

Friends of Lordship Rec: Monthly coordination meeting Dec 7th 2025

Present: Dave, Sally, Nina, Joan, Chuku, Sara, Alyson, (Stewart & Rachel attended until realising the meeting was not about the Hub). *Apologies:* Liam, Catherine, Xime, Caroline and Mike

Congratulations to all our volunteers.

- The Friends of Lordship Rec have been awarded Haringey Volunteer Team of the Year 2025! Joan collected the award at the annual Haringey Community Showcase event. A big thank you to the hundreds of hours put in by dozens of local people in all our various working groups - to help maintain the park and to organise community activities and so on.

Dry Garden

- The Council have agreed to support our proposal to convert into a dry garden the area formerly occupied by the now-removed zip line. It could make an ideal habitat for bees.
- Mike is in discussion with Simone (who is overseeing the playground upgrade this winter) about next steps. Some initial preparatory work to the ground could possibly be done by contractors working on the refurb work on the playground.

Orchard report

- Sally (with help from Joan) has produced a fantastic Orchard Report. It's a four page, A4 pamphlet in glorious colour giving an overview of the great work done there in the last year.
- Everything seems to have survived the seasons so far.
- A fig tree has been planted. The Almond tree has suffered an act of vandalism – someone tore off the West facing branch.
- Our annual Wassail event is set for Sunday Jan 11th 2pm-5pm.
- Volunteers will meet on the last Sunday of the month (Dec 28th). They will be cutting brambles, laying woodchip and perhaps scything.

River report - No update

Lake report - No update. The next session will be on Monday 15th Dec 9 – 11am

Woodland report

- Volunteers did a lovely coppicing session with TCV. Plenty of coppiced branches are left over for use for weaving into more fencing.
- Dave has applied as usual for our annual Green Flag Award for managing the woods

Litter Picking report - Continues to go well.

Another massive commercial event proposed by the Council for July 2026

- After our strong objections, the Council withdrew proposals for an inappropriate and unacceptable massive 4 day commercial Beer Festival taking over our main field in July. Our objections included potential damage to underground drainage pipes throughout the field, and also threat of thousands of people trampling over the carefully created grassland areas. As we stated, there are plenty of acceptable indoor and outdoor venues available all over London.

- However, another company has now proposed to hold a 5000-strong commercial music gig (£60 entry) on the main field on July 25th this summer.
- It would mean taking over and fencing off the main field for about 10 days right at the beginning of the school summer holidays.
- We have already sent in a strong objection letter.
- Annie from the council replied saying that the organisers have come up with a plan. Dave requested to see the detailed proposals so that we can discuss it further. But nothing was shared with us before the meeting (and still not as of 21st December). We don't know how they propose to guarantee not to cause damage to the field's drainage system or prevent disruption and damage to sensitive planting and wildlife.

Free Community Picnic on 25th July

- The meeting approved a proposal to promote a free Community Picnic on Saturday July 25th, instead of the commercial event proposed. It is a long-running aspiration to hold activities at the front of the Rec near the main entrance. The aims would be:
 - celebrate the successful community/Council regeneration of Lordship Rec.
 - Next year is the 25th anniversary of Friends of Lordship Rec (formed in June 2021)
 - to celebrate the beginning of the school holidays
 - to celebrate National Love Parks Week.
 - to organise a positive, inclusive, local community alternative to any commercial proposal.
- We would hope and expect that the Council will not allow a commercial company to come in against our wishes - to make profits by excluding the public from our main field, Tottenham's largest public green space, for over a week at the beginning of the summer holidays. There was discussion about what would happen if the Council tried to impose the commercial takeover despite our objections – and despite us being the co-managers of the park. Would they ask us to run the picnic event on a different day? We could cross that bridge if we come to it. We could also if we wish hold a protest on that day. After all, if this is allowed, we could face this threat every year as companies look for cheap profits from access to our public spaces. *Update: We have informed the Council about the planned community picnic.*

Fundraising opportunity

- The Metropolitan and Public Gardens Association may be able to offer up to £1,300 funding for small greenspace projects like our dry garden. *Update: Mike to look into.*

Maintenance

- Cracks in pathways seem to have got a lot worse lately. Proper repair is hugely expensive, but not doing it means paths are unsafe and it makes the eventual cost even greater. It was suggested that we start to informally map the state of the cracks in the paths with photographic evidence. Any volunteers?
- The parks service is drafting an 'Expression of Interest' to the Lottery for a grant for Lordship Rec of approx £1.5 million. This would be in partnership with us, and would be to maintain and build on the success of the huge achievements made possible by our last major Lottery grant in 2010. Progress on this with the council is very slow and we await the promised draft that we can check and contribute to.

National Protest

- There's a proposal for a national day of protests (maybe in local areas) about the underfunding of essential park services, and the need to protect green spaces. It has been supported in principle by Haringey Friends of Parks Forum and also the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces. The annual Love Parks Week, starting at the end of July, might be a good moment. We need to consider the pros and cons of a large national event versus coordinated, local, more accessible events.
- *Update: The NFPGS has agreed to back a day of local action/activities being organised by the Community Planning Alliance on April 18th, in the build up to the May 2026 Council elections.*