



# Friends of West Ham Park

## Friends of West Ham Park Meeting

**Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7:00pm**  
**Meeting by Video Conference**

### **Attendees**

Charlotte Cook (Chair), Ricky O'Garro (Park Supervisor), Roger Jones, Nicky Brown, John Rands, Helen Mossop, Uta Saatz, Pearl Saunders, Ron Innell, Marion Innell, Georgina Philippou, Lucia Rios Steele and Lyndsay Jones.

### **Apologies**

John Holt, Pat Mossop, Joel Farrell.

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### **Introduction**

Charlotte welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time.

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes from the meeting on 24th November were agreed as a correct record.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The current balance is £414.16, the only recent expenditure being Glowsticks for Park in the Dark. Marion will check when the annual payment for the web account is due. This is expected to be around £80 in April.

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### **Report from the Park Supervisor**

Ricky reported that the restructuring of the CoL announcement had been pushed back to 25 January 2023.

#### *Playground Project*

The Playground is currently closed whilst the ineffective self binding gravel is replaced at the contractor's expense. No dates have been agreed for an official opening.

#### *Bird Flu*

No dead birds have been found in the park so far.

#### *Community Fairs*

These are still planned for May and July.

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## **Recent Friends Activities and Volunteer Hours**

### *Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile*

The weather finally improved and the event was a great success

### *Park in the Dark*

This was also a great success. Lucia reported that it is becoming an important event within Park Primary School.

### *Food Bank*

This was held on the Bandstand on 3rd December. It was not particularly well attended but the food bank were happy with the donations. Helen stated that the food bank with which she is associated would also be happy to receive donations.

## **Ongoing Activities**

### *Vegetable Garden*

Pearl reported that all is going well. Some crops have been sown which will over-winter.

### *Bird Survey*

Nothing new to report.

### *Wildlife Garden*

No attention needed until the spring.

### *Health Walks*

Continuing as planned, whatever the weather.

### *Litter Picking*

There is not too much litter around at the moment. Volunteer picking is continuing as and when weather permits.

### *Newham Local Plan consultation and SINC status.*

Roger and Alan are reviewing the document and will prepare a formal response from FWHP, to be circulated before submission. They will attend the West Ham public meeting. Charlotte and Ron offered to attend the Forest Gate meeting. The Park is split between the two Wards.

Roger also reported that the draft Newham Local Plan recommends an upgrade to 'Borough' SINC Status for the park.

### *Volunteer hours reported:*

Bird Survey (November) – 9 hours

Bird Survey (December) – 9 hours

Leaf Pile – 10 hours

Foodbank – 10 hours

Website work – 2 hours

Veg garden (November) – 56.5 hours

Veg garden (December) – 25 hours

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## **2023 Programme and Activities**

### *Playground*

Ricky reported that there will be some funds left once all the work is satisfactorily completed. There will also be money available from groups of corporate volunteers, who pay to come and work in the park! This should enable the landscaping works to be undertaken. Roger asked Ricky whether FWHP should pursue funding which CPRE have available for hedge planting. Roger will follow this up.

### *Links and Affiliations with other Environmental Groups*

There were no new developments with Great Eastern Gardens Route. The next meeting of the Newham Green forum would be in February and the LGFN year end event would take place on 1st February.

Stratford Academy have sent a list of students' ideas for volunteering activities they could undertake in the park, with help from FWHP and Park Staff. These were discussed, along with practical considerations like DBS checks. It was agreed that Roger and Ricky would talk to the school and define some possible projects.

### *History Events*

Newham Heritage Month will be June 2023. The theme this year is 'Our Creative Newham - Arts and Cultural Heritage.' This could be a suitable project for working with the Academy pupils.

### *Birdwatch Weekend*

21/22 January. All arrangements in hand.

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### **Planning for Future Events**

Lucia suggested that Park Primary would be interested in working with us for events connected with Easter and the Summer Solstice. Stratford Academy also have Summer Solstice on their list of possible events.

It was agreed that this and other future events would be discussed fully at the next meeting.

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### **Future Meeting Dates in 2023**

Thursday March 9th

Thursday May 11th

Thursday July 13th AGM

Thursday September 14th

Thursday November 9th.

These will all be Zoom meetings except the AGM.

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### **Publicity and Media**

Helen asked that we record our thanks to Nicky for her excellent work in keeping photographs and news from the park up to date on the website.

Roger has noticed that the Londonist Greenground website Includes WHP.

There are now a series of walking books for routes from The Elizabeth Line, some of which include WHP.

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### **Newham Voices article rota**

Articles are needed by 12th of each month.

January – Charlotte, Park in the Dark and Food Bank.

February – Roger, Planning for Climate Resilience

March – We will ask Alison from the RSPB to write about the event being held for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.

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### **AOB**

Roger has been asked for a volunteering photo and quote for GoParks London and Reach Volunteering to help promote the value of volunteering in parks.

It was agreed that we would take, and gain permission for, a suitable shot at the RSPB event.

The meeting closed at 20.40