

London Friends of Green Spaces Network

Minutes of the Greenspace Showcase webinar on 9 May 2022

Present – 20 representatives from the following friends groups: Pinner Recreation Ground/Headstone Green, Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, Chislehurst Common, West Ham Park, Lloyds Park, Mayow Park, Ham Lands, Grove Park, Brent Parks Forum, Hervey Road Sports Field, Lordship Rec (chairing), Figge's Marsh. Also representatives from Parks for London, CPRE and Habitats & Heritage.

1. **Intros** (name, group, borough)
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – 7 February 2022 - agreed as a correct record
3. **Special showcase** from the friends of Pinner Rec/Headstone Green and Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project, highlighting projects in smaller green spaces

Simon Braidman from Pinner Rec and Headstone Green introduced the work being done on these sites. Pinner Rec is being converted from a previously derelict site to a wood meadow, with a drainage ditch, bund, wildflowers, and new trees. Headstone Green has also recently been adopted by a friends group, and good things are anticipated for this site.

John Hepple and Sunita Hirani talked about the transformation they have achieved at Brook Way, turning a neglected pathway connecting neighbourhoods to a school into a vibrant, cared for, and biodiverse walkway. The group used recycled materials and donated plants, and involved the local school as well as ecology experts for the bird, bee and bat habitats.

Question: What has been the impact on the local community?

Brook Way (BW) People are now much more likely to use the pathway.

Pinner Rec (PR) People like the changes and are enjoying the wildflowers, but many still don't know it is there.

Question: How did you manage to get people involved?

PR We involved geocachers from all over London to volunteer.

BW We put newsletters through letterboxes and engaged the local school.

Question: Were there any glitches or obstacles to overcome?

BW Some neighbours complained but we were able to find a way forward.

Question: How did you get the council on board with the concept?

BW The council wasn't interested in the land, so they didn't object.

PR We convinced the council on the concept before choosing the site. It was a remote site so the council was happy to go ahead.

4. Updates from friends groups and partner organisations

Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens: the nursery has now been taken in house

Chislehurst Common: success for biodiversity as the verges have been left untouched and notices have been put up explaining why the verges haven't been mowed

West Ham Park: the residential development is still a threat and they are also working on a project (Great Eastern Parks Route) to link up parks with green routes

Brent Parks Forum: also looking to link up the parks, Forest and Family have been offering tai chi and walks and talks in the borough, and the council has been engaging effectively with the forum

Hervey Road Sports Field: plants whips for the Queens Green Canopy, clearing the land to grow wildflowers with the help of a new Ecology in the council

Lordship Rec: a waterlogged path is being fixed after 15 years, and the hub community centre is getting solar panels and a weather station

Parks for London: this is Mental Health Awareness Week, and next week is Creativity and Wellbeing Week, an opportunity to get creative outdoors

Figge's Marsh: the council is replacing a low railing (broken for a few years) with a wildflower bund, which is great for biodiversity

Harrow: the council is doing relaxed mowing, with areas with less mowing

5. AOB

Next LFGN General Meeting: 20 June 2022 at 6pm over zoom