



Waterlow Park Trust

Advisory Group meeting 05th June 2024

Present: Ben Cook (BC) (LUX), Ian Henghes (IH) (Chair), Gabi Howard (GH) (Camden LA), Katherine Ives (KI) (Lauderdale House), April Cameron (AC) (FoWP) Fiona Murphy (FM) (FoWP), Louise Sibley (LS) (Highgate Society), Andrew Sanalidro (AS - Attending as observer) (Highgate Newtown Community Partners).

Apologies: Eileen Willmott (EW) (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Committee), Valerie Doulton (VD) (Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum),

Issue	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions.</p> <p>IH welcomed AS as an observer today and a prospective member of TAG. All gave short introductions.</p> <p>LS is joining TAG as a full member as of this meeting, and also represents the Highgate Society who are stakeholders.</p>	
<p>2. Matters arising - from minutes of 24th Jan 2024</p> <p>A defibrillator is now installed on the north east side wall of Lauderdale House by the new entrance and staff have been trained. A maintenance routine is in place. The station also has a bleed kit in the event of serious injury.</p> <p>IH mentioned that a further discussion is due about public engagements. He is concerned that decisions flowing from them should not be solely based on survey responses, as respondents will inevitably only have part of the information necessary to make an informed decision.</p>	<p>Future training might be in coordination with the Highgate Society who are helping to spread defibrillator awareness and training</p> <p>IH / FB to talk in first instance</p>
<p>3. IH on Trustee meeting, priorities & AGM</p> <p>IH has circulated notes on his meeting with the Trustee, Oliver Jones. The role of TAG in relation to the Trust is something that will continue to evolve. IH said that clarifying wherever possible was useful for succession</p>	

planning to make the handover of roles easier.

IH mentioned that there was a decision document recording the outcome of the Trees and Views public consultation regarding the view of St Paul's, and that this was modelled on a Council approach. GH said it looked back, not forward. IH said that it would be good for the Trust to have a clearer voice distinct from the Council on such matters as the potential for designation of the view.

A discussion about this ensued with agreement that the view was worthy of designation at the level of the London Plan to protect against tall buildings in front of or behind St Paul's. It was recognised that a case needed to be made for this, and that this could not come just from 'within' the Park. The Highgate Society and the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum and others needed to be centrally involved. This needs further investigation and ideally might be led by someone with planning experience.

IH has circulated a short paper advocating for Camden to consider 'insourcing' park maintenance. GH said that the current Grounds Maintenance contract finishes in 2025, but a year's extension will be sought. Currently the strategy on the re-commissioning of the GM contract is being worked on. There was an engagement exercise shared with stakeholders last year. GH will keep TAG updated as to the re-commissioning work, but IH is of course welcome to raise with OJ. IH mentioned the greater flexibility of direct employees being an advantage and the potential for community benefits through the possibility of more collaborative opportunities unconstrained by contractual limits which are complex to vary. As the maintenance requirements are being revisited it was agreed to recommend to the Trust that Camden Green Space be asked to fully consider insourcing as an option. AC advocated for clarifying expectations between volunteers and contractors to avoid 'scope creep'. LS observed that the Trust doesn't have a defined standard that maintenance should meet.

Discussing the combined AGM with the Friends IH said he would give an overview of the Trust Advisory Group and a brief account of the Trees and Views engagement. It was agreed that BBQs are likely to be an item of particular concern to attendees. GH and possibly others from Camden would respond to this but it was also agreed that a flip-chart for attendees to write comments on or stick post-it notes on was also a good idea.

IH to talk to FB and the Highgate Society and others, in order to explore the formation of a View Designation group.

KI to raise with the 'Breakfast Group'

IH to provide AC with link to current Camden ground maintenance spreadsheet

IH to discuss with OJ

BC to provide flip chart

FB to send AGM invites to councillors

<p>4. Tracker issues / Updates</p> <p>KI said that signage (park finger post signs) was still very much on her radar and would be progressed.</p> <p>Play area improvement presentation have been circulated as have a draft of survey questions. There was a discussion about this which encompassed wider issues of park improvements. AS suggested Channing might be useful to approach about certain initiatives.</p> <p>Charlotte Meyer sculpture installation planning is ongoing. A full size cardboard mock-up of sculpture and plinth is being prepared by Lauderdale House. FB expressed concern about the proposed location. It was noted however that the sculpture in question is very much a 'central' piece which frames views from both sides and the position suggested reflects this. AS offered thoughts for KI about how the cost of a plinth might be reduced.</p> <p>Work to restore the urns around Lauderdale House is still in abeyance as is the reinstatement of the small sundial gnomon. The statue of Sir Sydney needs a new key for his hand, and may benefit from some further attention, especially in relation to the plinth.</p> <p>Tree health has been added to the tracker as there seem to be a few trees in poor health this year</p>	<p>KI to report back at next meeting</p> <p>Something Collective are in charge of engagement LS to collate notes about the survey to feed back to them</p> <p>KI to show FB & others from TAG the model when available in situ</p> <p>IH to contact Joe Hendricks</p>
<p>5. BBQ issues and brief for reformed BBQ Group</p> <p>A draft brief for a reformed BBQ Group was circulated. Keeping the group reasonably small was considered sensible as well as it being able to represent different opinions. LS asked if the Trust might not just take the data relating to BBQs and make a decision based on that. The discussion came back to the idea of a group being tasked with considering the issue and making recommendations to TAG to review and then advise the Trust.</p> <p>IH said he would like to not be the Group lead on this occasion, in part so that he could adopt a role of greater advocacy than someone chairing a group might be able to. GH said it was important to have a chair that can maintain a neutral position whilst carrying out the review.</p>	<p>ALL to consider who might be approached to join the BBQ Group.</p>

IH asked for an estimate of costs related to BBQs. FB reported on Islington trialling electric BBQs and there was a discussion about gas. It was agreed that the current pressure on Waterlow Park as London's 'premier' BBQ venue was unsustainable and that there was a serious issue with lack of resourcing as one member of staff at weekends is unable to deal with enforcement and support as required.

The toilets suffer when there is high usage and they are currently not cleaned at the weekend which is a serious problem as they can be taken out of commission for a prolonged period meaning people head for bushes.

KI said that it was important that in discussions of any change the positives of coming to the park and sharing food (not necessarily cooked) was emphasised, and that this should be inclusive of the communities who have discovered the park as a BBQ venue. LS said it was important to have good data ready for the BBQ Group.

GH to provide data on BBQs including cost estimates and visitor data.