



Waterlow Park Trust

Advisory Group meeting January 24th 2024

Present: Ben Cook (BC) LUX, Ginnie Cumming (GC) (representing FoWP as observer), Valerie Doulton (VD) Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum (DPNF), Ian Henghes (IH) (Chair), Gabi Howard (GH) (Camden LA), Katherine Ives (KI) (Lauderdale House), Louise Sibley (LS) (guest representing the Highgate Society as observer prior to approval as TAG member), Eileen Willmott (EW) (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Committee)(attending by Zoho Meet and minute taker).

Apologies: April Cameron (AC) Fiona Brown (FB)

Issue	Action
<p>1. Welcome and introductions Ian Henghes (IH), as Chair, thanked Pippa Rothenberg (PR) for her many years of service to TAG representing the Highgate Society. Each person present introduced themselves. Valerie Doulton (VD) was welcomed as a new member, Louise Sibley (LS) and Ginnie Cumming (GC) as guests.</p>	
<p>2. Matters arising IH: to discuss proposed TAG changes, with Oliver Jones (OJ) the Camden Trustee. Suggestions are that OJ should attend TAG meetings once a year. The minutes for the previous meeting were approved.</p>	Meeting with OJ to be arranged and reported upon by IH for the next meeting.
<p>3. Tracker and updates and decisions. IH explained that the Tracker is a shared spreadsheet on Google Drive that is accessible to TAG, GH and FoWP. It is used as an agenda item at TAG meetings but is mainly for reference and not revisiting detail of issues that are ongoing.</p> <p>KI: the installation of the defibrillator on the outside wall of Lauderdale House is almost completed. GC: the restoration of the Shepherd and Shepherdess statues, work is in progress.</p>	GC: to find out more information.

<p>Finger post signage was discussed. It is needed for the Lauderdale House cafe and Highgate Cemetery. IH: had noticed a new sign at the children's playground. Discussion as to whether as it is a Trust Park the Trust logo should be on such signs. Social prescribing was discussed.</p> <p>GH: a Whittington Mental Health worker might be included on TAG. She met Martin(?). He had interesting ideas, such as taking MH patients for walks in the Park. An occupational therapist was the original contact. GH: noted some MH patients do sit in the kitchen garden.</p> <p>VD: the Harington Scheme also uses the space on a one to one basis and are keen to continue. Community meals could be made with the produce. BC: hospital patients could attend his workshops, but extra staff would be needed to accompany them.</p> <p>IH: the drainage upgrade is taking a long time. The Upper Pond pipes under the path have blocks in them. It is a Health and Safety issue and should be prioritised. Surface pipes can be frozen, the ice being hazardous. GH said it is not Camden's policy to grit.</p> <p>IH wished to say that the pond decking repairs were excellent, and asked GH to send thanks to the relevant department.</p> <p>Conversation between KI and VD relating to the sundial, Shakespeare and a Magnolia tree.</p>	<p>IH to discuss with OJ.</p> <p>GH to contact Ground maintenance at Camden. GC to check that work is completed.</p>
<p>4. Trees and Views engagement</p> <p>IH as leader of the Trees and Views group was asked by TAG to review the view of St Paul's Cathedral and the London skyline in general. FoWP and the Trees and Views Group with the support of TAG were in favour of height reduction to a Lime tree, in order to retain the view. An engagement process was prepared by IH and GH with input from others. 58% of respondents to the questionnaire were against work to the tree, and on this basis it was determined that the work should not go ahead, but the situation kept in review.</p> <p>The consultation tried to represent multiple factors in the proposal but it was felt that the complexity was not well understood by respondents. In discussion the point was made that decisions on the</p>	

<p>basis of surveys may be flawed. Camden Green Spaces advised the Trust that it should consult to understand public support for the proposal. The survey in itself provides some insight, but is not based on any deep understanding on the part of respondents. TAG now believes that if Camden wishes to consult the public, it has to be done in a different way with proper support so that the Trust can take more usefully informed decisions rather than be swayed by a survey. Decision making criteria should be considered and where necessary there should be additional public communications around this.</p> <p>Anna Wright, a Labour Councillor, suggested at a breakfast club that Citizen’s Assemblies (CAs) might be used if the Trust wishes to consult with the public. GH: the generic Consultation Guidelines prepared by TAG were a strong document, however she felt CAs were not the answer. There followed a lengthy discussion.</p> <p>LS stated that the founding document is an indenture which is limited in scope. VD: Sir Sydney Waterlow wanted the public to have a view of St Paul’s. EW: the money was raised by public subscription to pay for the statue of Sir Sydney Waterlow overlooking the Park and skyline. The statue and view from it were very popular.</p> <p>KI: we need a champion within the group to challenge the decision. IH: apart from GH, we are all volunteers. EW: 99% of all Dartmouth Park tree applications are for maintenance. IH said the situation should be kept under review as both as TAG, the Trees and Views group and all major local stakeholders who had been consulted were in favour of the work on the Lime, and because otherwise the view of St Paul’s may soon disappear. In the new draft Camden local Plan, there is no mention of the view of St Paul’s. There should be. IH also expressed concerns about a Holm Oak tree with bracket fungus. There should be an explanation, especially if much work is needed on it and other notable trees in the park.</p> <p>There was a discussion about what additional communications there is from this point about the consultation on the view of St Paul’s</p>	<p>GH to draft guidelines</p> <p>IH to discuss with Fiona Murphy, the Chair of FoWP.</p>
<p>5. Additional Updates from Camden/ Lauderdale/FoWP/LUX</p>	<p>None received</p>

<p>6. Priorities for 2024 VD: something needs to be drafted IH: the financial side of the Park should be looked at.</p>	<p>IH and LS IH and OJ</p>
<p>7. A.O.B. GH: CIL monies fund the Camden Projects Team. This will be used for the upgrade of the Play Area. KI: Lauderdale runs a weekly youth collective who largely come from the local estates and would be willing to facilitate any consultation with them in relation to upgrades of the play areas and recreational facilities. IH: Suggested that Andrew Sanalito, who runs the HNCP, might be asked to join TAG</p>	
<p>The meeting closed at 12.50pm.</p>	