



# Waterlow Park Trust

## Advisory Group meeting 11am Lauderdale House 20 October 2025

**Present:** Ian Henghes - IH (Chair), Fiona Brown - FB (FoWP), Gabi Howard - GH (Camden), Louise Sibley - LS (Highgate Society), Katherine Ives - KI (Lauderdale House), April Cameron - AC (FoWP). Valerie Doulton - VD (DPNF), Katy Knight - KK (Camden Head of Leisure).

**Apologies:** Eileen Wilmott (DPNF), Ali Roche - AR (Lux), Andrew Sanalidro - AS (HNCP)

Issue	Action
<p><b>2. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting Approved</p> <p><b>Plaque on Highgate Hill Wall (Marvel's Cottage):</b> Proposal to replace plaque with clearer version including Marvel's writings.</p> <p><b>Memorial Tree for Mark Walters:</b> Sites still under discussion.</p> <p><b>Lanterns on Lion Gates:</b> No change due to changes at Heritage of London Trust.</p>	<p>VD Check if planning permission is needed - consult with Highgate Society planning committee secretary (Liz Morris).</p>
<p><b>3. Chairs notes (circulated)</b></p> <p><b>Sculpture Review and Engagement Group (SRE Group):</b> Issue over Trust charitable purposes, with the suggestion that they were in fact quite restrictive, delayed progress in discussion of proposed sculpture. Clarification has been received from the Trustee and demonstrates that the SRE Group / TAG and Trust are; not constrained by specific charitable purposes.</p> <p>This is a need to fully confirm that the Trust is able to take ownership of the sculpture if the project goes ahead.</p>	<p>GH Check with Camden if the trust can own and maintain the proposed sculpture.</p> <p>SRE Group to meet again to determine approach, preferred location and plan for public engagement.</p> <p>GH to double-check</p>

<p>It was felt very important to be fully transparent about charitable purpose, and that the best way of making this information available would be through the Trust website</p> <p>TAG Handbook engagement section to be reviewed. A 'checklist' would be used differently as best suits different projects, and 'light touch' engagement only applied where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Works &amp; Maintenance</b></p> <p>New play area has been well received with noticeably increased public usage. Decking replacement at upper pond is also much appreciated. Thanks expressed to Camden.</p> <p>Works to resolve water issues on the path from the upper pond and drainage have been completed with a major amount of work to install new pipes. Concerns were raised about potential environmental impact of chlorinated top-up water and loss of any stream from the top pond. Lack of engagement with the Friends and TAG was a regret, as the works would likely have been specified differently had this taken place, and there might have been cost saving. Going forward TAG requested that 'material change' in the Park that result from Camden maintenance or other departments works not be undertaken without engagement. As a minimum this should be with TAG and generally with the Friends. This should not affect emergency works on which there is no time for engagement and generally involve no 'material change'..</p> <p>The possibility of using a standing stump of a beech tree by Lauderdale House for a wood-carved sculpture was raised.</p>	<p>IH to update website in consultation with Trustee</p> <p>LS &amp; KI to review current engagement text from Handbook and revise as appropriate.</p> <p>GH to discuss procedure with Camden departments to ensure that TAG / Friends are in the loop with change (as now happens routinely with Tree planting).</p> <p>AC to email re carving in tree</p>
<p><b>4. Accessibility &amp; Signage:</b></p> <p>The project is ongoing. Five new signs proposed; QR codes suggested for detailed accessibility info.</p>	<p>Martin Payne to check quotes and ensure disability access is clearly indicated on signage.</p>
<p><b>5. View designation</b></p> <p>Letters have been sent to the GLA and Camden about the view in the hope that it might be included in the London Plan and Camden Local Plan. A roundel on the</p>	

<p>ground is encouraging passers by to stop in the correct place and the web page about the view is attracting notice thanks to the QR code it incorporates</p>	
<p><b>6. Updates</b></p> <p><b>Table Tennis Table Proposal:</b> An outdoor table tennis table project has funding.</p> <p><b>Christmas Decorations:</b> Anticipated to be financially positive, as last year.</p> <p><b>Halloween at Lauderdale House:</b> Plan needed for late park closure and safety.</p> <p><b>Tennis &amp; Coaching:</b> Plan to license tennis coaches from April; limit hours per coach to increase court availability. Seeking more volunteers for children’s tennis programs.</p> <p><b>Recruitment by Camden:</b> ongoing for a community nature officer.</p> <p><b>Other Park Management Issues</b></p> <p><b>High Street gate:</b> contractor being selected. Should be delivered this year</p> <p><b>Public information</b> A checklist of current projects for notice-boards would be welcome</p>	<p>Friends engaging with public on this. Supported by Camden and TAG in principal</p> <p>FB to progress</p>
<p><b>7. BBQs</b></p> <p>The BBQ Working group has submitted a report to TAG (circulated) with a majority recommendation that the current temporary BBQ ban be made permanent. They identified a negative impact on neighbours and park users and there being no realistic plan with sufficient resourcing to overcome problems experienced to date.</p> <p>TAG discussed options including electric BBQs (though it was recognised that a proposal for these could not be researched, reviewed and engaged upon and implemented by next year). Also discussed was allowing only planned, licensed events with strict limitations and coordination with neighbours. Such events to go through</p>	

<p>the Camden events process. Given the fact that there are many outstanding problems to address, a ban on all BBQs was presented as the more prudent approach.</p> <p>The loss of an activity enjoyed by people who might not otherwise visit the park was raised. Some locals like to BBQ. Many locals though are strongly opposed to BBQs</p> <p>The meeting did not believe that 'no change' (e.g. allow a largely unrestricted BBQ season) was appropriate. There was a consensus to not entirely rule out any suitably resourced, planned and managed approach in future, especially if charcoal and wood BBQs were no longer allowed. A review of any new proposals that might come from Camden next year was proposed. In the meantime TAG concluded that the outright ban should be extended.</p>	<p>IH to draft an advice memo for the Trustee and circulate to TAG for approval.</p>
<p><b>8. Tracker</b></p> <p>The tracker was briefly reviewed.</p>	<p>FB to make some updates</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>IH mentioned an air raid shelter manhole cover and the potential interest and usefulness in exploration</p> <p>AC mentioned regular use by private nursery. It was suggested that they be encouraged to join the Friends and donate to park.</p> <p>Café Compostable Cups: Discussion about logistics of disposal</p>	<p>GH has some info and will share</p> <p>FB or TAG might approach them</p> <p>KI to follow up</p>