



London Friends of Green Spaces Network

On-line Coordinating Meeting held on Monday 1st November 2021

Attending: Friends Groups/Forums reps: Dave Morris (Haringey Forum, and LFGN Chair) – *Chaired*; Adrian Stannard (Lloyd Park, Waltham Forest, and LFGN website) – *Note Taker*; Suzanne Morpurgo (Brent Parks Forum); Symon Knightswood (Hilly Fields Park, and Lewisham Forum); Antonia Savvides (Pinner Village Gardens, Harrow Forum); Laura Collins (Merton Forum, Go Parks, and LFGN worker); Peter Woodward (Chislehurst Common, Bromley Forum); Sharon Mehta (Ham Lands); Rose Wakelin (London Gardens Trust); Kerry Hood (Bromley, LFGN website); Simon Braidman (Harrow Forum); Mary-Jane Jeanes (Merton); Ray (Royal Parks); Ed Stannard (Parks for London); Jonny Joseland (Waltham Forest TCV); Roger Chapman (Barnet Forum, and LFGN Planning Group); Roger Jones (Newham); Patricia Wagner (-); Sean Wilkinson (Enfield).

ACTIONS include...

- a. Antonia – may raise with LFGN Biodiversity Working Group the negative effect of leaf blowers
- b. Roger – Barnet Forum Manifesto for next May's local elections, to be distributed to other Forums.
- c. Roger – may draft a LFGN Planning Group letter to the London Mayor about loss of open space.
- d. Ed Stannard – LFGN Large/Commercial Events Working Group to hold a launch meeting soon
- e. Dave – LFGN have agreed a series of occasional zoom seminars

1. Minutes of September 2021 General Meeting were agreed. Well attended. Great discussion.

2. Working Groups

- 2.1. **Nature and Biodiversity** – Leaflets had been produced. A range of strategic issues could be considered (group welcomes active input), and could be an informal advice hub for local groups. Lack of detail of bio-diversity impacts of many Planning Applications needs to be addressed eg via local site auditing by volunteers. Leafblowing issues? London events?
- 2.2. **Planning** – Roger Chapman reported a very useful Planning Group meeting had been held in July. Will try to respond to consultations. Also try to advise groups about, but not respond to, individual Planning Applications. They suggested the issue of loss of open space be raised with the Mayor and the All Party Parliamentary Group. They want to urge the Mayor to write to the Boroughs saying loss of open space is an important strategic matter.
- 2.3. **Large/Commercial Events** – 7 people/groups had shown interest and a first meeting will be convened by Ed.

3. Forums

- 3.1. See LFGN September meeting minutes for recent local Forum reports
- 3.2. New Forums in Kingston & Bexley were being set up. Dave & Laura are in touch and advising.
- 3.3. Barnet had drafted a Greenspace Manifesto ready for next year's elections.
- 3.4. Lewisham Forum has been successfully re-launched.
- 3.5. Antonia suggested Forums should lobby against leaf blowers, mowing regimes and pesticides. Brent had stopped pesticides and created bee corridors using rotivators. Veolia had won awards for its work.

4. Collaboration with other Organisations

- 4.1. **Go Parks** – Laura reported that a volunteering and promotional campaign in a number of boroughs was underway using inspiring photos of volunteers (please send her ones GoParks and LFGN can use!). Good feedback and working closer with councils. Every borough has a

page. Also, can all Friends Groups register with the site, with an opportunity to have your own info/page? See: www.goparks.london Contact laura@cprelondon.org.uk

- 4.2. **More Natural Capital Alliance** – CPRE (London) is coordinating a coalition of 20 London-wide environmental organisations, including LFGN. They together created a Manifesto for the May 2021 Mayoral election, and aim to use it again for next year’s local elections. Have reviewed the Mayor’s environmental policies and practices in the first 100 days since he was re-elected, and publicised the results of progress (or lack of it) here:

<https://www.cprelondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2021/05/The-first-100-days-%E2%80%93-a-review-of-progress-V7.pdf>

- 4.3. **Parks for London** – GLA funded to coordinate projects and transition to a Centre of Excellence. Additional staff have been recruited. Plan to zoom launch the 2021 ‘Good Parks for London’ report this month. LFGN and Borough Forum reps have been invited.
<https://parksforlondon.org.uk>
- 4.4. **London Gardens Trust** – Rose Wakelin reported that funding for 5 years had been obtained to make the most of the Historic elements in parks. Sharing their sites inventory with Go Parks. Urged all groups to check the accuracy of their own site’s inventory (2500 local London sites recorded): <https://londongardenstrust.org/conservation/inventory/>
- 4.5. **Synchronising** – We agreed it is vital that all London greenspace organisations working with local communities synchronise their activities and support each other (eg LFGN, Parks for London, CPRE, GoParks, the London Gardens Trust, etc). Ed (Pfl) to pull together a meeting.
- 4.6. **National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces** – We are the London region of the UK-wide NFPGS. NFPGS is currently run entirely by volunteers and is seeking funding for its infrastructure and its work encouraging a stronger and more diverse movement. About to release a path-breaking ‘Better Friends’ report on the strength and health of the Friends Groups’ movement. All groups urged to fill in the Better Friends strength checker – see www.parkscommunity.org.uk

5. LFGN admin/comms/issues –

- 5.1. **Our Patch** – Laura publishes every 3rd Thursday of each month. She appealed for items for the next edition.
- 5.2. **Funding** – Laura’s post supporting LFGN and GoParks is funded up to May 2022. CPRE are trying to get further 3 years of funding in early 2022.
- 5.3. **Zoom Seminars** – We agreed to host a series of occasional LFGN ‘Greenspace Showcase’ seminars, with Q&A sessions, on interesting subjects and inspiring successes, presented by local Friends Groups and Forums – eg re rivers, heritage, biodiversity. Can groups consider putting together a presentation about topics that may interest other groups?
- 5.4. **Social Media** – the web site had gone down due to the renewal payment being missed, but Kerry soon restored it. We agreed to pay any money owed to her.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS –

- 6.1. Friends of White Webs Park put in touch with Brent Forum.
- 6.2. Jonny reported various attempts to set up a Forum in Waltham Forest. A recent meeting had 5 groups attending. He is planning a quarterly newsletter.
- 6.3. Dave liaising with the Just Space network over their draft Community-Led Recovery for London document.

7. NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday 13th December at 6pm by zoom. Topic: Positive achievements in 2021 plus a presentation by a Group.