



London Friends of Green Spaces Network

On-line Coordinating Meeting held on Monday 26th April 2021

Attending: Greenspace Friends Forums and other reps: Dave Morris (Haringey Forum – LFGN Chair), Adrian Stannard – *Note Taker* (Lloyd Park, Waltham Forest), Alona Sheridan (Lewisham Forum), Suzanne Morpurgo (Brent Forum), Symon (Lewisham Forum), Alice Roberts (Campaign to Protect Rural England [London] and Hackney Downs), Larry Herbert (Bromley Forum), Antonia Savvides (Pinner Village Gardens, Harrow), Laura Collins (Go Parks, LFGN and Figgie’s Marsh, Merton), Jane Plant (Harrow Forum), Peter Woodward (Chislehurst Common, Bromley), Shirley Kermer (Clapham Common), Sharon (Ham Lands, Richmond), Miriam Aswell (Islington Forum), Tim Webb (London Gardens Trust).

ACTIONS:

- a. DAVE – LFGN Bio-diversity leaflet to go on LFGN and parkscommunity.org.uk websites
- b. DAVE – to chase Urban Forest Tree Strategy
- c. ALONA/PETER – To introduce discussion about biodiversity at next general meeting.
- d. DAVE – a LFGN contract with GIGL to be discussed further.
- e. ALICE – a LFGN Cycling working group coordinator needed. Maybe 2 groups Cycling, and Cars.
- f. ROGER – to set up LFGN Planning Group with Alona and Suzanne.
- g. SYMON – LFGN Dogs in Green Spaces – Volunteers for group to contact Symon amenexamen@yahoo.com
- h. SHARON – LFGN Climate Change group to be sketched out.
- i. ALL – encourage new Borough Forums to be set up.
- j. ANTONIA – investigate idea of Council bans on leaf blowers
- k. ALL - 28th May to 15th June – Great British Spring Clean

1. Minutes of 1st February 2021 were agreed.

2. Working Groups

- 2.1. **Nature and Biodiversity** – Peter (Bromley) agreed to join the group. Alona reported that a very interesting meeting of the group had been held with GiGL. Some local groups have been collecting and sending data to GiGL. GiGL offers support with templates etc. The data belongs to the groups collecting it and GIGL verifies it and has a huge amount already on their database, most of which they sell to fund their operation i.e. to Councils re planning, to developers etc. They need help collecting the data, in particular Boroughs without a Bio Diversity officer. iRecord and iNaturalist do a similar job to GIGL and iRecord feeds in to the GIGL database. Those online apps have the advantage over GiGL of enabling the users to access their own info any time.
- 2.2. **Planning** – Roger (Barnet) had drafted LFGN response documents relating to consultation over national planning policies, as well as one for a Charter for protection of public access to London’s open spaces eg. around City Hall the open space is privately owned. Alona and Suzanne volunteered to join group.
- 2.3. **Dogs in green spaces** – Symon some years back had led on an LFGN discussion on this issue, and started to draft a questionnaire for Friends Groups. He is seeking volunteers to help form an LFGN working group. Sharon agreed to join group.
- 2.4. **Cycling** – Alice reported that a discussion had been held at the last meeting based on her draft paper. A cycling/pedestrian protocol was needed and a draft had been sent to the cycling groups. Cars in parks was another issue, but mainly concerns about through traffic and car parking. Issues of speed regarding cars/vans with legitimate reason for being in parks.
- 2.5. **Climate Change** – Sharon to prepare thoughts about what such a group could do and how.
- 2.6. **Leaf Blowers** – Antonia said there needs to be a campaign to stop the use of leaf blowers which create noise and air pollution.

3. Forums

- 3.1. It was emphasised how important it is to support and strengthen Park Forums in every borough.
- 3.2. Dave very happy to attend meetings to support new and developing Forums.
- 3.3. There were some very brief updates from local Forums present.

4. Collaboration with other Organisations

- 4.1. **CPRE** – Is campaigning for 10 new parks to be created in London to stop neglected land being developed i.e. underused and fenced-off land. A positive vision for the land will be put forward. More sites needed - let Alice alice@cprelondon.org.uk know and people could start local campaigns around specific sites. Also to defend existing sites under threat.
- 4.2. **Go Parks** – Laura reported the project and the GoParks Map are gaining momentum. Now have 357 live registrations. Are supporting some Councils to promote their greenspace, with promotional material and potential walking routes and events. 6 more Councils are in the pipeline. Every Friends Group is urged to check the Map, the new borough pages, and to register their group.
- 4.3. **London National Park City**– Over 100 LNPC Rangers have been appointed and a WiKi site set up to share relevant information/ideas/activities.
- 4.4. **'A More Natural Capital' Alliance** – The Alliance, coordinated by CPRE and strongly supported by the LFGN, created an election Manifesto to lobby London Mayoral candidates over environmental issues and demands (including for action to address the needs of green spaces). Over 500 attended a hustings meeting online where questions were put to Mayoral candidates. In 100 days time the Alliance will review what, if any progress has been made on the issues raised and promises made.

5. Any Other Business –

- 5.1. **Our Patch** – Laura stated it is published every 3rdThursday. She appealed for items for the next edition.
- 5.2. **Social Media** – Laura is trying to solve the Facebook Page/Group issues.
- 5.3. **Parks Community UK**– Dave reported this national website/platform, created as a crucial 'one stop shop' resource for all Friends' Groups, urgently needs new resources. It is managed by the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) who have made 3 unsuccessful grant applications to the Lottery. Anyone who can help with access to funding please contact Dave.
- 5.4. **National Federation** – Dave reported a meeting of the NFPGS had been held attended by reps from 24 area Forums representing about 2,000 local Friends groups.
- 5.5. **Parks Management Forum** – This new association set up by parks managers represents parks professionals. They are aiming to help facilitate a campaign for more funding for parks.
- 5.6. **All Party Parliamentary Group** – This new group of MPs is to investigate the progress made (or lack of it) since the Future of Public Parks parliamentary inquiry in 2016/17. The funding for parks has continued to deteriorate, despite their increasing popularity and recognition of the crucial and unique benefits they provide to all communities. The NFPGS has been invited to make a presentation at the next APPG meeting about this.
- 5.7. **28th May to 15th June** – Great British Spring Clean

6. NEXT LFGN GENERAL MEETING: Monday 7th June at 6pm, by zoom – Key Topic: Biodiversity