

# Friends of Lordship Rec: Minutes 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Present:** Dave, Janet, Sara, Caroline, Sally, Joan, Chuku    **Apologies:** Liam, Mike

## Orchard report

- 1 new French tree has been planted
- Dry April is expected – will be challenging for young trees
- Good Gym will take place in Area 10 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>
- DJ MC event with teenagers will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 3. It is a voluntary community event – cleaning up with musical backup. Mike is liaising.
- Bioblitz event is planned for June 5<sup>th</sup> – with primary school children.

## Woodland report (from Liam).

*March Session:* Our recent session focussed on litter picking & relaying woodchip on the paths. Eddie led the group for this session.

*April Sessions* -The next regular session will be on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April at the usual time of 11-1pm

- TCV will be in the woodland on Tues 14<sup>th</sup> and we have a range of tasks we'll ask them to cover.
  - In case anyone would like to sign-up for it the link is here:
  - Sign-Up: <https://us3.list-manage.com/survey?u=8e0c6f93d2677069e8196b76f&id=939557d271>
  - Info: <https://www2.tcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/volunteer/activity-details?id=43128;date=20260414>

Likely tasks to include:

- Woodchipping the paths
- Repairs to the path edging
- Repairs to the dead hedges
- Removal of ivy in some sections where it is taking over
- Creation of beetle lodges / wildlife log piles with any deadwood
- Removal of roofing felt rolls

## Updates

- Rubble dumped in the wood - No update from the council
- Catherine is keeping the resident responsible up to date and is going to nudge Glynis at Haringey for an update on the quote to cover removal
- Caroline has kindly processed the invoice for TCV to run coppicing and tree-felling workshops and successfully claimed the funds back from Haringey - so thanks to Caroline and Joan for securing the funding and sorting it out. Win-win as TCV have a funds freeze and they can use the money towards new equipment.
- Dave to chase up Chris P about water still crossing the main path.

## Litterpicking

- New issue of vapes litter. Vapes need to be kept separate from other litter because of internal batteries. They need to be recycled separately – so need to be collected in a dedicated bag.
- Two new people have joined the team.

**Moselle River Report** – it's looking good and the smell has improved.

- Thames Water has been cleaning the sludge around the inflow area so that the Environment Agency can check inside the pipes for any blockages.

- Volunteers continue to clear the outflow area every month.
- Three deflectors have been inserted (very discreetly). These help to move the silt along and to keep the water oxygenated.
- A vegetation survey is pending.
- Sally will chat with Caroline about Pond Dipping.

### **Birders Group**

- The group will stay as an independent body who continue to cooperate with the Friends.
- Doing monthly bird surveys. A mammal survey is also mooted.

### **Pond Squad**

- Xime has been out of action for a while. Sessions are ongoing with Tim.
- The council have done some significant pruning of surrounding vegetation to keep paths clear.
- Floating Islands – money is available to re-establish them. Interested people will meet to discuss it.

### **General Park Leaflet**

- Our new, comprehensive leaflet about the whole park - the first full colour one about the Rec in 25 years - has been produced.. 3,000 copies in the first run. Looks brilliant. For events, Hub info table, etc.
- Dave suggests delivering copies to surrounding homes. He will organise distribution drops.

### **Flower and produce festival, Sept 12th**

- The next planning meeting will be on April 24th at 3.30pm in the Hub.
- Joan has applied for funding from Lottery, Tesco, PNP and others.

### **Playground update**

- The start date for renewal work is still not confirmed. Probably May, for 6-8 weeks.
- Further amendments have been made, and discussed with Friends reps (Joan and Dave). The playground area will be slightly extended.
- A new cable slide area will be added to the south of the fenced area.
- The climbing frame in the model traffic area will be replaced with something like some simple stepping stones.
- Simone, from the council, has been contacted about contacting up the 94 people who expressed interest in being involved with a playground users group linked to the Friends. This needs further chasing by Dave.
- A new dry garden – Mike is conferring with Simone about it.

### **Front area**

- Natural Pay Area - £160,000 has been allocated from Pride in Place funding to establish this new play area at the front of the Rec. Council officers will liaise with us, and also do public consultation.
- A neighbourhood Ward safety panel meeting took place with the police. Clasford chaired the meeting. Dave and Chuku attended. People expressed concern about various issues for the park and wanted to know what the authorities are doing. The Council have 2 new Enforcement Officers now in place.

**Commercial event – called off!** Following extensive behind the scenes lobbying by the Friends and the Lordship Rec Users Forum, including putting pressure of the leader of the Council and meeting up with the Cabinet Member for parks, the 7-day takeover of our main field (including parking on our meadow/grassland areas) has been called off. Dave met up with the organisers who shared full details (which had been withheld from us up to that point). He discovered that they had set up a new company in January to run the event. This hadn't been noticed by the Council, but once revealed it gave the Council a 'get out' clause as the new company would have had to

reapply from scratch. Hence we have successfully seen off what would have been a disaster, but the Council are still leaving options open for future events – although they have now promised that the meadow/grasslands would be out of bounds in future.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Picnic** Our planned picnic for July 25<sup>th</sup> can now go ahead without the shadow of the dispute over the commercialisation threat. There is a planning meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We propose a decentralised event in which each group brings their own picnic and activities if they wish, rather than a centrally-controlled event.

**Glyphosate weedkiller** has been used around the paddling pool and the model traffic area. The council says that this was an error and says that they aim to not do it again.

**Ramadan walk.** Dave led a walk around the Rec, starting at the Broadwater Centre. 25 people attended. It was enjoyable and informative.

## Finances

- Caroline has completed the accounts for the last financial year.
- All invoices are in. PNP and Tottenham Grammar School accounts are all in order.
- Our appeal via the Collctiv app has so far raised £710 in donations. Thank you everyone! We need to keep it going. Some people have set up standing orders.
- After our fundraising push we have covered the cost of our insurance and have additional, unallocated reserves of £1100.
- The Flower and Produce festival has reserves of £2,700 for this year's event.
- The orchard has reserves of £1,300.
- PNP funding – hopefully another sum of around £1000 will be available this year. Caroline will send around a reminder to people to suggest specific Friends events/activities that they would like us to apply for.

## AOB

There will be a **National Day of Local Actions for Nature and Parks on 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

- It aims to raise the profile of the importance and value of nature and green spaces in the run up to local elections in May.
- The local Borough wide Parks Forum Meeting is happening on the same day.
- Joan has produced a beautiful banner for the day (and beyond).
- So there is a plan to take the banner to a gathering (with people from the Forum meeting) by the ancient Oak tree in Bruce Castle Park at 1.10pm on the day.
- There will be a photo shoot followed by a press release.
- FLR agreed to support the action and agreed to fund a second banner (approx £14)

**Vandalised picnic table** – near the lake – has been burned through.

- The meeting agreed a proposal to inform the council and ask that they remove it.

## Guerrilla tree planting

- More than 8 young trees have been planted without permission, in area 10.
- Sadly, these particular trees are not helpful to the environment of the park long term.
- Some new trees may be needed but there is a process (involving the Friends and the Council) for anything done in the Rec, in this case for ensuring that the right trees are planted in the right places and properly looked after.
- Joan suggested posting a Facebook message which highlights the process and invites people to work with FLR on this matter.
- Otherwise – wait and see what happens with the new trees. They may well not survive.

## National Federation of Parks Survey

- Dave has been producing a major report about the recent survey of Friends Groups - 938 groups sent in detailed responses.

- The report includes a case study of Lordship Rec by Dave (with quotes by Joan), and of the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum.

### **Hedges**

On the west side of the model Traffic Area is a hedge-line in which we have decided should be half-cut and half left to grow more naturally. Recently a Council manager has asked staff to cut it all to head height. Dave will email him to explain things.

Hedges running long the back path:

- These hedges are turning into trees because they haven't been cut. They are leggy and not doing a good job as hedges. Also, they are in places obstructing the pathway.
- A strategy is needed for how to improve them.
- Dave will email Alex Goodyear about this issue and arrange a site visit.

**Shell Theatre** – Needs a long term strategy. Caroline will talk with Dan B about it .

**Barbeques** – To be discussed next meeting.