



Waterlow Park Trust

Advisory Group meeting 8th October 2021

Present: April Cameron (AC), Ben Cook (BC) (LUX), Ian Henghes (IH) (Interim Chair), Gabi Howard (GH) (Camden LA), Katherine Ives (KI) (Lauderdale House), Fiona Murphy (FM) FOWP, Catharine Wells (CW) (Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum) (on Zoom), Eileen Willmott (EW) (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Committee) minute taker for this meeting

Apologies: Pippa Rothenberg (PR)

Issue	Action
1. Matters arising from minutes of 21st May and approval GH BBQ update pending TAG update on BBQs Trees and Views see Section 9 Water fountain, see Section 5 Highgate Festival, see Section 5	GH Review of BBQs at end of year IH/CW review of BBQs at end of year CW needs CIL money
2. Roles our roles on TAG and what roles may need additional members Members of TAG thanked IH for his hard work in taking over the chair and for writing all of the documents for the meeting We need new people on the various project groups in the Park, such as biodiversity, sustainability We need experts such as from the Highgate extended networks We as a committee need a more representational and diverse membership	IH will remain chair for possibly 2 -3 years TAG needs a deputy chair with knowledge of its history Committee to suggest suitable people to help

<p>3. Tracker updates and decisions as required</p> <p>GH Borough wide biodiversity strategy documents are currently in draft form</p> <p>CW Defibrillator</p> <p>GH Shepherd and shepherdess, other statues, urns and the eagles surveyed, the former prioritised as have to be conserved, not repaired.</p> <p>AC Children climb on the shepherd and shepherdess statues, the urns also unsafe</p> <p>KI Would like descriptive and safety notices on them</p> <p>IH Sir Sydney statue has lost its key and words fading in the stone. Quote of £15K to wax the statue and remove the bronze patina</p> <p>Community orchard and kitchen garden signs</p> <p>AC Two benches needed. Concrete bases to benches are easier to manage.</p> <p>Beds need re-aligning in the kitchen garden.</p> <p>IH These are tracker issues, not projects</p>	<p>AC Community Orchard project to be added to tracker</p> <p>GH biodiversity documents to be completed</p> <p>AC Upper pond to be closed over winter, but broad walk to stay open. Temporary fencing to be put in place when pond work carried out. Will need gates and steps. Lower pond also a Conservation Area to be worked on in the future?</p> <p>CW to liaise with GH</p> <p>GH to liaise with Patricia Walby and FM</p> <p>GH To put notices on statues, eagles and urns</p> <p>GH to commission some of the work, eagles and urns. Camden's conservator will deal with inside and outside work</p> <p>IH Sir Sydney statue would need a funding project on Tracker</p> <p>IH Separate off issues from projects on tracker</p>
<p>4. Camden verbal update</p> <p>GH apologised as nothing to report back as there are legal issues about what the Trust can or cannot do regarding the leases eg., solar panels. Difficult situation as no paperwork as to how the Trust was set up in 95, but was in good faith. The indenture is a Trust, but since then has become a charity.</p> <p>KI who will repair the broken lock on the Swains Lane Lodge gate?</p>	<p>CW contact Camden History Society</p> <p>CW to contact Pam Cooper and cc GH and IH.</p> <p>GH to deal with it</p>
<p>5. FoWP report submitted and any matters arising</p> <p>FM as chair described the joint AGM with TAG, the first season of the Pop-UpProms and the Highgate Festival bird installation in the aviary.</p> <p>Almost £6,000, before costs, was raised by the</p>	

<p>Horticulture Group through plant and bulb sales in the previous financial year. There is a bulb sale tomorrow, the 9th October on the L House tea lawn. The Biodiversity Group has begun to compile a list of plant species in the Park; more volunteers are needed.</p> <p>The public toilet block was re-opened in the summer FoWP would appreciate updates from Camden on the modernisation of the toilet block, the disabled access to the Swains Lane gateway and need to know the statutory costs as will need to fundraise for the latter</p> <p>Fountain update No CIL money at present KI not able to put in an application until cost known KI Looking for money for a feasibility study GH not possible for fountain water to be drinkable, as old Victorian pipes. Therefore only aesthetic restoration AC Thames Water will only put pipes as far as the tennis courts CW The Highgate Society are putting pipes in Pond Square AC to KI: can the tap at the rear of Lauderdale House be used to fill water bottles? AC The water from the kitchen garden tap is not drinkable</p> <p>The chair and committee thanked FM and the FoWP for all the work that they had carried out throughout the last financial year. AC Volunteer numbers fell off during Covid</p> <p>IH and KI were unable to attend the joint AGM CW gave a report on TAG and was applauded BC noted that it is not a legal requirement to have a separate TAG AGM as no vote at the AGM</p> <p>GH thanked the FoWP committee for including a celebration of the contribution to the Park of Dave Humphries on his retirement as part of the AGM. This was particularly appreciated as the Camden event was online only.</p>	<p>GH to provide information when available</p> <p>CW/GH to contact councillors about CIL money, none at present</p> <p>KI to find out if water safe to drink from tap outside Lauderdale House CW /FM to collaborate with Pond Square, Camden and The Highgate Society over the fountain in the square and copy in KI</p> <p>KI to ask for volunteers in her newsletter IH mentioned Richard Webber as part of a volunteering matrix in Highgate</p> <p>FB Thanks to be conveyed to FoWP committee and wider volunteers</p> <p>FB Thanks to be conveyed to FoWP committee</p>
<p>6. Lauderdale House verbal update KI as director said the cafe was still open Weddings, funerals and parties are carried out again. Open Air Thursdays and the summer exhibition were a success.</p>	<p>KI Geraldine Pilgrim possibly doing a performance in the Park at the end of September. Various community groups involved, eg., the Whittington Estate, in trying to connect the top and bottom of Dartmouth Park Hill.</p>

	The Park would not need to be closed and would involve groups of 15 or so people going around it. TAG agreed.
<p>7. Lux verbal update BC Lux is working on a feasibility study to convert the conservatory into a greenhouse.</p>	There are plans for an arts and ecology festival in 2022 in the Park.
<p>8.Strategy Update and discussion. With reference to TAG decision making process. IH This is currently a proposal from TAG, if it is approved by TAG and then ratified by the Trustee, it can be used as the framework for the future work of TAG. FM Emphasise that TAG advises and helps the Trust. IH TAG advises as the Think Tank for the Trust, operating under a partnership agreement, the Corporate Trustee has the final say. GH Camden as Trustee may not have the money to implement proposed changes.</p> <p>Forward Planning AC thanked GH and IH for their work on this. There can be difficulties, for example tree work might be at odds with Conservation policy.</p> <p>Financial stability GH At best we can hang on to the current budget FM Queried setting up Foundations and Legacies GH We wanted to do this, but too much work. TAG was set up instead, but is unable to run the Park. BC Alexandra Palace has income from car parks, rentals etc, but is too commercially run. Lauderdale House and LUX are charities and can give money for charitable purposes. FoWP is not. GH We are still paying off the loans from the two lodges.</p> <p>Zero Carbon Park AC We should recycle the contents of our waste bins BC Zero carbon could develop from Lux in the Park Centre outwards. Lux can raise money itself. for a) Capital projects such as algal walls b) HNF in favour of green energy, could hold for example an information fair on this.</p> <p>Public engagement to be encouraged including in ecology and biodiversity</p>	<p>NB the draft version No.7 of 7th October, discussed on the 8th, has since been updated by No.9 on 12/10.</p> <p>Strategy APPROVED by TAG IH will be send to the Trustee for ratification</p> <p>TAG would like financial statements for the Park from Camden. GH These must be treated as confidential</p> <p>IH BC KI to network with HNF</p>

<p>BC TAG members are not especially representative of all the local population GH Agreed that in developing TAG membership we should seek to be representative and balance this with the kind of roles we need filling.</p>	
<p>9. Trees and Views IH presented a proposal from the Trees and Views group. The view of St Paul's from Sir Sydney's statue is threatened by the growth of trees. Ten paces to the west of the current St Paul's viewpoint, if the top of a Lime is removed and the lower branch of a Silver Birch, then the view can be maintained. Trees and Views Group recommends that this is accepted. HNF and H Soc want the view of St Paul's to be designated. This is currently not possible due to the Metasequoia blocking the view. IH The view of St Paul's from Parliament Hill is not as good as that from W Park as there are no tall buildings in view behind it. AC Reminded the meeting that it would not be a good idea to cut the Oak to the right of St Paul's as it would encourage disease. This was considered but is not in the proposal. GH Please refer in the submission to the tree numbers found on the open data map, so they can be correctly identified.</p>	<p>Report from Trees and Views Group APPROVED by TAG</p> <p>IH to send the revised version to the Trustee for ratification.</p>
<p>10. A.O.B. including any issues not covered.</p> <p>AC Biodiversity at upper pond not compatible with foot fall. Therefore the area will be closed, but schools may apply to visit at certain times of the year.</p> <p>AC Informal play area: currently in the woods. Need another natural play area, there is one almost surrounded by shrubs, but will need supplementary planting, chestnut palings, two gates and an information sign on the gate.</p> <p>GH There was an assault in the Park. The victim knew the perpetrator. He was arrested on site and is a street drinker with Tourette's Syndrome. Signage</p> <p>KI There is a signage plan on google drive. We need another sign lower down to the cemetery. Money in CIL, £5-15K. Post installations not costed.</p>	<p>Rita Drobner has submitted tentative costings to Greg, but not part of his remit. Therefore AC will forward them to TAG for approval.</p> <p>KI To do more detailed quotes and</p>

Woodland finger posts £150 each.
GH Camden may install the wooden ones..
KI prefers the black and gold ones as more visible.

EW Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve (MTNR)
This is a privately owned nature reserve near to Gospel Oak Station and was used by schools for education. It was run by Trustees and volunteers and had an ACV served upon it with the intention of the local community to purchase it. It cannot be built upon as each tree has a TPO on it, it is a unique woodland in Camden. The site was locked by the owner and has been sold on to a developer at a hugely inflated price. The legality of the sale is in question.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm.

Thanks to BC for hosting and the coffee.

costings by the end of the first week in November.

EW to ask Highgate Soc's Michael Emmerson for advice. DPNF is involved to try to save the MTNR for the local community.