

Lordship Rec Users Forum - Special User Groups Meeting

Lordship Hub, 28th February 2024

Present: Carola (Lordship Hub), Clasford (Broadwater United FC + London Elite), Mike (FLR Orchard Group), Shad (Rockstone Bikes), Caroline (FLR Litterpickers Group + FLR Moselle Group), Dave (Friends of Lordship Rec), Joan (FLR + Lordship Hub), Pamela + kids Josiah, Hope and Faith (Trove Market), Sandra (Friends of Harmony Gardens + Lordship Hub + Women's Assoc), Mark (Shell Performing Arts Collective), Gemma (Lordship Sports and Activities Consortium), Rajiv (Lordship ParkRun), Nigel (BUFC + London Elite), Emma Betts (LBH Community Engagement) **Apologies:** Catherine (FLR Woodland Group), Colette (FLR Woodland Group), Emma (Lordship Junior ParkRun), Jacob (BWF Res Assoc), Chris (BWF Res Assoc), Ruth (Friends of Harmony Gdns), Lily (LBH Activities), Sally (FLR Orchard Group), Daniel (Lordship ParkRun), Christina (OK Foundation), Andrei (Uptop Dance), Augustine (Broadwater Community Centre), David (Wheelytots + LSAC), Hesketh (LSAC), Louise (FoHGdns)

1. Background

The aim of the meeting was to bring together the user groups in and around the Rec (currently around 20 groups) to see how each are progressing and their current needs, to support each other, and to reiterate and enhance our joint vision for the park. For the last few years - since the main regeneration works throughout the Rec were fully completed - the LRUF coordination meetings have focused mainly on repairs, maintenance and improvements. Meetings have involved mainly the Friends and their working groups and Council officers, with other user groups participating when there has been an issue important to them. Last year 30-40 user groups reps came together for the first time in ages to celebrate 20 years of very successful Lordship Rec collaboration and partnerships, and we resolved to continue to develop this wider collaboration.

At this meeting a set of documents was distributed to all present, summarising what we've achieved together over the last 20 years, current regular and specific events planned this year, basic current information about some of the groups and the Hub, and ideas for the future ('Lordship Village'). The pack included our previous 'Mission Statement' from 2006, which needs updating.

2. Group reports

Broadwater United FC Has been going for over 40 years doing youth/community development as well as coaching and playing football. There is a steady programme of 11 youth teams. Offer advice and support for families. They no longer do the large annual presentation events as they are now too costly. Have a contract with the Council to run holiday schemes to provide positive activities for local kids. Parents are trained up to be volunteers. Looking for extra funding to keep going.

Lordship Hub The Hub is run entirely by and for the community, as a co-operative. Things are back to pre-Covid levels with lots of community activities. Looking to involve more Hub users in developing and organising more community events using Hub facilities. Art exhibitions. Weather station. Thursdays include free meals and food bank. Supporting park groups/activities. Funding is very tight, and an ongoing challenge. The Hub print and distribute a monthly programme. In a recent Council borough-wide survey the Hub was identified as a highly popular community centre for a wide range of cultural events.

Lordship Rec Orchard Group The orchard field is looked after completely by volunteers. Trees are planted, adopted and named by local families. The landscape/site of the orchard is not ideal due to very wet winters and very dry summers. Hazels have been coppiced and cut branches used for tree protection and windbreaks/dead hedging, and grass cuttings are used. Wassail, a tree celebration event, was very well attended (2-300 local residents). Volunteer sessions happen on Saturday mornings and pruning/grafting workshops coming up.

Harmony Gardens Managed by the Friends of Harmony Gardens. Have open sessions twice a week. A few extra volunteers have joined recently and there is a lot to do. Volunteers are fixing raised beds, planting seeds and creating paths. Got a GLA grant for the children's garden and are working with a special needs school. Aim to build a new classroom/workspace. Also working with The Conservation Volunteers on the Spinney. Supported the successful Broadwater Farm residents' terraces gardening project.

Rockstone Bike Hub Had a tough year following the sad passing of Rocky. At present open Monday to Saturday 10-5pm. Bike rental is still ongoing (including occasional mass hire by the Stamford Hill Jewish community). Impacted by issues of anti-social behavior around the front area of the Rec. Brakethru cycle club is still being run by Marcus. **Agreed:** LRUF to support Rockstone in their efforts to improve the atmosphere at the front entrance.

Friends of Lordship Rec Friends have been meeting monthly since 2002. Have a range of working groups, running around 12 volunteering sessions every month doing practical maintenance work in the Rec – plus other public events including the annual Flower & Produce Festival. The **Litterpicking** group started with Covid and the large numbers of extra people using the park. It is a growing group working in the wilder areas that the Council can't get into. There's a small group focused on trying to improve **the lake**, which recently obtained funding to design and install a new dipping platform and interpretation board and are hoping to get extra funding to refurbish the lake island. A team of **Moselle River** volunteers have been working with Thames 21 and Haringey Rivers Forum to do maintenance of the river on a monthly basis. The Friends, Thames Water, the Council and the Environment Agency are collaborating on how to make the river flow better, and Thames Water are still chasing domestic and business misconnections that pollute the water. Plans are afoot to thin out and manage the self-seeded willows along the river channel. The **Woodland group** continue to meet regularly to keep up the path through the wood, to manage sight lines and the constant flooding. The Friends have 1400 on their email membership list and 1900 on their lively Facebook page.

Trove Market Now a well established spring-to-autumn monthly community event in the Rec. Loads of activities for kids. Could do with more volunteers for set up and take down. Next Market will be April 6th. Have set up a youth running group for 11-19 yrs at Spurs. **Agreed:** LRUF to write to the Council saying that Trove Market is a free local community event organised by a Lordship Rec user group and so shouldn't be charged to use the park.

ParkRun and Junior ParkRun 2 volunteer teams coordinate the Saturday 5k adult ParkRun and the 2k children's ParkRun on Sundays. There are around 100-300 runners on Saturdays and 40-50 on Sundays, each with 15 volunteers supervising. The Hub opens early in support. Some of the volunteers on Saturday help Pamela set up the Trove Market and want to support the OK Foundation free food project. Have invited the Friends to have an occasional table to advertise volunteering opportunities in the Rec when the weather is better.

Shell Performing Arts Got funding to work with steel bands for the annual Blockorama event, which seems to get bigger and better every year. A short film of this has been made – see the Friends' website Gallery page. Joan suggested that the film could be shown at the Hub with a talk about the history of steel bands, say in October for Black History Month. SPAC also managed to get funding to repaint the Shell Theatre. Dan tries to organise 2 DJ skate jam events a year at the Shell at the beginning and end of the Summer. Shell Performing Arts can be contacted if anyone wants to use the Shell Theatre.

Lordship Sports and Activities Consortium Covid was quite disruptive but starting to get going again with regular activities at BWF Centre like Yoga and Zumba and roller skating. A Laureas contract allows LSAC to run a youth leadership training project to direct young people to the right courses, give out grants and organise work experience with professionals. The annual Youth Fest in the Rec (organised along with the Council) is a big part of their work and looking to do some Easter activities with Dalmage, and other activities like massage etc.

Women's Association of Lordship Rec Used to be very active in the Hub but many of the core organisers have got more involved in running their own projects but hoping to start up some women's activities in due course.

Others It was noted that there were a range of other formal and informal user groups doing lots of great stuff in the Rec. [See list in the Appendix below].

Events An annual events sheet has been produced by the Hub, and groups can add to this if they have any further key events.

3. Issues, and how can we help each other and work together better?

a. Keep communicating and supporting each other! For example Joan proposed we strengthen links with the Jewish community who have always hired bikes and ridden in the Rec in great numbers. Given the present situation in the middle east they may need extra encouragement about coming out to the Rec.

b. Getting and retaining volunteers is a challenge for many groups. Also encouraging new people to take on responsibilities and core positions in groups. It is not only about volunteering but also about community empowerment and involvement.

c. Widening the range of people involved Emma, the communities and inclusion officer for Haringey parks and greenspaces, explained that a big part of the new 15 year strategy for parks and greenspaces is about inclusion and how to engage sections of the community who are not usually involved.

d. Main entrance at Lordship Lane The LRUF have coordinated efforts and lots of meetings over the last 5 years to try to improve the front entrance area – involving the Friends, parks staff and the Council, police, residents, Rockstone and Friends and others. The aim has been to discourage people congregating at the front gate, drinking excessively and playing loud music. Its an ongoing challenge. **Agreed:** *we should revisit the idea of raising funding to create a kids/toddler play area near the main gate to help change the focus and atmosphere of the area.*

e. Maintenance Council staff and the Friends continue to oversee and address maintenance and repairs issues, including through regular LRUF meetings and walkabouts. The Friends continue to update the list of ongoing issues. Council resources are really tight, but overall the park is largely in good shape. A recent major issue has been that new lamp columns have been installed throughout the Rec. There have been a lot of teething problems which means some of them do not work. This is a public safety matter, especially for those using the Hub in the evenings. The Council know what the problem is and hopefully they will all be fully and reliably operational soon.

4. Developing our vision for the future

a. Lordship Village Thanks to all our efforts as user groups, Lordship Rec is now much more than just a park – its more like a village community. A 'Lordship Village' statement/proposal drawn up by the Hub has been endorsed by most of the key user groups. **Agreed** *The LRUF to back the 'Lordship Village' idea. We also agreed to look at our old vision statement from 2006 to evaluate what we have achieved and what we might want to add.*

b. Lordship Rec Management Plan The existing 2015-2025 Management Plan is coming to an end and we need a new one. The existing Plan was collaboratively co-written by the Council and LRUF, and has been an important and effective guide for us all. We need to start thinking about revising it soon.

Appendix – List of Lordship Rec user groups and other local stakeholders

USER GROUPS

Lordship Rec Users Forum (general co-ordination / co-management body for park stakeholder groups) – Regular Practical Coordination meetings/walkabouts.

Friends of Lordship Rec (for all individual park users, with autonomous working groups)

+ **Lordship Wildlife Group** (looking after the spinney)

+ **Lordship Rec Orchard/Grasslands Group** (improving the grasslands and managing the orchard field)

+ **Lordship Woodland Group** (managing the Woodland)

+ **Lordship Litterpickers** (fortnightly sessions);

Tottenham BMX Club (occasional youth sessions on Loop track and freestyle area);

Wheelytots (cycling, walks, food projects)

Lordship Rec Hub Co-operative (Run the Hub, with its own range of regular user groups)

+ **OK Foundation** (weekly free food project Thursdays at the Hub)

+ **Hub Music Circle** (monthly performance-sharing in the Hub cafe)

+ **Lordship Knitting Group** (based at the Hub)

+ **Older People's Group** (Thursdays at the Hub)

+ **Wildflower Gardening Group** (manage the small garden by the front entrance)
+ **Various other Hub-based groups/classes:** Many arts, crafts, fitness, well-being, age-related, and other activities
Rockstone Foundation (Run the Bike Workshop and Brakethru bike sessions in MUGA);
Friends of Harmony Gardens (Run the Harmony Gardens);
Broadwater United Sports and Academy Football / London Elite Sports FC (Manage the sports field, and 11 youth teams);
Shell Performing Arts Collective (Promoting use of the Shell Theatre);
Women's Association of Lordship Rec (organise range of events);
Lordship Rec Walking Groups (Up to 7 weekly walks);
Lordship Sports and Activities Consortium (Organise mainly youth-related events and programs);
Friends of Grahame Lee (original guardians of the central corridor copse);
Ghanaian Football Club (Sunday matches);
BMX / Skateboarding group (informal);
Trove Market (large monthly event);
Lordship Park Run (every Saturday)
Lordship Junior Park Run (every Sunday);
Silverfit group weekly at the Hub and park
Various other Rec-based activity/fitness groups
Broadwater Farm Community Centre
Green Action for Central Tottenham (promoting and supporting environmental sustainability).
Broadwater Farm Residents Association for the whole estate;
Tower Gardens Residents Group for the whole of the estate;
Bruce Grove Residents Network for the whole ward, with various street-level mutual aid groups as well

SOME OTHER NEARBY ORGANISATIONS

Actually / Haringey Autism Club
Misc Schools
Misc children's facilities (BWF Children's Centre, nurseries etc)
Misc Care Homes
Misc Sheltered Housing
Misc Medical Facilities
Misc other residents Associations/Groups eg Brookside Tenants Association
BUBIC
Haringey Youth Space
Home Start Haringey
Misc Libraries and associated groups
Misc faith groups eg Church on the Farm, St Benet Fink, Masjid Ayesha Tottenham
Misc community centres eg North London Community House, Winkfield Centre
COHENEL college