

Friends of Lordship Rec Minutes 7th June 2026

Present: Dave, Sara, Caroline, Nina, Sally, Max, Mike, Liam Apologies: Joan, Catherine

🎂 This meeting marks 25 years since the first meeting of FLR !! Happy birthday all!!

Orchard report

- Bio Blitz on 6th June was a great event. 60 children from the Willows School came along with 14 helpers including experts.
- Looking forward to future sessions – it would be good to prepare activities that cater to the huge range of needs and abilities of the children.
- It was suggested to report the event on Instagram, website or Facebook using quotes from the children but not using photographs of them.
- Volunteering day – had one new, keen volunteer.
- A young man has been keeping young trees well watered, using the tap in the allotment.
- Nature Film – A film maker called Thom is looking for funding to make a film about nature in the Rec. He has the full support of FLR.

Harmony Gardens

- Today there was a very successful plant sale in Harmony Gardens. Sold masses of plants.
- The garden is flourishing. It looks fantastic.

The Spinney (Planted by volunteers 25 years ago. Used to be a lake each winter!)

- Apparently someone was injured by a falling branch recently.
- The council paid for a consultant to inspect the trees. The consultant sent a full report to the council who shared it with FLR.. They asked for comments.
- Bearing in mind that safety trumps everything else, Ruth, Paul, Mike and Dave asked for a delay to any cutting work until after nesting season for the birds.
- FLR queried the consultant's conclusions. (The consultant was also the contractor for cutting the trees). We called in local arboricultural consultant, Russel, for a second opinion. Russel was more conservative in his estimation of which trees needed to be cut.
- Any clear safety threat will be dealt with – however the council have suspended the major action while they consider the issue.

Woodland report from Liam.

- Path edging is old and falling away. Volunteers are repairing it by staking in new dead wood. The plan is to create a neater path which will keep the wood chip contained.
- Feedback from some users is that the woodland is becoming too well groomed!
- Liam proposes to maintain, but not extend, the existing structure with dead-hedge areas because well-defined paths do help to allow biodiversity to flourish in other areas.
- The Woodland interpretation boards have been graffitied all over. And the wood supporting the boards is rotten. Decent quality replacement costs £2-3,000.
- There is a proposal for a new Forest School activity. Council officers need to be reminded to Consult FLR before agreeing dates etc. Otherwise conflicting events can clash.

Litterpicking.

- After the Bank Holiday (and heatwave) litter in the park was extreme. Bins were completely overflowing and litter was strewn all over the park. So some of our volunteering team carried out an **Emergency Litter Pick**. Colin and Marik from the Clean Team also did an emergency round.
- Haringey Clean Team, who are responsible for clearing and cleaning in all the boroughs 60 designated spaces, is chronically under-staffed.
- Due to lack of funds, there is a borough wide freeze on recruitment of any new staff. This issue was brought up with the council at the last borough-wide meeting of Friends of Parks. Groups asked to be informed and given an overview of the situation.
- Dave met with the new Cabinet rep and asked for confirmation that the Council can adequately cover the necessary work.

Moselle River Report

- The volunteering session on May 16th was a bit frustrating – the grill could not be cleared again because of the “bloody Moorhen’s nest” (Only joking!). Ideally the Moorhens would nest elsewhere, since their nest (with the babies) usually gets swept away in heavy rain eventually..... It happened again this year.
- Urban River Fly Monitoring – was taking place in Tottenham cemetery. Now is transferring to Lordship Rec.
- Haringey Water Squad plan to have a Facebook page which will be linked to the Lordship Rec Facebook page
- Caroline and Claudia went to a training session with Thames 21 about how to use their Citizen’s Dashboard. It’s still a work in progress.

Birders Group Lordship Rec Birders group had the results of their survey included in a recent British Trust for Ornithology report.

Pond Squad Xime is organising the next session for this coming Monday.

General Park Leaflet We are looking for people to help with translations into other languages.

Tottenham Flower and Produce Festival

- Joan’s application for Lottery funding was successful. We have been awarded £17,240 for the event on September 12th and for the pre and sequel connected events !
- The application form for entries to the Show has been drafted.
- Marie and Paulette are coordinating the pre-event workshops.

Playground update

- The council have agreed to postpone the upgrade works till after the summer holidays.
- Other parks’ experience of the upgrade process shows that it is very important to monitor the works closely. Council officers are overstretched and unable to monitor closely.

Front Area

- Consultation about the ‘Pride in Place’ funded natural play area at the front of the park will take place in the autumn, at the same time as the upgrade of the playground near the Hub.
- Rockstone Bikes appears to have closed down completely.
- Dave reminded the council that we must be consulted re who might take over the space.
- However, the council parks team no longer has full control over new leases since these are now managed by the Property services and Legal department.
- The Property services and Legal department are generally busy with bigger fish – so are not very responsive. Smaller properties get neglected and wasted.

Glyphosate weedkiller

- Policy on this is now to only use it for emergencies like Japanese Knotweed. This is a period of transition. Dave thinks that last winter was the cut-off date.
- Managing without using glyphosate requires more manual labour. This is problematic due to chronic understaffing and the freeze on recruitment.
- Dave to meet with the new cabinet member for parks – Erin Wolson of the Green Party.

Finances

- We now have funding from multiple sources: People Need Parks, Grass Roots and the Lottery. Caroline is clarifying the full picture to let people know where they stand.
- Dan will be seeking funding for an Open Shell event from People Need Parks.

Picnic table near the Lake – is still in situ –waiting for removal - it's set in Concrete.

Hedges along the back path

- Caroline has written a full report of the walkabout with Dave and Alex. It notes that:
 - It's important to cut the areas around the benches.
 - Virginia Creeper is an issue that needs to be clarified.
 - It may be a good idea to plant some Hawthorn whips this Autumn.
 - The aim of trimming the hedge is to thicken it for the sparrows – not to thin it out.

Barbeques

- Already patches of grass are suffering from barbeque burns.
- Byelaws – there is currently no byelaw for a blanket ban on barbeques in local parks. This is being reviewed. Friends groups will be consulted this winter.
- Council enforcement officers can't enforce a law that is not formally displayed for public notice.
- Joan is planning to put up posters soon.

Water bottle filler – No news. Ongoing delay in installing it due to Council issues.

Bat walks - The last bat walk was great. 45 people attended.

- In future tickets will be limited to 40.
- The next one will be on Friday July 10th.

Guerrilla tree planting

- Unauthorised, inappropriate trees have now been planted in the extension area of the orchard and in area 10.
- Shockingly, a special French Apple tree has been ripped out by the roots.
- Other things have also been cut back to make way for the unauthorised whips.
- Sally suggests:
 - a) trying to engage with the man responsible - to explain to him how we work-how carefully people plan to plant to plant the right thing in the right place – and then look after them in the long term.
 - b) Putting up a notice asking for him to remove his whips – and warning if not removed by him they will be removed by FLR.
- The meeting agreed to first put up a sign clearly stating that FLR need to be consulted about any planting in the park.