



Waterlow Park Trust

Advisory Group meeting 19th January 2021

12:15 pm via Microsoft Teams

Present: April Cameron (AC) (FOWP), Ben Cook (BC) (LUX), Ian Henghes (IH) (Highgate Neighbourhood Forum) - Chair for this meeting, Gabi Howard (GH) (Camden LA), Katherine Ives (KI) (Lauderdale House), Oliver Jones (OJ) (Camden LA), Fiona Murphy (FM) FOWP, Pippa Rothenberg (PR) (Highgate Society), Sue Tatum (ST) (TAG Chair but Minute Taker for this meeting), Catharine Wells (CW) (Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum), Eileen Willmott (EW) (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Committee)

Apologies: The Park Trustee, Carole Stewart, was due to attend this meeting but had to cancel.

Issue	Action
<p>Due to commitments, the TAG Chair was uncertain as to whether she could undertake her role as Chair for the whole meeting. She asked Ian Henghes (former Chair) to take on the role for this meeting.</p> <p>The new Waterlow Park Trustee, Carole Stewart, was due to attend part of the meeting. However, due to an unexpected additional commitment she was unable to attend.</p> <p>The date for the next meeting will be set to take account of the Trustee's availability,</p>	<p>Ian Henghes agreed to Chair the meeting.</p> <p>Noted and will be contacted re availability for the next TAG meeting.</p> <p>Action IH to set up a doodle</p>
<p>2. Minutes of last meeting were approved.</p>	<p>Minutes approved</p>
<p>3.1 Policy Review</p> <p>There was a brief discussion of the incident communications policy which covers anti-social behaviour in the park. This was introduced at TAG's recommendation some time ago and was raised in the meeting in order to ensure that it had been implemented and seemed to be working appropriately. It was</p>	

<p>generally felt by GH / KI / BC that this was the case.</p> <p>CW asked that there should be referral of data relating to incidents to the safer neighbourhoods policing team <i>Highgate (Camden) Safer Neighbourhood Panel via the SNT. CW noted more issues southern end of park including children inside lower pond and lack of staff enforcement</i></p> <p>IH asked that TAG also be given data about incidents. Detail is obviously likely to be confidential, though it is important that Lauderdale / Lux / Volunteer Gardeners / IdVerde / TCV are informed immediately if there are safety issues. GH was very keen that Camden needs to be kept informed about any unacceptable behaviour. She also reported that more staff were now based in the Park.</p> <p>A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting by the BBQ group which looked at issues going forward including some thoughts about the review process. It was acknowledged that the position for this year is unclear but the default is that they will remain banned whilst the pandemic is ongoing. The policy for this year should <i>this</i> be allowed will be based on the Feb 2020 report recommendations. IH asked for as much notice as possible to all concerned if BBQs were to be allowed during the course of the year.</p> <p>The interim report raised the issue of Waterlow Park potentially setting a BBQ policy which was not the same as for the rest of the borough of Camden.</p> <p>Air Quality monitoring would ideally take place in more than one area of the park (not just the SW entrance)</p>	<p>GH to report to TAG at least annually <i>in October</i></p> <p>GH to review contact numbers.</p> <p>It was agreed that TAG should regularly monitor the situation through the BBQ Group with a formal review at the end of the 2021 season.</p> <p>IH to liaise with local organisations through their TAG representatives</p> <p>Noted and to be considered by Camden.</p>
<p>3.2 Policy proposals</p> <p>IH circulated a Trees and Views interim report ahead of the meeting. The report includes photographs showing how the signature view of St Pauls Cathedral is becoming progressively obscured as trees grow. (There are three photos from 2004, 2011 and 2021 which show this). OJ asked if these were all taken from the same location. IH confirmed that this was the case; all were taken from the edge of the path in front of the statue of Sir Sydney. (The elevation would have been the same. Any difference in elevation could make trees seem taller or shorter in the photographs relative to St Pauls).</p> <p>IH noted that the 2017 Trees and Views report proposed a tree policy for the park but this was not pursued at the time as TAG was new, and the Trust was not in the</p>	

<p>public consciousness. IH asked if it might not now be possible to move to a position where policy in such areas for Waterlow Park might be developed.</p> <p>CW reminded the meeting that we must continue to ensure that the <i>listed</i> views over London from this Heritage Park <i>within a Conservation Area</i> are retained in the Greater London Assembly plans.</p> <p>Policy in other areas might be looked at too; an example being memorial trees, benches and other aspects of the Park paid for by those who wish to have a way of remembering loved ones in the Park. This was not discussed further in the meeting due to pressure of time.</p>	<p>Further consultation to be held with Camden</p> <p>IH to seek to ensure that the current views over London from the Park are maintained.</p> <p>IH to follow this up with the Cemetery and Local representatives on the Greater London Assembly to be contacted.</p>
<p>4. Strategy</p> <p>IH reminded the meeting that TAGs remit is threefold covering policy, operational oversight, and most important of all in its role as the ‘think tank’ of the Trust, in developing strategy. We need to think creatively about the future of the Park looking some years ahead in order to develop a strategy we can use to help the Trust to develop and thrive. It was agreed that quarterly TAG meetings do not presently have the ‘space’ to properly think about this and that a separate meeting needs to be set up. This might possibly involve select individuals not on TAG and take input from others such as Highgate Cemetery.</p>	<p>IH to do a Doodle poll to set a strategy meeting date ideally in February</p>
<p>5. Trackers</p> <p>The Projects and Volunteer Group trackers were reviewed picking up <i>on matters covered</i> in reports from FoWP and Camden which were circulated ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>GH had circulated information regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Camden’s structure, with Gillian Marston, Director of Supporting Communities, as Waterlow Park Trustee. - Covid and Communications in the Park <p>Questions were raised about how to contact Camden and who to contact if there were problems.</p> <p>KI & BC are currently still contactable using current telephone numbers.</p> <p>Lauderdale House has a person living on site. LUX staff rotate being at the centre to ensure that all is OK.</p>	<p>GH will circulate information on what telephone numbers are to be contacted as appropriate. GH to confirm that Contact Camden link is still applicable. (http://waterlowparktrust.org.uk/contact/)</p>

IH pointed out that no Volunteer Group currently has monitoring responsibility for fabric and maintenance, including iDVerde issues. An example of poor quality maintenance recently is some portions of the path repairs. These might be followed up by such a group.

FM raised the point that the TAG Tracker should be widely used for communications and information spreading.

OJ said park groups concerns should be sent to Trustee as appropriate

Update on the Hedgehog Project by ST who reported that no hedgehogs were recorded on the cameras *in the park or the cemetery*. Cameras will be placed in different areas of the Park when appropriate.

Petanque Court concerns about surface remain. The specification for the (for) top dressing delivered by IdVerde is being explored. A volunteer is being sought to rake the pitch on a regular basis as required.

Both Lodges have 1 year assured tenancies:
Swain's Lane - to April 2021;
Dartmouth Park re-let August 2020.
Some external repairs have been done to the Swain's Lane lodge.

Trees:

3 Trees have been removed:
Beech near compost bin:
Oak near young children's playground
Ash near Highgate Village entrance
Replacements will be made where appropriate and following discussion with TAG Trees & Views Group

EW mentioned that there are other trees that may need removing.

Signage: KI to work with PR & CW on the proposed locations and its content to ensure that Lauderdale House is included.

Water Fountain(s):

Work of Shepherd Shepherdesses & Eagles is currently delayed

FB to take this on as part of fabric and maintenance group.

GH / Camden to monitor and update trackers monthly or more

GH following up
Repairs as appropriate.

EW to liaise with IH & Camden accordingly.

KI, FB, CW to liaise with CI Wright about CIL funding for signage and water fountain.
KI to discuss with PR & CW and to keep TAG informed.

KI following up

FB following up

<p>Plant Area Sheds still need work</p> <p>The Decking in the Top Pond needs attention.</p> <p>DeFibrillator - possibilities are limited as the DeFibrillator needs an electricity supply.</p> <p>Sports especially net & markings for volley/basket ball</p> <p>Raised Flower Bed work</p> <p>IH reported that TCV / Maria Schlatter now has access to the trackers and shared documents on Google Drive</p> <p>CW mentioned that grass in the park is suffering particularly badly this winter due to heavy use of the park and people avoiding footpaths as they distance from others.</p> <p>Proposals for material changes to the Park should be presented to TAG for questions and input and approval.</p>	<p>AC to continue to monitor.</p> <p>GH to inform TAG when work is due to start and what information is being made available.</p> <p>CW exploring</p> <p>CW to provide photos of current open access MUGA s(multi use games areas near WP</p> <p>On hold.</p> <p>Mark W has proposed a way of improving grass recovery.</p>
<p>Lauderdale House is looking to raise money through events in the park.</p> <p>OJ was supportive of this in principal as was TAG.</p>	<p>Proposals to be developed in consultation with Camden and put to FoWP and TAG.</p>