wassail probably on the weekend of 14 January.

Sally had liaised with Alex, who mows the meadows, and these have now been cut in line with the maintenance plan. Sally is considering asking for Areas 1 and 2 to be mown in the Spring as thistles are now so dominant. Caroline thought that some parts of the meadows north of the Moselle Brook, where thistles are also dominating, could be included in the mowing plan for 2024.

Lake: The new dipping platform has been completed with the addition of the gate, a safety measure, although it is generally being left open! Do we need a small "Please shut the gate" notice or is this OTT? The appearance of the green miniature houses model on the island remains a mystery. It was agreed to leave it on the island for the time being. A work session, clearing out debris from the water, weeding, and coppicing willows is needed. Caroline will look at the calendar and suggest a date(s). The result of the funding application to the Environment Agency, (submitted by Haringey but based on an application written by Joan and Caroline last year), will not be known until January.

Moselle Brook: *The September volunteer session* was very successful in clearing a large stretch of the brook of excessive vegetation and blockages. We are pressing Haringey for contractor action on the willows

as a prerequisite to any input by volunteers. Three of the volunteers would be attending Riverfly monitoring training run by Thames 21. Caroline and John Miles recently **attended an online meeting**, convened by Thames 21 and including representatives from Thames Water, EA and Haringey to discuss progress with the whole Moselle. We learnt that Thames Water is still working on identifying misconnections in Haringey Heartlands and has not moved to the area between the High Road and the Rec. We also learnt that, once again, Haringey does not seem to be taking action on misconnections referred to it by Thames Water for enforcement. Councillor Sue Jameson agreed to pursue this lack of action. Thames 21 will be convening these meetings every three months.

Flower and Produce show on 9th September: Despite the unseasonably hot weather, which reduced the number of people in the park on that day, the event went well with a good number of entries. All the reserves that we had for the Flower and Produce show have now been spent, so for an event in 2024 we would be starting fundraising from scratch. Joan is trying to think of a new angle to appeal to funders, such as making it a Green University event.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS for 2024 **Bio-diversity Surveys and Data:** Mike raised the need for ideas and plans on how we should draw together and use the data we have already been collecting on bio-diversity both informally and through the Bio-blitz, i-naturalist, and some formal surveys. A start would be to have a "what to look out for this month/sightings board" located somewhere in the Hub.

Update Our Vision meeting: The Friends Vision document was written in 2005 and a great deal has changed since then!. Joan had brought copies to the meeting and although its still an impressive ambitious document, it does need updating. Joan suggested that we substitute a normal monthly meeting with a special meeting to get input from as wide a range of organisations and park users as possible to rewrite the vision. The ethos should be that all suggestions would be welcome whether feasible or not, to generate excitement and enthusiasm and potentially motivate a new generation of Friends.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES/UPDATES **Noticeboards:** Nina is still unable to use the noticeboard by the Downhills Park Road gate as there has been no action repairing the top hinge (and ideally replacing the door with the bullet holes) **Maintenance meeting held on 14th September:** Dave, Caroline and Joan met with Chris Poore and Alex Goodyear to discuss new and outstanding issues. CP said he would order in the contractor to deal with rats and that at least one enforcement notice had been issued to rough sleepers in the Rec. The meeting concluded with a walkabout to inspect some areas of concern including the gaps in the fence to the playing fields and the water accumulating at the Lordship Lane gate. **Weeding:** The Parks Department are fading out the use of weedkiller. The Friends had asked for weedkiller not to be used around the paddling pool, but had offered to consider weeding it ourselves. Caroline agreed to look into any non chemical weeding tools/methods that would lighten this task if we take it on. Alyson explained that teasels were a bit of a problem in the model traffic area and showed Caroline what the small plant rosettes look like for early action.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS Frederick Ernst raised the issue of **New Road green space** and asked for the support of the Friends of Lordship Rec. As the Friends of Friends of Haringey Parks Forum have already written to the Council on behalf of the community, our support is through this Forum. **Tottenham Grammar School Foundation:** The Secretary had written a very positive reply to our invitation to show the trustees around the Rec so they could see our work and the work of other local organisations for young people.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Sunday 5th November. 2pm in the Hub.