



# Waterlow Park Trust

## Advisory Group meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

2pm via Zoom

**Present:** April Cameron (AC) FOWP, Ben Cook (BC) (LUX), Ian Henghes (IH) (Highgate Neighbourhood Forum), Gabi Howard (GH) (Camden LA), Katherine Ives (KI) (Lauderdale House), Fiona Murphy (FM) FOWP, Sue Tatum (ST) (Chair), Catharine Wells (CW) (Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum), Eileen Willmott (EW) (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Committee),

**Apologies:** Pippa Rothenberg (PR) (Highgate Society),

Issue	Action
<b>2. Minutes of last meeting</b> Issues arising ST still to do spec. for Sec.  Minutes were approved	ST - do specification for secretary
<b>3. Chairs report</b> Following the tragic recent death of a tennis player from a heart attack defibrillators in the park are to be actively investigated. GH said London Hearts have been contacted. There is a defibrillator in the cemetery. EW asked if there might be two in Waterlow Park	CW to progress.
<b>4. Tracker</b> IH explained that this is the first TAG session in which the new Tracker spreadsheets are ready to be used. In order to get a good sense of how they work the main part of the current meeting is given over to reviewing them in some detail discussing items on them. The Tracker is on two spreadsheets. One for 'Projects' which are discrete initiatives with clear deliverables, and a second for 'Volunteer Groups' who each deal with different aspects of the life of the park on an ongoing basis. In some cases a Volunteer Group may be leading on a Project.  During this agenda item KI had to leave the meeting, and asked if there was general approval for Lauderdale	

<p>installing a temporary covering on the terrace to make the business of Pink Cafe more viable during covid. She has also submitted a report in advance of the meeting. The meeting gave unanimous approval to the temporary covering.</p> <p>There followed a review of both Tracker spreadsheets going through all of the items on each:</p>	<p>KI to liaise with GH re temporary covering</p>
<p><b>4a Projects Tracker</b></p> <p><b>Signage</b> KI said that following conversations with Highgate Cemetery there is one location near the gates to the cemetery where it is now proposed to add a new finger post. CW asked for plan from KI to be circulated to her and PR. - Action KI</p> <p><b>Drinking water fountains</b> KI is in touch with ward Councillors leading on funding for water fountains and signage. FM said there is still a need to get pricing in order to apply for CIL</p> <p>GH reminded the meeting that any new drinking fountains can only be supplied from the road - A feasibility study now proposed concerns using the Parks own water supply (which is confusing in terms of routing) in the renovation of existing water fountains that have not been in use for many years. This needs investigation which would include quality issues.</p> <p><b>Shepherdess and Eagle Steps restoration</b> FM reposted that a stonemason has put in a quote for £1800 for restoring the shepherdess sculptures. Neil Luxton is likely to be about £1000 for the eagles. A meeting is in the offing. GH asked for an operations team person to attend the meeting.</p> <p>The idea of a cost column being added to the tracker was raised at this point, and probably another to show who is paying. IH said it was important to avoid the spreadsheet becoming too detailed and lead contacts / Google Drive should be the repository for detail. Having said this there may be a case for such a change and it should be kept in mind to be reviewed.</p> <p><b>Infant Play Area</b> Proposals for enhancement being researched. Action FM</p> <p>CW said that shade from the recently felled hornbeam in the infant play area was important and is missed. GH said it will be replaced as part of the tree planting program.</p>	<p>KI to provide amended plan to CW &amp; PR and progress</p> <p>KI to progress CIL funds and liaise with GH</p> <p>GH to progress fountains renovation feasibility study subject to funding.</p> <p>GH to email FM and FM to progress a meeting.</p> <p>FM progressing infant play area enhancement proposals</p> <p>GH to confirm with tree planting that a replacement for hornbeam is coming</p>

**Hedgehog Project**

There was a report with proposed locations for cameras circulated. Findings will be circulated when they become available.

**Volunteer Plant Store**

Work has been undertaken but there are still fence panels to be replaced.

**Air Quality Monitoring**

IH thanked Tom Parkes for a meeting on the issue following the installation of a monitoring point in Swains Lane by the park gate. A report was circulated prior to the meeting. IH expressed serious concerns about public health resulting from high BBQ density. Reports on this also on Google Drive.

**Playground surface improvements**

GH reported that the Junior play area is now open. Siobhan Bailey sent an email to TAG and FoWP re the recent resurfacing which required temporary closure.

**Tennis & Sport**

The acquisition of data re broadening participation is ongoing. CW has data to send on to GH re ethnicity and engagement from Richard Webber. FM said FoWP proposes that the lower court should have 4 basketball nets secured to incorporate into the booking system. FM asked that basketball be free to use especially in the winter months.

**Upper Pond Repairs**

GH reported that the decking around the upper pond needs mending.

CW raised concerns about the upper pond area as a whole and how this is seen in the park. The relationship with volunteer groups, their remit and usage should be clarified. ST said the upper pond may need a group to consider it. IH said that the 'Nature and Wildlife' Volunteer Group are dealing with biodiversity and should be asked to give it particular attention which might then feed into a holistic review handled by the Friends.

**Camden's Biodiversity Strategy engagement.**

IH asked if a borough wide strategy was a 'project' for the park. It was agreed that the answer is 'Yes', at least for now in order to record it.

GH to check re fence work with Jevaughn Bailey

To be reviewed again in due course (probably 2021 following a BBQ season?)

IH to move complete items such as this to another sheet on the same Projects Tracker spreadsheet

GH & FM to liaise to agree way forward on basketball facilities.

GH progressing decking repair

FM to brief Nature & Wildlife group and also produce a more holistic report looking at public use of the upper pond and how this should be realistically reconciled with biodiversity ambitions

CW to send 'Common Place' site link to FM for FoWP to consider linking to from their site.

## 4b Volunteer Groups Tracker

### Gardening

AC reported that willows have been planted to dry out wet areas in the large central meadow area. They will be cut back around next March to under 1m high and will shoot again.

They will then be cut every year or two thereafter. In the winter months the bare stems should be attractive.

CW asked about Iris areas and whether planting is having an effect in drying the ground? AC and Gardening group to monitor.

Mound has been overseeded with new wildflower seeds.

There is also a potential plan for a new raised bed near Lauderdale.

### Events

FM reported that the mini Lark in the Park was cancelled due to the Covid situation. Some funding from Camden is expected. A Bulb sale last Sat. was successful raising £1,500 or so.

### Nature and Wildlife

Rita Drobner is the new lead on Nature and Wildlife and will need to look at the purpose of the Upper Pond. (See Project above)

### Sports & Leisure

Reported above under Projects

### Infrastructure & Memorials

Along with the sculptures covered under Projects there are the urns around Lauderdale House to be reinstated. Several are in the maintenance yard. IH mentioned that when some young vandals were caught in the act it was thought that funds would be available to reinstate them from the families of the vandals.

FoWP are also looking at cleaning the Sir Sidney Waterlow sculpture and repairing the plinth lettering. - Action

### Trees & Views

IH said Tree planting should incorporate "planning for watering". The Thuja which was re-sited to top of park died as it was not watered. This is not the first time a tree has died due to lack of watering. Planting needs follow-up for it not to be wasted money.

A Planting plan map is on Google Drive under volunteer groups.

### BBQ Working Party

IH said that there would be a short review at the end of the year which would likely say that the plan developed last year

AC will share any raised bed plan with TAG and monitor effectiveness of willows in drying surrounding ground.

FM / AC to brief FoWP to consider the upper pond area holistically and report back.

GH to contact Dave H re vandalism and if any funds were ever provided.

FoWP to progress with Camden.

GH to feedback with Riccardo re planting and how to mitigate against future death of newly planted trees due to lack of care.

IH to contact BBQ working party for a brief review at the end of the year

<p>should be applied in 2021 Covid allowing.</p> <p>CW said Safer Neighbourhood Forum team need stats from Camden about anti-social behaviour incidents so they can be added. BBQs have been occurring illegally this year. How can Camden try to enforce better? ST said that one person cannot enforce. This is a relevant question for next year. GH said community safety officers have been visiting regularly re social distancing, but have also been on the BBQ case and they have had reports back. Park Keepers are not expected to do enforcement. It was generally agreed that the introduction of big 'no BBQ' signs have helped as the small more complicated ones were routinely ignored.</p> <p><b>Children's Activities</b> This group is headed by Louise Lewis. There was nothing to add beyond the items covered in Projects</p> <p><b>TCV</b> IH said that TCV need to be better integrated into planning and have more insight into the work of the Friends and the TAG Tracker. He proposed that they be added to Google Drive and encouraged to report as needed.</p>	<p>IH to contact Maria Schlatter and organise her access to Google Drive</p>
<p><b>4. (cont) Tracker Summary</b></p> <p>IH said that in future TAG meetings it is to be hoped that the Tracker sheets can be circulated in advance and only significant 'questions arising' dealt with in the main TAG meeting. It is hoped that this will free significant time for TAG to focus on strategic (future planning) and policy matters.</p>	
<p><b>5. Lauderdale LUX and FoWP reports</b></p> <p>Reports from Lauderdale and FOWP are on Google Drive and were circulated ahead of the meeting. Questions arising have been dealt with via the Tracker.</p>	
<p><b>6. Camden report</b></p> <p>GH said much of the report has been covered in the review of the Tracker. She reported that the Trustee of the Waterlow Park Trust is changing. Gillian is currently listed as Trustee but this role is being transferred to Carole Stewart .</p> <p>Tenancies have been renewed on the lodges.</p> <p>IH mentioned that notice boards opening / closing times were reportedly not updated when they changed (the</p>	<p>GH to brief the new Trustee on base documents on Google Drive (TAG partnership agreement and constitution / 'get involved' overview and the Tracker) and introduce the new Trustee in due course to TAG and invite her to a TAG meeting.</p> <p>FM to consider adding</p>

<p>Friends alerted about this on Twitter) and suggested that the Friends website might have a 'slot' to indicate opening and closing times on 'The Park' page.</p> <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>IH suggested more documents need to go in the shared area of Google Drive so they are visible to both TAG and FoWP which are at present in one or the other areas.</p> <p>12 Nov is the date of the next FoWP meeting.</p> <p>An agenda item request for the next meeting is a report on the Orchard looking at any issues and future plans.</p> <p>Next meeting likely mid December (post 10th) - TBC</p>	<p>functionality to website with help from IH as needed.</p> <p>IH to review previous proposals on this and seek re-approval from FM and ST to proceed.</p> <p>ST add Orchard to next meeting agenda</p>
--	--