

## Report of meeting, 6th February 2016

**Present:** Lizzy Nazer (TCV), Clif Osborne (TCV), Joan Curtis (Friends of Lordship Rec), Anna Murnane (Friends of Tottenham Cemetery), Dave Morris (Friends of Lordship Rec), Joyce Rosser (Friends of Priory Common), Gemma Harris (Edible Landscapes, London), Catherine (Friends of Coldfall Woods & Muswell Hill Playing Fields), Tom Palin (Friends of Finsbury Park), Claire Parry (Friends of Downhills Park), Deborah Cawkwell (Friends of Markfield Park), Geraldine Turvey (Friends of Tottenham Green), Gordon Hutchinson (Friends of Alexandra Park), Lucy Roots (Friends of Queen's Wood), Pamela Harling (Friends of Meadow Orchard Project), David Warren (Friends of Parkland Walk), Ceri Williams (Friends of Chestnuts Park), Martin Ball (Friends of Down Lane Park) **Council:** Lewis Taylor (Parks Service), Sarah Jones (Events and Partnerships Manager - Parks and Leisure Services), Simon Farrow (Head of Frontline Services) **Apologies:** Derek Kingsland (Friends of Springfield Park Nature Area), Thiago (Friends of Springfield Park Nature Area)

### 1. Matters arising from last meeting:

**Minutes of last meeting** Agreed. **London Marathon** – Neil Gage, Council IT worker, is to run this year. Sponsorship page set up on the FoHP website by Deborah: [http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/london\\_marathon\\_2016.php](http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/london_marathon_2016.php) Jennifer Shedden in the Council's Communications Team has put a piece on their Intranet about the run. **Sustainable Haringey Compost Giveaway** – almost all 28 tonnes taken – next ones will be in April and October (useful compost fact sheet to be circulated to Forum).

**Haringey Divest From Fossil Fuels petition** has over 2000 signatures. Fossil fuels report went to planning committee and it has been agreed to move third of their investments. Will be discussed at full meeting in March. **Covenants:** This topic had been raised by several groups. Need to investigate various types of covenants (eg Fields In Trust protection, historic covenants for some parkland donated to Council, acts of parliament, covenants preventing developer access to the parkland walk etcetc). Clive (Finsbury Park) to send round email and compile info.

### 2. Events/activities in parks

Some personal fitness 'boot camp' sessions planned for Markfield Park supported by the Friends group had been cancelled due to a £40 council hire charge payable for events charging a fee to the users. The problem was that if there was low take-up, then there would be low or no profit for the organisers and it may fizzle out. It was felt to be in the interests of the park for people to organise such events. These organisers might additionally get involved with the Friends, especially important as numbers were low in some groups. The meeting asked that small regular events might have a period of grace with no fee payable. Sarah said that event organisers could apply for a small grant:

- <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/getting-involved/friends-groups/parks-and-open-spaces-small-grants-scheme-201516>
- [http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/funding\\_opportunities.php](http://haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/funding_opportunities.php)

If an event is organised by the Friends group, then there is no fee. If a small grant has been awarded, any hire fee (if included) should be paid back. It was felt that if any event is actively organised or indeed backed by the Friends it would be better to avoid this added layer of bureaucracy and work.

Since a changeover in Council's Events Staff, some Friends felt that information about events was not forwarded to the Friends groups. Dave and Sarah to check their email lists.

For filming notifications, a small donation to the Friends group was encouraged in some parks. Dave asked Sarah if this suggestion could be part of the filming consent. Indeed all event organisers could be asked to donate to any local Friends group. Deborah would like to work with Sarah to post information about the events application process on the FoHP website, as she finds it very confusing.

Simon said Council is reviewing its events hire processes. Dave to publicise a focus group session.

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### 3. Dog control responsibility

Lordship Rec had an issue with a dog acting dangerously, and who to contact to help. \*\* Simon said that there are no Haringey Dog Wardens as the Dog Service is now shared with Enfield. [Contact????]. However, if there's an imminent danger call 999. \*\* In Lordship Rec, an out of control dog had attacked another dog, and was roaming around dangerously. Community police passing through told a concerned member of the Friends that it was not their responsibility - they advised: 'call the Dog Wardens'. The Friends called the Dog Wardens, but they said they couldn't attend unless somebody corralled it and subdued it for their collection.

### 4. The Haringey Nature Conservation/biodiversity officer

The Haringey Nature Conservation/biodiversity officer (Ian Holt) has left. Attendees expressed appreciation for the work he's done supporting Friends Groups and wished him well in his new post. Simon said the role would still be based in parks, but feels that more capacity is required given 'challenges' of regeneration, Crossrail2, etc. Likely to be more than one person, who has the brief for across the borough. 'We need to consider the development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy and the resourcing that is

required to both develop and implement the plan in collaboration with colleagues in planning and regeneration. In the short term we intend to bridge any gap in advice and input by buying in services from other local authorities.' He welcomed any specific input from the Forum in identifying needs.

## 5. Walks

The Friends Forum and Federation of Residents Assocs are organising a Haringey Walking Weekend (a kind of OPEN Haringey, like open gardens and open house) on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. We are asking as many friends groups, residents associations and others who are willing and able, to organise a walk - of any length or theme- on one of those days. We want to highlight all the fantastic opportunities in Haringey for walking and learning about nature and green spaces, and Haringey's rich history and architecture. The Council are supporting this and have helped with funding but we are controlling the event. Joan and Joyce will compile and design a colourful brochure listing all walks on the weekend with contacts and info – contact [joancurtis@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:joancurtis@blueyonder.co.uk) with details of your planned event. The event will be launched in September. Joan and Joyce had met with council officers from recreation and public health to coordinate.

We will also be producing a book of cross-Haringey walks including our existing River Moselle walk, the Ally Pally to Bruce Castle Walk, the soon-to-be-published Palace Gates to Seven Sisters old railway walk, and hopefully the Parkland Walk and the New River Walk with extra highlights of places of interest in Haringey.

The Council are adding a special walking page on their website and we can advertise there any walks we are organising from March onwards. Let Joan know if so...

New version of Moselle booklet is being produced with an amended route via Carbunkle Alley, Tottenham Marshes. There will be a range of Moselle events in next few months including a presentation and guided walks, climaxing in a large RiverFest in Lordship Rec on May 29<sup>th</sup> "Celebrating Haringey's Rivers" organised by Tottenham Ploughmen and Lordship Hub.

## 6. London and National coordination

**National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces** Recently sent out Friends Groups' questionnaire seeking views on the direction and key issues facing the Friends Groups movement – 140 groups fed back their views, which included calls for more national coordination of the localised campaigning to protect green spaces and ensure they are properly funded and managed.

**London Friends Groups Network** – [www.lfgn.net](http://www.lfgn.net) Issues discussed at last meeting included: supporting the Greater London National Park campaign, lobbying around the London Elections in May, and getting recognition for the health benefits of green space. Next meeting Mon April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at City Hall.

## 7. Planning Issues

**Crossrail 2** Proposed to go through Haringey. Consultation closed 8 Jan. 2 alternative local routes proposed - towards ally pally via turnpike lane or via wood green (which could include a massive ventilation shaft in downhill park). Friends of Downhill Park lobbying against any threat to the park – met with relevant Crossrail officers who seemed to share the desire to avoid taking up green space. **Generally** The Council is enthusiastic about Crossrail and other mega-development projects generally in order to be able to sell off public land and assets, and to achieve housing targets (mostly unaffordable housing). Green spaces need to be strongly fought for. An example is the 5000+ homes mainly in tower blocks planned for Tottenham, including 500 at Hale Wharf by Tottenham Marshes. Developers want to build three blocks of 14, 15 and 21 storeys right next to the river, dividing the Lee Valley Park and river on one side from the wilder channels of the river and the Paddock nature reserve and Reservoirs on the other. Local community groups are lobbying to protect and improve green space. Elsewhere, **campaigning** seems to have had an effect eg threat withdrawn to SE corner of Finsbury Park, Lordship Rec saved from house-building threat, half of Plevna Crescent / Ermine Road space saved, Pinkham Way campaign continues to oppose massive Waste Processing Centre, etc. Council consulting over its controversial **draft Haringey Local Plan** until 4 March. Will go to a Public Inquiry in front of a Planning Inspector this summer.

## 8. Local Reports [www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/haringey\\_friends\\_groups.php](http://www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk/haringey_friends_groups.php)

**Parkland Walk** - [www.parkland-walk.org.uk](http://www.parkland-walk.org.uk) The Friends have had approval from the Council for the siting of a nature trail there. Encroachment takes many forms from tipping of rubbish to householders trying to extend their gardens into the walk or building on the boundary, which can have a catastrophic effect on the immediate ecology. Council beginning to move forward on this issue. Impact of Highgate Neighbourhood Plan on the Walk has been amended following representations from Ian Holt and the Friends. But ongoing issue with development of house called Francis Place wanting to use Walk as no street access for vehicles – would fall foul of a long-standing covenant (400 objections to plans!). Fence and rubble appearing. Council are discussing a revised plan with developers. Friends monthly clear-up sessions with TCV continue.

**Meadow Orchard Project** - <http://meadoworchard.org>

Behind health centre on Park Road. Run entirely by volunteers - would like more, particularly for Saturday. Part of 'Crouch End Open Spaces' [www.crouchendopen.org](http://www.crouchendopen.org) Eco hut now finished, straw bale & cob – entirely built by volunteers. Available for hire. Note no heating.

**Queen's Wood** - [www.fqw.org.uk](http://www.fqw.org.uk)

Organised Outreach Day for Kids. Plan Flora Folklore walk on 10 April. Doing Fungi survey. Flooding issues – need to understand the drainage. Very concerned over the loss of Ian Holt. Paths improvements needed, and fence around pond needs regular repairs due to dog damage. A new ornate memorial bench has been put in by Park Service staff, but mystery of who paid for it!

### [Alexandra Park - www.friendsofalexandrapark.org](http://www.friendsofalexandrapark.org)

Drainage is huge problem. Park Manager trying to clear blocked drain found mystery pipes. The Vet monitoring the two deer enclosures felt that their health was suffering so the deer have gone to deer parks in Devon. They are now very happy, but Ally Pally visitors are disappointed. Friends setting out their 'talks and walks' programme for 2016, including swifts conservation.

### [Tottenham Green - www.facebook.com/friendsoftottenhamgreen](http://www.facebook.com/friendsoftottenhamgreen)

Friends meet monthly. Have made a huge difference for the profile and condition of the site since forming 3 years ago. Vision and plans for west & east sides drawn up and submitted. Concern over grass churned up by vehicles on market days [Noted by Parks Service]. Benches and paths on east side need improving. Is there an opportunity to expand the Green into the car park of the Leisure Centre now that Council appear to have withdrawn (or at least postponed) their proposal to build on it?

### [Chestnuts Park - www.friendsofchestnuts.org.uk](http://www.friendsofchestnuts.org.uk)

Trees: Community Orchard planting with 60 children from local school. Brilliant help from Council team. Trees planted and labelled. 1000 hedging trees (hawthorn and elder whips) being planted with TCV beside the Black Boy Lane and St Ann's Road railings. Got £14,000 from Trust for London. Developing quiet willow-themed orchard & garden. Drainage – next major thing needed to be sorted out in park: general flooding and any vehicles chew up the ground including trucks that come to empty bins – can't find anybody who knows/understands the issue. Talking to Parks Service. Getting new outdoor gym installed. Hope to protect and join up with St Ann's hospital green spaces and wildlife corridors during any re-configuration of that site.

### [Markfield Park - www.markfieldpark.org.uk](http://www.markfieldpark.org.uk)

The next Beam Engine Steaming Day will be on Easter Monday 6 April. The Beam Engine Trustees are very concerned about the potential impact of any future Crossrail tunnelling and have submitted their concerns. Cafe held a successful Festive Fun Day on 12 December with BBQ, quiz, carol-singing. Friends members continue to test quality of River Moselle waters. Thames21 also test the River Lea itself as part of the Love the Lea project both up and down river of where the Moselle joins the Lea.

### [Paignton Park - www.vartry.org](http://www.vartry.org)

Paignton Park now comes under the umbrella of the local Vartry Community Residents' Association (VCRA) and two previous members of Friends of Paignton Park are on the VCRA Committee. There has been an ongoing sewage leak in the Park. The group would like feedback on whether this problem has finally been solved and will be resolved, as apparently it has been going on for 10 years. Local residents are concerned about the ongoing maintenance of the park and would like more information about this.

### [Manchester Gardens - www.vartry.org](http://www.vartry.org)

VCRA also has some involvement with Manchester Gardens and previously carried out a litter pick with a surprisingly large number of bags of rubbish for such a small area. More recently, in collaboration with HAGA, Groundwork has been helping with the maintenance of the gardens. The gardener was excellent. Initially, people were quite keen on getting involved, but the workday was during the week and there was concern that once Groundwork left (which they now have), that the local residents would be left to take on the majority of the park maintenance. There have been issues with dog poo, young people throwing rubble, drinkers and rough sleepers, which put people off the space. Local residents are concerned about the ongoing maintenance of the gardens and would like more information about this. Deborah will circulate Community Action Plan.

### [Downhills Park - www.downhills.org.uk](http://www.downhills.org.uk)

Did protest leaflet and lobbying over the potential CrossRail2 ventilation shaft proposal – as a result the idea may be abandoned. Groundwork has been doing some good work in the park. Water drains away from the pond created by the Friends. Community Café by tennis courts going well. New Cafe just outside southern entrance – need to work with them and ensure cooperation not competition. Issue with people sleeping rough in the park over Christmas. Friends plan to organise this year's Art in the Park major event on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

### [Coldfall Woods & Muswell Hill Playing Fields - www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk)

Successful with walks – 300 people overall. 20 people last Sat. 2 Winnie (?) activities – about 80 people. Dawn Chorus walk in April. Broken bridge as you enter needs repair. Online blog going pretty well.

### [Priory Common Orchard - https://sites.google.com/site/priorycommonorchardn8/](https://sites.google.com/site/priorycommonorchardn8/)

Going fine. Lots of planting. Rain Garden to divert water to go through the green space.

### [Edible Landscapes - www.ediblelandscapeslondon.org.uk/](http://www.ediblelandscapeslondon.org.uk/)

More directors now on Board, more energy, better spread of work. Always uncertainty about their current site in Finsbury Park. Biggest strength: the people and the training. Council say possibility of relocation to Finsbury Park lodge nearby - however, not so much space so where would show bed be moved to?

### [Finsbury Park - http://thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk](http://thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk)

AGM held with 60+ people at beginning of January and new chair appointed (Tom Palin). Now trying to meet as many people as possible and connect different groups. Restoration project: McKenzie Flower Garden – 100-year old benches and orchard, which Alex Fraser (LBH tree officer) has helped with. Stroud Green WI (Women's Institute) nominated Friends as charity - £1500 raised. Wireless Festival – Huge, commercial summer event in the park. Hugely disruptive for 3 weeks at prime time – huge parts of the park closed, which makes it uninviting. Friends campaigning to get it stopped. Council Scrutiny hearing seemed to be about making the event "better", not a meaningful consultation. Repair issues - bench damaged by drinkers. Issues with drugs & homelessness – to be discussed with Neighbourhood Watch team. Friends have unsuccessfully tried to contact Cabinet member for parks over certain issues. Friends considering how to get user groups working together for an overall positive vision for the park – Dave suggested something like the Lordship Rec Users Forum (which is chaired by the Friends and co-manages the Rec with the Parks Service).

### [Down Lane Park - www.fdlp.org.uk](http://www.fdlp.org.uk)

Worries about park facilities being taken over or over-used by the new neighbouring 'free' school run by the Harris Foundation, which had not planned for any green space sports facilities of its own. *Council response*: Harris Academy – no arrangement for them to hire park. Lots of recent improvements over the last year. Lots of jobs still to be done: painting of lamp posts, lamps turned on, gateways, paths, benches turned around, name on gate. Been awaiting a promise MUGA since 2006. Anti-social behaviour is a challenge. Also problems in neighbouring Hartington Park – similar issues with dumping. Green stretch alongside nearby estate threatened with housing development. Better if it was outdoor gym or a genuine green link.

## **The Paddock**

Nature reserve neglected by the Council since the Friends Group folded. Problems of dumping and invasive species. The Forum agreed to support creation of a new local group if someone comes forward to take the initiative.

### **Lordship Rec - [www.lordshiprec.org.uk](http://www.lordshiprec.org.uk)**

All going really well. Outstanding regeneration works to be finished off starting in March. Another 20 improvements planned by the Lordship Rec Users Forum – some require substantial funding, so fundraising is ongoing. Outdoor gym going in in April. Issues to do with water flow and silting up in the River Moselle. About 20 different user groups. Dog club resurrected. Former toilet block now a bike workshop/hub run by Rockstone. Lots of events planned in 2016. Lordship Hub has produced its annual report for this community run building and café, the 'jewel in the crown' of Lordship Rec. Hard to make a surplus in the middle of a park running that kind of building. Especially well used by people with babies and toddlers.

### **Tottenham Cemetery - [www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Tottenham-Cemetery-918302674888364](http://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Tottenham-Cemetery-918302674888364)**

Friends have been meeting monthly for about 10 months now after having been initially set up in 2013. Cemetery is now run by Dignity Funerals Ltd. Some good maintenance work, but issues with the chapel, lake, Japanese knotweed, paths and stopping cars using it as a rat run. Following excellent Friends/Dignity walkabout the management have gone quiet and refusing to engage. Friends want latest Management/Action Plan and for Simon to chase up Dignity to insist they work in partnership.

### **Bruce Castle Park - [www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Bruce-Castle-Museum-and-Park-491815574176035/](http://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Bruce-Castle-Museum-and-Park-491815574176035/)**

Damaged gate needs repair. Issues re litter. Friends of Bruce Castle want to see a specific group for the park. [Update: This is now launched!]

### **Railway Fields - <https://friendsofrailwayfields.wordpress.com>**

Nature reserve going very well, managed by Friends Group and The Conservation Volunteers. Well attended Christmas event linked up to the 'ladder' lantern parade & lights being turned on – attended by 200 people. Regular conservation days on the last Sunday of every month. Sunday staffing/volunteers. So now open more on at weekends.

### **Springfield Park Nature Area**

Informal group of park users have been doing maintenance and improvements over the last year. Now formally constituted as a Friends Group specifically for the nature area in the park only. Need storage space. Plan art exhibitions. Good relations with the Parks Service.

### **Ducketts Common - [www.duckettscommon.org.uk](http://www.duckettscommon.org.uk)**

Some issues to do with dog poo, events booking, possibly Crossrail2, and communication with Council.

### **Wolves Lane**

No one able to be present at the meeting but we had a long discussion about saving this unique, historic and much-loved horticulture / educational site for public use. New Friends group has been dynamic in terms of lobbying, petitioning, raising profile and developing potential long-term plans. Council review completed – adult services funding transformation will mean their part of the funding withdrawn from April. Education Service also pulling out – schools unwilling to pick up slack. Council intending to reduce what plants they source from the site. Could a couple of other depots be consolidated into the site? Could there be a couple of other partners? Forum supports friends to hilt.

## **9. TCV**

TCV have 3 volunteer groups on different days who go around various green spaces. Eg Support for Friends of Southwood Lane in Highgate, who have not yet attended Forum. FSL/TCV got really good turnout. Cleared a good area. TCV Monthly Newsletters still being sent out. Maybe can be linked in with some of the new groups, eg, Springfield. Training: in past has been offered to Friends groups members for free. Open to ideas eg 1-day emergency first aid, nature identification, pond management, French drains, group management, etc etc. Clif to send round an email. Lizzy is a new TCV officer, lives locally.

## **10. Drainage and water quality**

This seems to be a growing issue of concern for many green spaces across Haringey. Relates to misconnections, wider issues of water quality, deculverting, Queens Wood, flooding. Potential for addressing funding, taking action on these issues. Expertise mostly sits within Highways & Engineering Depts. Recent high staff turnover. Not moved as fast as it might have done. There is a borough flood plan. That exists, but wouldn't extend as far as green spaces. It would be useful for Parks Service to look at the strategy: SUDS, drainage, deculverting. - if there's a mechanism for review/amendment, then Forum could use it. Has been hot topic in Tott Hale – use of SUDS.

## **11. Promoting volunteering and related projects**

Council have identified some new projects – will put out to tender the £70,000 pa which is what council used to pay to Groundwork. Friends Groups and other not-for-profit local organisations can apply to manage a project. Sarah / Simon to put something in writing.

## **12. Parks Service capital funding**

Capital Funding for parks projects applied for for next 10 years. We await decision. Possible consultation.