

Minutes of the meeting of the Friends of Downhills Park, Sunday 8 September 2019

Friends: Chris Currie, David Clark, Sylvia Oland, Clare Parry, Jehan Shah, Tracey Robinson, Brenda Whittle, Stephen Whittle

Apologies: Lucas Lafone, Jonathan Ringshall, Barbara Rushton, Rod Wells

1. Minutes & matters arising

Minutes of the meeting of the Friends of Downhills Park held on Sunday 9 June were approved.

In relation to matters arising, Clare noted that the reports from the Green Flag inspections are not yet available. She also noted that new bins are now on order for parks across the borough.

Stephen Crabtree is currently unwell and during this interim period Glynis Kirkwood will be the contact for Downhills Park. He is expected back in late October. Clare will check in with Glynis to see if it is appropriate that the Friends send him a message wishing him well.

2. Updates

Clare reported back in relation to various meetings that had taken place or emails received since the last meeting that offered opportunities in relation to Downhills Park.

- **TCV:** Sylvia and Clare had met with Alice Evans who has recently joined TCV partly taking over the role previously held by Clif Osborne. It was noted that more advance notice of TCV activities scheduled in the park would be helpful in order that we could try to encourage more volunteers to participate. At the time of the visit there had been water in the pond and Alice noted that this area could be seen as a seasonal pond and it was natural that the water levels would change.
- **Good Gym:** the new co-ordinator for Good Gym had emailed to introduce himself and see if there are activities that Good Gym runners could do in Downhills Park. It was agreed that Clare would liaise with Stuart/Glynis in relation to potential activities.
- **Low Traffic Future:** an event focusing around Haringey Car Free day is scheduled for Sunday 15 September at 3pm in the Green Rooms, this is open to all.
- **Community CleanUp:** David & Tracey had attended the thank you event with CleanUp UK at Woodberry Downs. It was agreed that David would email Community CleanUp to see if we can secure some equipment that can be used by Friends of Downhills Park to keep the park tidy.

3. Extinction Rebellion

It was noted that Extinction Rebellion were using Downhills Park for their North London Uprising. A series of family friendly talks and events had been scheduled for 7 & 8 September in the park. The council had notified the Friends of Downhills Park of their stance in relation to Extinction Rebellion earlier in the week. It was unfortunate that Extinction Rebellion had not reached out to the Friends of Downhills Park until prompted, Clare had followed this up with them subsequently.

4. Follow up on events

- **The Wind in the Willows:** it was noted that the sound quality on the day had not been as hoped for. If we were to run a similar performance next year it would be helpful to share this feedback and suggest that microphones are used as it was quite difficult to hear and therefore follow the performance adequately.
- **Art in the Park:** this had been a successful event with perhaps the largest attendance to date. It was suggested that we are clearer about ways that volunteers can get involved in the event next

year. Sylvia and Clare are going to follow up with the people who ran activities on the day to get their feedback on the event in terms of what went well and what could be improved. We have been running the event for many years and it would be useful to review the format and structure of the event. We may want to consider whether there could be more activities targeted at adults next year, for example, botanical drawing. An approach had also been made about a yoga activity being included. It was requested that people put any contacts in touch with Clare as they arise.

At the time of the meeting it was noted that the payment from Haringey Council for both events was outstanding. The payment confirmation was received on Monday 9 September 2019 so all monies for both events have now been fully settled.

6. AOB

It was noted that there was virtually no water in the pond and that the upkeep of this area remained problematic and should be kept for discussion at a future meeting.

David asked about the potential to apply for funding noting that he had seen opportunities to secure funds for parks. It was agreed that funding might be helpful in relation to securing new playground equipment, upgrading the tennis courts or tackling the pond area once again. People were encouraged to check out funding opportunities although it was noted that often matching funding was required or that the Friends Group may not always meet the requirements of the funder as we are not a registered charity. It was still considered that it does not make sense to register as a charity.

Clare will write to Glynis and Stuart to report the broken banister at the steps from the pond to midnight alley.

Jehan noted that he is keen to set up a regular monthly litter pick. Clare noted that The Friends of Bruce Castle Park had recently celebrated the 3 year anniversary of holding a monthly litter pick and agreed to put Jehan in touch with Klaus to see if he could share any best practice tips on how they had made a success of this.

Next meeting of the Friends of Downhills Park: Sunday 27 October, 3pm, Downhills Park Café.