

Lordship Rec Users Forum: Special meeting for all user groups

Tuesday 17th February 2026, 6pm @ Lordship Hub

Present: Clasford Stirling and Nigel Norrie (**London Elite Sports And Football Academy, incl Broadwater United FC**), Joan Curtis and Dave Morris (**Friends of Lordship Rec, and Lordship Hub Co-operative**), Chris Hutton (**Broadwater Farm Residents Association**), Jacquie Baird and Mark Baird (**Shell Performing Arts Collective**), Paul Wheeler (**Haringey Water Squad, and Lordship Birders**), Louise Orton (**Friends of Harmony Gardens**), Mike Downs (**Friends of Harmony Gardens, and Lordship Orchard Working Group**), Beewan Athwal and Ebony Riddell Bamber (**Higham Road Whatsapp Group**), Dayal Strub (**Tower Gardens Residents Group**), Dan Batters (**Shell Performing Arts Collective, Open Shell, and Lordship Skateboarders**) **Apologies:** Shad (**Rockstone Bike Hut/Workshop**), Nora and Nura (**Lordship Hub Office**), Sharon (**Higham Rd Whatsapp Group**), Tim (**Lordship Parkrun**), David (**Wheely Tots**), Lily Labonte (**Haringey Parks Service**), Cllr Williams (**Haringey Council**)

In summary, the meeting agreed:

- *To continue to support each other*
- *To continue to support the Bike Shop, and a new toddlers play area at the front of the Rec*
- *To support a community/Council bid to the Lottery, and for the Friends to lead on this for the LRUF*
- *To continue to promote community empowerment and co-management of the Rec, and to support the community picnic celebration on July 25th*
- *To support the Friends' objection to a proposed commercial takeover of our main field in July, and to oppose any future industrial-scale commercial exploitation of the Rec – and to support a Save Lordship Rec campaign if needed (to be launched after March 1st).*

Minutes:

Dave Morris elected Chair. Joan Curtis took Minutes.

1. Intro: Dave welcomed everyone. He explained the role of the LRUF. It was set up in 2002 to ensure cooperation and coordination among the Rec's user groups and stakeholders, good partnership-working with the Council's parks service, and act as the park's co-management body. All-group general meetings, like this one, are occasional, but there are regular Practical Coordination meetings to liaise with Council officers over park repairs and maintenance.

He distributed a pack of documents to all reps present which included: *Agenda; Lordship EOI early version of proposed content/costings; LRUF previous minutes; LRUF Repairs and Maintenance bulletin; Misc info re Wheely Tots cycling / Moselle Project Fridays / Rockstone Bikes / Harmony Gardens; Friends of Lordship Rec minutes, Annual Report and Working Groups; Orchard Group Annual Report; Hub Programme and Annual Report; Friends new draft information leaflet about the Rec.*

2. Brief update from each group

London Elite Sports, incorporating Broadwater United FC: 3-400 young people weekly. Also involves youth and community development. They continue to manage the sports field as they have done for over 40 years.

Friends of Lordship Rec: Have 5 working groups organising regular volunteering sessions. Annual Flower and Produce Festival (organised through open planning meetings) – this year will be Sept 12th. Liaise with Parks Service officers on all park issues (repairs, improvements, consultations etc). Keep public informed via their social media. Designated 'Volunteer Team of the Year' at Haringey community awards in Dec 2025.

Lordship Hub Co-operative Busy daily programme of classes and activities, plus community events. Free food on Thursdays. £140k repairs in early summer, so lost a lot of takings. Afterwards raised £7k in a public appeal.

Broadwater Farm Residents Association Change in officers over the last year. Now meeting regularly, and planning a Women and Girls event. Liaising with Council over major works and consultations on the estate – some issues and challenges.

Shell Performing Arts Collective Annual Blockorama getting bigger each year – this year's will be on June 20th, 10th anniversary. Also annual Open Shell skate/DJ event(s). Supporting others to book the Shell (eg Polish and Italian community events) – 6 major events last year.

Haringey Water Squad Many Friends' volunteers take part in monthly clean ups of the river channel. Seeking improvements to the channel flow and biodiversity.

Lordship Birders New group, offshoot of the Friends. Doing monthly surveys. Identified 56 species of birds in the Rec.

Friends of Harmony Gardens Good core of volunteers thesedays, and the garden is looking good. Aiming to make sure it is protected in any future works to the Broadwater Centre.

Lordship Orchard Working Group Part of the Friends. Manage the orchard. Organise regular training (pruning, coppicing etc). 250 attended their annual wassail event last month.

Higham Road Whatsapp Group Run by and for residents of Higham Road. Keep their eye on any local issues.

Tower Gardens Residents Group The group has expanded over the last couple of years. A subgroup have set up a campaign to ensure the empty 100 Tower Gardens Rd building is restored as a community-run community hub. Had some promising negotiations with the Council about that.

Lordship Skateboarders / BMXers Have linked up with other Haringey skateboarding groups, and substantial funding (from a Pride In Place grant) has been secured for improved facilities in east Tottenham.

Rockstone Bike Hut/Workshop Couldn't make the meeting. Have had issues with anti-social behaviour. Currently re-organising the inside of the shop.

Lordship Parkrun Written report: Over 200 attend the weekly adult run around the Rec. Also a separate group organise a junior run on Sundays. A couple of organisers with professional skills have conducted a full detailed survey of all path repairs needed in the Rec as a contribution to preparations for a bid to the Lottery.

Wheely Tots Written report: Busy with cycling sessions in the park, food bank, and Moselle Project in the Broadwater Centre on Fridays. Seeking to access funding to expand.

Agreed: To continue to support each other

3. Improving the facilities/atmosphere at the front of the park: After many years of discussions, and some improvements made to the upkeep of the area, there are still unresolved issues. The Friends met at the site with a Council officer last year to call for a long-sought and much needed play area. £160k has now been earmarked - from Pride In Place funding from the Government to the Council - for a new toddler play area. It is hoped this will help transform the usage and atmosphere there.

Better enforcement in the front area has also been sought for years regarding some serious anti-social behaviour there. There will be a special meeting of the West Green Ward Panel on March 10th, 6pm in the Broadwater Centre. It will be chaired by Clasford, and the front area of the Rec will be on the agenda. All concerned are urged to attend. It was noted that the shops on Lordship Lane need to be involved in the discussions.

Agreed: To continue to support the Bike Shop, and a new toddlers play area at the front of the Rec

4. The Council, after discussion with the Friends, is currently developing an 'Expression of Interest' to the Lottery for substantial funding (maybe £1.9m) for essential works in the park eg. paths, drainage, skatepark surface, MTA paving, loop track, lake island, entrances, noticeboards etc. Our support, involvement and empowerment, and continuing good community/Council partnership, will be crucial if this is to be successful - as with our joint efforts in 2008-2009. The Friends have been told to expect a draft EOI soon for their comments/thoughts. If successful, a full bid application will follow. We noted that, with 1,000 extra residents expected on Broadwater Farm after the current major works there are completed, the above repairs and improvements to the Rec are much needed.

We also noted: a. The Friends have liaised with the Council re the £250k upgrade to the playground starting next month. b. The Hub is liaising over a new £80k Changing Places Unit and Storage Unit (which was planned to be brought in by the Hub last autumn but has been held up by the Council's Legal Dept). c. The Friends have bought and are ready to install a Water Bottle Filler by the Hub (also held up by Council delays). d. There is Pride In Place funding for improvements to the paddling pool.

Agreed: To support a community/Council bid to the Lottery, and for the Friends to lead on this for the LRUF.

5. Celebrating 25 years of collective efforts to save and regenerate the Rec As we all know, in 2001 the Rec was in a shocking semi-abandoned and semi-derelict state. The Friends were set up in June 2001, and the LRUF was set up 18 months later. Community empowerment and initiative has flourished ever since, resulting in a great deal of commitment and investment which has transformed the park into the thriving place it is now. Various buildings and areas of the Rec are managed by specific groups, and the Rec as a whole is co-managed with the Council's parks service (as enshrined in the Lordship Rec Management Plan and in the Conservation Action Plan). To celebrate, the Friends are calling for a community picnic in the main field on the first Saturday in the summer holidays, July 25th (afternoon). The Friends have filled in the booking form for the event, which is for people to bring their own stuff (food, chairs, games, gazebos etc). The Council leader, in response to a direct invitation, has expressed an interest in attending.

Agreed: To continue to promote community empowerment and co-management of the Rec, and to support the community picnic celebration on July 25th.

6. Saving Lordship Rec from industrial-scale commercial exploitation. A private company have applied to take over and wall off a large chunk of our main field for 7-10 days at the start of the summer holidays for a large, fee-paying, single day, commercial gig. The Friends of Lordship Rec have objected in the strongest possible terms to this proposed inappropriate and damaging 'invasion' of our park, which would exclude the people of Tottenham from our largest public open space. [It was noted that a similar application was withdrawn last year after a similar objection.] Council officers have held private meetings with the applicants, and details have been withheld from us despite our co-management of the park. This is unparalleled in the last 25 years.

It could be the thin end of the wedge, with the serious threat that the Council will want to exploit our lovely park as a 'cash cow' in the coming years as they have been doing - to great controversy - with Finsbury Park throughout each summer. If not withdrawn, this unilateral decision will cause ongoing controversy and conflict, and undermine 25 years of partnership-working and co-management. All present agreed, and indeed felt equally strongly that this could not and will not be allowed to happen. As always, we prefer to resolve any differences with our partner, the Council, by common sense internal communications and discussion. We decided to give the Council until March 1st to confirm the event will not be going ahead before we launch a public campaign in time for the local Council elections in May.

Agreed: To support the Friends' objection to a proposed commercial takeover of our main field in July, and to oppose any future industrial-scale commercial exploitation of the Rec – and to support a Save Lordship Rec campaign if needed (to be launched after March 1st).

7. Any other business: **2027 Haringey 'Year of Culture / Rebel Borough:** 2027 will be the 25th anniversary of the LRUF. It was felt our achievements, and plans for the future, will be worth celebrating again next year! **Publicity flyer for the Rec:** The Friends' draft flyer was circulated. Any corrections/suggestions to Joan and Dave.