



**London Friends of Green
Spaces Network**
Report of on-line Core Group Meeting
Wednesday 8th April 2026

ATTENDING: Chair: Dave Morris (Haringey); Laura Collins (Merton); Minutes: Adrian Stannard (Waltham Forest); Miriam Ashwell (Islington); Roger Jones (Newham); Pat Gross (Wandsworth); Larry Herbert (Bromley); Alona Sheridan (Lewisham). *Note: Suzanne (Brent) didn't get notified and will now be added to the LFGN core group WhatsApp group.*

1. **WELCOME by Dave Morris** – This was an urgent meeting of the core group only, to discuss the situation LFGN is in and the way forward. We are at a crossroads, having been the key community partner within the GoParks project, but now needing to revert to our previous full range of activities and independence from CPREL. We also want to develop in order to maintain some of the progress we've made in the last few years (newsletters, working groups, online webinars etc).
2. **Laura Collins** – Due to financial issues CPREL can no longer keep Laura, and her contract was terminated on the 31st March. She had spent many years supporting LFGN as a key part of the GoParks project. She sent out a final joint LFGN/GoParks newsletter to all contacts explaining the situation. She can continue to be a contact point for queries for the moment.
3. **GoParks** – CPREL has agreed to maintain Go Parks until the end of 2026 but cant support LFGN and the wider friends groups movement's general activities (which is our focus) any longer. CPREL wants to focus mainly on their 'core' activity as a lobby organisation (whilst maintaining some related projects like the green belt tree ring). Dave has been negotiating with the new CPRE London Chief Executive on how the 2 organisations can untangle their roles whilst remaining generally supportive of each other. They have developed a joint Memorandum of Understanding (on who will be doing what, especially in the transitional phase), which is going to the CPREL trustees in April. The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) has a mutually supportive joint MOU with CPRE nationally, so that helps. Go Parks main public presence is the map of all London's parks which is owned by CPRE and the tech costs £500 per month to maintain, plus extra for staffing/promotion. As well as our role (promoting the involvement of Friends Groups), the map is also a partnership with GiGL (sites' biodiversity info) and London Parks and Gardens (sites' historical info). 3 key options for LFGN seem to be:
 - a. Do we want to takeover Go Parks and fundraise to manage it, the cost would be £12k per year. (Possibly, but we would probably need to quickly and dramatically develop our infrastructure and capacity)
 - b. Do we want someone else to take it over who might be able to manage it? (Possibly, if such an organisation exists and is willing).
 - c. Just focus on our own core activities and let GoParks potentially fizzle out (That would be sad as it's a very important project – but its unlikely that CPREL will be able to maintain it beyond 2026)

If LFGN decides to aspire to takeover Go Parks do we have the people who could manage it? Currently the map comes from GiGL so should the GLA fund it? If LFGN did take it on it would be a long-term admin,

organisational and financial commitment, but if LFGN did not take it on who would support it? Would the London National Park City group be interested? Parks for London? Other?

4. **LFGN comms and media**

EMAIL LIST – LFGN has all the contacts we've collected via our original email list and GoParks. Dave has set up a new list enabling us to easily post to all contacts. The LFGN web site would need to direct new people to the new system, or a contact address. **ACTION:** Adrian to change link on web site to new system.

WEBSITE: Pat thought she might know someone who could help with Wordpress, to check our site is functioning OK and where it needs upgrading etc.

FACEBOOK Is active and managed by Kerry and has 261 followers. Twitter is not used – we agreed to not revive it as its become an unethical platform.

YOUTUBE Most of our webinars are on our LFGN Youtube channel – an important resource.

OTHER Consideration should be given to having an Instagram or Tik Tok account.

5. **FUND RAISING** – a discussion was had about the implications for fund raising. If LFGN was to be involved in fund raising it would have to be a constituted group with a Bank Account, Constitution and Officers. Dave said the National Federation might be able to offer to be a fundholder as LFGN was effectively the London region of the Federation. However, the LFGN would still need to take full responsibility for managing any project or staffing it had fundraised for.

6. **LFGN STRUCTURE** - LFGN has operated well as a loose but well-organised network for over 15 years. Recently we have developed an active 'core group' of 10 or so committed activists. But should LFGN now put itself on a more formal and accountable footing? We would need a Constitution as a voluntary association, or become a Charity such as a CIO or CIC. In any event we would need a good group of volunteers to coordinate and take on any roles needed, with this current 'core group' initially becoming a Steering Committee. Laura (or another person if she was no longer available) could be hired and 'managed' as a freelancer if fundraising was successful. **ACTION:** *Dave to draft an appropriate Constitution for a voluntary association, and also check with the National Federation if and how they might be able to support LFGN in some way if needs be.*

7. **GENERAL MEETING** – We need to call a meeting for all Friends Groups to consider the future of LFGN, discuss our core purpose, activities we want to run and our structure and volunteers to help coordinate things. In particular to approve any interim draft Constitution proposed by this core group.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Alice has suggested we ask Friends Groups and supporters for optional donations each year to help fund the LFGN.

9. **NEXT MEETING:** Miriam will circulate a WhatsApp survey to establish the best date for the General meeting. **Update:** We have now agreed May 26th, via zoom.