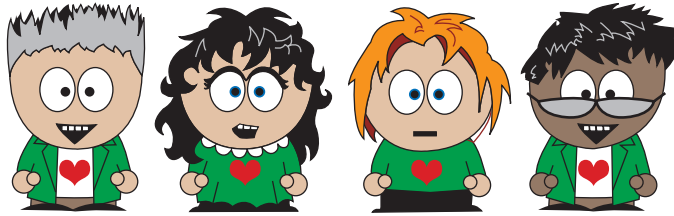


FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Friends of West Ham Park
25th March 2021**

Meeting by Video Conference

Attendees

Roger Jones (Chair), Ron Innell (Vice Chair), Marion Innell, Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Nicky Brown, Joel Farrell, Eugene Czauderna, Helen Mossop, Charlotte Cook, Jules Maurice-Williams, Mary Edmondson, Sue Lever, Alan Cooper, Jim Holt, John Rands, Hilary Rands, Pearl Saunders, Ute Saatz, Hani Ahmad, Lucia Rios Steele, Helen McGrath, Colm McGrath Ray Wenborne and Lyndsay Jones.

Apologies

Pat Mossop, Tracy Zanelli.

Introduction

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking Charlotte for offering to host the meeting on her Zoom account. He welcomed Lucia, Helen and Colm and Ray, attending for the first time. He reminded everyone of the protocols set out in the agenda.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 28th January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Treasurer's Report

Marion reported that there was no change in the Friends account, as we have not been holding any activities. The account balance is £2512.61, including the grant money.

Report from the Park Manager

Lucy reported that a record number of visits had been recorded in March.

Relaxation of the rules for controlling the pandemic mean that tennis, the cricket nets and outdoor gym can re-open, and six people can meet to work in the vegetable garden and wildlife garden. It is hoped that events will be able to take place in the summer, and bookings are being taken for the Bandstand. Snack Shack plan to re-open, and the fairground will visit as before.

The Police are dealing with the groups hanging around the black shelters. Anyone seeing illegal behaviour is encouraged to call 101 and report it.

CoL is undertaking an update of IT and information services, which will include the QR code posts. These should be working again soon.

Ron and Marion asked about changes to the use of the South Meadow area, which they felt were undesirable. Lucy replied that the space had been made available for schools use, as all the schools are trying to do more outdoor learning to reduce the possible spread of the virus. Risk assessments have been carried out, and it is hoped that the use can be accommodated. Lucia said that Park Primary have greatly appreciated having the extra space.

Playground project

The contract for the centrepiece Explorers' Ship has now been let. The ship will resemble The Endeavour, a picture of which is also featured in our Fothergill Exhibition. Work on the playground refurbishment will start in September, in order to keep the playground open through the summer.

Nursery project

A report goes to the committee at the end of April, after which date there should be some information available.

Future Programme

Litter Picking

An event will be held after Easter, on 11th April. Ron and Marion will lead. Same plan as last time.

Food Bank Collection.

Saturday 17th April. Ron and Nicky will help Tracey Zanelli with the event. The 'Rule of Six' will apply by then, which we feel is workable.

Wildlife Garden

We hope to hold a working party in May. Roger and Lyndsay will liaise with Ricky and let everyone know what date it will be.

Dr Fothergill's Legacy

The panels should be ready before the end of April, and an installation date will be agreed with Lucy. We hope to be able to tie this in with the Newham Heritage Month, in May. We may do a video tour of the exhibition for on-line distribution, and then hope to hold a formal opening event around the exhibition in the summer.

Vegetable Garden

Pearl and Eugene have been working with Andrea from the Park Office and holding regular public sessions, with limited numbers as before.

Regular Bird Survey

This has continued through the lockdown. Lyndsay thanked the regular birdwatchers. The increased use of the park does not seem to be adversely affecting the bird life.

Volunteer Hours

For the months of February and March 2021 are as follows -

- Bird surveys - 6 people for a total of 12 hours
- Fothergill exhibition preparation - 2 people total 4 hours
- Total - 16 hours.

Website

There isn't an option to simply move the website content elsewhere. We have a file copy of the current website content would be reasonably easy to move to another host, but the content editing system wouldn't continue to work. We would also need apply for a new domain name and create a new site such as using Wordpress or similar. Jim has offered to undertake this with Nicky. The total cost of this over a two-year period could be up to £135. The benefit though would be of a website much more up to date and much easier for mobile users to access and use. The meeting agreed to this approach.

FWHP Logo

The results of the survey suggest a change should be made. After discussion it was agreed that we would hold an event with a competition to suggest designs, based on criteria, which Nicky and Jim will agree. This will be open to all ages. There will be a designing and drawing event with an exhibition of the best ideas at the AGM, and the final logo will be designed to reflect these.

Grant Applications

We are seeking grants to support the park in completing the playground project, and separately, to look into upgrading the conservation status of the park. This would involve paying for a survey by London Wildlife Trust.

Hani asked to see what has been done and advise as to the questions we need to ask. She explained that she would be able to write the application, but does not have time to help with providing the information that will be needed. Alan and Mary offered to help with this work.

Affiliation with other Groups.

Roger has had a meeting with the London Friends of Green Spaces and GoParks London. Bicycles and vehicles in parks were the main point of discussion, and he reported that we have far fewer problems than most parks, thanks to our on site staff.

There is a project under way through GoParks London to promote all green open spaces and circular walks/rides through all the parks in each Borough. It has been noted that there are very few Friends Groups in East London, and we are the only one in Newham. Ron noted that all the other Walking for Health groups seemed to have folded, even before the pandemic.

Hedgehogs

Pat and Helen have made a survey of all access points to assess the road danger. It is suggested that we install footprint traps in areas where hedgehogs may be present. They will get the specification for these traps and Lucy will assist with installation.

Future Meeting Dates for 2021

These are as follows -

- 8th July (AGM),
- 23rd September,
- 25th November 2021.

AOB

Roger reminded everyone that he is due to stand down as Chairman at the AGM in July. If anyone wishes to consider standing or to discuss the role please contact Roger.