



Friends of West Ham Park

Friends of West Ham Park Meeting

Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7.00pm

Meeting on The Bandstand, West Ham Park

Attendees

Charlotte Cook (Chair), Alan Cooper (Deputy Chair), Roger Jones, Nicky Brown, Ron Innell, Marion Innell, John Rands, Georgina Philippou, Mary Edmondson, Lucia Rios Steele, Uta Satz, Helen Mossop, Marlene Sidaway, Pearl Saunders, Crispin Julian and Lyndsay Jones.

Apologies

Joel Farrell, Pat Mossop, Eugene Czsauderna and Ricky O'Garro (Park Supervisor), Jules Maurice-Williams

Introduction

Charlotte welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On behalf of everyone, she expressed our sympathy to the family of the young man who was so tragically murdered in the park last week.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 18th May were agreed as a correct record.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is unchanged at £486.68. There were no outstanding expenses.

Report from the Park Supervisor

Ricky was unable to attend, having been advised to take some time off following the stress and overtime resulting from the murder investigation.

The group recorded our appreciation for the work of all the staff involved and understand how distressing it must have been for them.

Ongoing Activities

Bird Surveys and work in the *Vegetable Garden* are continuing as usual. *Health Walks* continued led by Newham Mental Health whilst Ron and Marion were away.

Litter Picking continues, a special effort was made before the London in Bloom, judging which was appreciated. The judge seemed impressed with the Wildlife Garden, and took a good interest in the formal gardens.

UKCG, the church which takes our Food Bank collections, has suggested that some of their young people might take part in litter picking. Ron will liaise with them.

Ad hoc activities

The Community Fair went well and was extremely popular.

Alan reported on the meeting of the "People Powered Places" group. We can put in a bid for the planting around the mounds to create wildlife area visible to everyone, the deadline is September, and the project must have community involvement. Roger and Alan will liaise with Ricky.

Roger told the meeting that he and Lyndsay would be funding the planting of a native hedgerow around the playground, in order to leave a lasting memorial to their time living in Stratford. They have sold their house here but will continue to be involved in FWHP.

The hedge will be a gift from FWHP. This offer was received with thanks.

Events

There had been no events since the last meeting.

2023 Programme and Activities

Links and Affiliations with other Environmental Groups

There have been no responses from other group within the park.

Roger and Lyndsay had made a presentation to the June LFGN meeting illustrating how we have organised events and how we have achieved success in a multi-cultural community. This was part of a workshop on event planning and was well received.

The Sustainable Newham group had met again. We have agreed to continue to participate but meeting attendance would be shared within the Group. They are planning websites and other activities as well as making the Green Fair an annual event.

Stratford Academy

There has been no further contact from the academy. Roger will contact them again when the new term starts in September. It was suggested that we also make contact with the St Bonaventure's school who use the park for sports.

Blue Plaque

Roger had looked onto the possibility of a Blue Plaque for Dr Fothergill, but these have to be situated on a building visible from a public road. However CoLC have their own scheme, and we may be able to use this. Any commemorative plaque would go on the cairn in the garden, where there is a very small plaque already.

Ron said that there is still a building on the site of Dr Paganstecher's house, and maybe we could get a plaque there. Everyone feels that Dr Paganstecher's contribution does not receive enough credit. There would be no park without his generosity and fund raising. It was agreed that we would research whether there would be support locally for such Blue Plaque.

Planning for Future Events

Bat Walks

Friday 25th August led by Lyndsay, Friday 22nd September led by Ron.

Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile

Provisionally Sunday 19th November, to be finalised once the rate of leaf fall this autumn is known.

Park in the Dark

Friday 8th December. Lucia will check the availability of the Park Primary School choir.

Food Bank Collection

Saturday 16th December

Future Meeting Dates in 2023

Thursday September 14th

Thursday November 9th.

These will all be Zoom meetings.

Publicity and Media

Newham Voices article rota

Articles are needed by 15th of each month.

- August deadline will be about Grant Application - Alan
- September deadline will be about cricket in the park – Ron (with input from Ricky)
- October deadline will be about hedge planting, by Roger and Lyndsay

Charlotte will write a summer newsletter for general circulation

New Initiatives

School contacts and Blue Plaque as already discussed.

AOB

- Ground-Up - Frames of Mind will be launching their QR code links to the work that they have carried out in conjunction with the local sheltered housing scheme. There are now 5 benches in the ornamental gardens which have QR codes, which celebrate the memories and experiences of individuals using the Park, and reflective of their own lived experiences. All are welcome to attend their event, and of course to use the QR codes when enjoying the gardens.
 - Ron had received an email from Newham Trades Council asking for a speaker from FWHP at a meeting. He has asked for more details. They are concerned about development of the Nursery Site.
-

Annual General Meeting

Chair's address

Charlotte thanked everybody for coming to the AGM, and for all of their support during her first year as Chair.

Charlotte invited everybody to join for a glass or two after the formal business of the meeting.

Charlotte noted that a wonderful year for the Friends and for the Park had been marred by the fatal stabbing which had occurred last weekend. This was a shock and sadness to all who know and love our usually peaceful and friendly park. We wish to express condolences to the friends and family of the individual, and particularly to the park staff who had had to deal with the event and indeed the aftermath. It was very sad that Ricky was unable to attend the AGM, but we were perfectly understanding of this.

And that aside, what a year! The Queen's funeral and the new King's coronation, with the latter being duly marked by the Friends with the vegetable crown event.

And of course our annual events, despite the best efforts of the weather, had been superb as ever: we have managed to hold our much loved "leaf pile".

Signs of the times necessitated the food bank collection, but we had also had a fabulous turn out for Park in the Dark and various bat walks.

Charlotte noted that we are still waiting on further developments as to the nursery site, but are keeping an active watching brief on the same. We will continue to fight for a park in our park.

Charlotte noted that we continued to look to forge links with other green space and park groups in London, and of course with our newly formed "northern branch" of the Friends – a big thank you to Roger and Lyndsay for everything they have done to date and continue to do for the Park. We know that even with them leaving London, they will continue in their support of the Park.

Charlotte quoted that our "green" links also continue, launched with the stall at the Newham Sustainability event.

And we still endeavour to forge links with other park users, particularly with our neighbours, including the Stratford Academy.

So, to conclude, Charlotte thanked everybody for all of their hard work carried out, and hoped that long may the Friends continue to support and fight for our Park.

Mary thanked Charlotte for her work over the year, seconded by everyone.

Elections

Chair

Charlotte Cook. Proposed by Helen, seconded by Marion

Deputy Chair

Alan Cooper. Proposed by Mary, seconded by Roger.

Marion will continue as **Treasurer**, supported by everyone.

Lucia and Mary will assist Lyndsay with **events and education planning** now that Lyndsay will no longer be based in Stratford.

Jules will continue as **Nursery Site Coordinator**

Nicky will continue as **Communications Manager**.

Roger and Alan will continue as **External Liaison** and **Green Links Coordinators**

Lyndsay will continue as **Meetings Secretary**

Ron will continue as **Membership Secretary**

The **Development Plan** as discussed during the Ordinary Meeting was formally adopted.

The minutes of the AGM held in 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

The annual report and accounts were agreed as correct

AOB

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 8.30pm