

LONDON GREEN SPACES FRIENDS GROUPS NETWORK (LFGN)

Committee/Coordination Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held 18:00 **Monday 4th February 2019** at City Hall

Present: Dave Morris (Chair), Adrian Stannard (IT & Treasurer), Alona Sheridan (National Park City & Biodiversity), Helen Monger (LPGT); Suzanne Morpurgo (Trees & Sport); S. Knightswood (Dog & Pedestrian Officer), Alice Roberts (CPRE London), Kerry?? **Apologies:** S. Counder

1. **Previous committee minutes:** Mon 15th October, 2019 accepted without comment.
2. **Communications:** Update on website. This has been successful but more stats in relation to it would be helpful. Facebook (No? of followers) & Twitter (570 followers) Email list 400 [ACTION POINT - Adrian]
3. **Borough Forum list:** Outstanding - DM to collate existing London forums emails to target mail-outs separately.[ACTION POINT – Dave]
4. **Our Space:** *Go Parks* (promotional face) volunteer needed (1 day/week average) to help with networking & associated events, newsletter production - helping generation of content, guidance notes, events management etc. Invitation to members to submit videos for film festival gave good results (see #7 below).
5. **Previous LFGN meeting topics:** wide range covered over the years – have to think re new areas to add. Specific topics added to website but then low level of reading (based on ‘hits’) and any particular topic actually getting read (need to increase this).
6. **Parks for London** have contacts list of all Friends groups – we used to maintain this jointly but due to GDPR we don’t have direct access. Pfl chart of all Friends Groups provided by LAs is now 700. Pfl have recently produced a report on waste management.
7. **Film show:** on 25/01/2019 at 70 Cowcross St, Farringdon EC1M 6EJ). Very successful. 70-80 people? Films on CPRE youtube channel. Aim to have repeat in the future.
 - a. Films from Friends of Shoreditch Park, Wandsworth Park, Kingston Road Rec, Regents Canal Coalition, Berrylands Nat Reserve, Queenscroft Park, Luxmore Gdns, Deptford Folk, Lordship Rec, Mayow Park, Stoke Newington Common, Winsford Gardens and Wandsworth Common.
 - b. Guidance on film-making [ACTION POINT – Alice]
8. **Our Space** – about outward promotion of parks including via the Big Green London Map.
9. **London National Park City:** This launches 22nd July, 2019; National Park City Festival 20-28 July. Make life Better poster – launch of the concept planned in May 2019.
10. **Open Garden Squares Weekend:** This is on 8-9th June, 2019. We can promote.
11. **London Plan:** – DM speaking about the need to strengthen policies to protect parks. Friends Groups play important role in regeneration. The consultation for the London Plan **closed on 28 February**.
12. **Empowering Communities** Parks Action Group work stream - DM chair of this. Park Action Group has hitherto held back on funding projects but is now accelerated release for various funding. Nat Fed Parks & Green Spaces worker to be funded, online info to be expanded, regional conferences being organised.

13. **NESTA** / Lordship rec / parkscommunityuk project – have managed to get every greenspace community-facing organisation on board. 2-yr project growing towards being a resource for all Friends groups and to be handed over at conclusion to The Nat Fed of Parks. Working with 10 pilot sites (8 in London)
14. **Good Parks for London** meeting 28 Nov 2018 in association with their annual report. DM made a brief statement but meeting mainly for networking. Report available online (<https://glhearn-publications.cld.bz/Good-Parks-for-London-2018>).
15. **Select Committee:** There were earlier hopes that this would re-convene and continue the work (since Public parks” report published in January 2017) but it may end up with correspondence with the Parks Minister and a report to parliament.
16. **Green Infrastructure:** meeting covered specialist information.
17. **Green Spaces Commission:** The London Assembly is establishing this – and a report due out afterwards.
18. **Borough Friends Groups’ Surveys:** – added to lfgn website
19. **LFGN calendar:** for London-wide major events/deadlines - needs updating [ACTION POINT]
20. **Countryfile (BBC) programme** “*Lordship Rec on BBC Countryfile*” (uploaded on youtube 08-09-2018). Included Dave talking about the national picture/crisis
21. **Shoreditch Park (Hackney):** Campaign (mainly by Alice/CPRE) to persuade council not to build on tennis courts was, to great dismay, not successful. The Council is “aiming to replace as much of the current hard standing multi-use games area as possible *on the roof* of the new leisure centre”, part of which will be built over the courts (and not replaced by use of another brownfield site). Precedent?
22. **Mail on Sunday** has continued its save parks campaign with a major article supporting the work of Friends Groups on 30-12-2018 (copies have been distributed). [**Post-meeting update:** Communities Secretary, James Brokenshire, has pledged £13m to help Britain’s parks. Quote from national papers (17-02-2019): “Dave Morris, chairman of the National Federation Of Parks And Green Spaces, added: ‘The Government is finally waking up to the funding crisis.’ “
23. **Next meetings:**
 - a. 18-03-2019 (General) **Topic:** ‘Promoting our parks’.
 - b. 13-05-2019 (**Co-ord**)
 - c. 08-07-2019 (General)
 - d. 09-09-2019 (General)
 - e. 21-10-2019 (**Co-ord**)
 - f. 02-12-2019 (General)