**FoLP Committee Meeting 26th Apr 2021 – Minutes**

**Present**: Blake Gilchrist, Ben Linton, Linda Suggate, Florence Daguerre de Hureaux, David Oxley, Elisabetta Lando, Gareth Davison, Ildiko Toth, Paulette Lester, Nickie Bell, Pegatha Gaile, Julian Jaeger, Victoria Gallagher, Linda Mills, Carl Kowsky

**Apologies:** None received

1. The Minutes of the 22nd Mar meeting were agreed.
2. BG updated about Arts for Space – few locations for large mosaics identified within the park. One is the side of the One O Clock Club near the community garden and the second is the red brick above the canopy outside the changing rooms.  Side of changing rooms also considered.  Another option is to do a stepping stone approach, perhaps starting near the Courland Grove entrance.  More information has been requested from the charity and BG is working through some of these issues with Lambeth Council. LS mentioned the wall near the Wandsworth Road entrance as another option. FDH also suggested the wall inside the Priory Grove entrance where the Russia Vine has been removed as another alternative (currently looks very messy).
3. PG mentioned the Arnold Clark funding application.  BL to apply for funding for a greenhouse in the community garden.
4. Shared Asset visioning exercise update.  This has been funded by the Larkhall Park Partnership Board to bring the stakeholders around the park together to create a shared vision for the park and all its communities.  Presentation to the LPPB tomorrow and will probably consist of a number of closed workshops initially, followed by a public consultation over the summer. (VG asked for clarity about the LPPG – this is a new board set up to oversee the park funding.  It consists of representatives from local communities including the FoLP.)
5. Liability insurance – BL has looked online for quotes, and one is about £100.  The FoLP needs insurance to cover activities in the park and it was agreed that BL would procure this for the FoLP. It was suggested that BL contact Vauxhall Park Friends or other groups for advice.  BL will reach out and unless significant new information comes to light, BL will procure.
6. Southville Road entrance redevelopment – need clarity as to funding source (CIL or other?). The plan has minor changes – CK will continue to engage with Lambeth Council.
7. A planning application has been submitted to redevelop 1-9 Southville Road.  This may impact the park entrance in previous point.  Kevin Crook (Lambeth Council) has been made aware and will investigate.
8. Redevelopment site update (BG). FoLP reps met with the developers to discuss possible community spaces in the new build. Further meeting with community engagement reps to be arranged.  Development timescale pushed back a month and financial aspects being reviewed. FoLP trying to maintain a strong voice on behalf of the community with respect to the development. Financial report for 1-9 Southville Road application may be relevant – covers obligations to cover affordable housing – all recommended to view this on the Lambeth planning portal. NB highlighted that the consultation area of the development was extremely small – FoLP should require commitment from developers for wider consultation and leafletting.
9. LS – LPPB expenditure (2020/21). None of the items ordered have yet arrived – a program for installation has been requested but nothing has been heard despite Linda’s chasing. **The committee expressed their concern at the slow pace of delivery**. The FoLP have not been told what the overall budget is, nor how much has been spent and there appear to be a lack of transparency which is frustrating. LS will contact Alex Draper to see if some of the tools can be delivered and stored in the community garden shed.
10. There are three members of staff due to be employed to work in the park by the LPPB.  Interviews have taken place and a development officer has been appointed, but there is silence on the appointment of the gardener and apprentice.  This is immensely frustrating and LS will push at the next LPPB. Linda Mills reported that she knows of young people attending interviews for the apprenticeship position – Linda Suggate will confirm why she was not informed.
11. NB gave an update about new playground.  There has been a set back regarding one of the pieces of equipment which has delayed progress slightly, but London Play has been engaged to assist the community engagement.  They were also able to assist with the delay and assist in progressing. A user survey has been suggested to build more evidence. In Kennington Park, a number of surveyors visited the park over the course of a month to evidence the number of people using the playpark. NB suggested repeating this survey and expanding to wider park, but achievability is an issue. The Big Kid foundation have previously offered to help with surveys – NB will contact them.
12. BG gave an update on the community garden. FoLP have been trying to work collaboratively, since all licences to work in the park had expired.  Extensive efforts have been made to engage with the Larks, via intermediaries, to work up a draft governance and collaboration structure. The Larks’ chair was provided with a draft in preparation for their AGM, but prior to that, the Larks removed a number of items from the park including the tools and a greenhouse.  The Larks’ assertion is that the assets belong to them rather than the community in the park, and it has been difficult to ascertain the exact intention of Thrive when they bequeathed the tools to the community.  In reality, it is impossible to be clear about this and the FoLP had hoped that the tools and equipment would stay in the park for the community’s benefit.  The Larks have since given notice to leave the park, and this is met with sadness from the FoLP, matched with sadness at the events of the last months.  A number of new volunteers and previous volunteers have been working hard in the community garden, where all are welcome, and the space is an inclusive and positive place.   The FoLP will continue to work on appropriate governance structures to ensure that the garden has a suitable code of conduct and procedures in place to maintain a healthy, happy and inclusive place.  All the FoLP expressed the strongest desire for the garden to be inclusive, happy and healthy. LM was invited to meetings of local groups who expressed a desire for the Larks to carry on – there is a clear need to build bridges now. IT highlighted that she volunteered in the garden without knowing the previous history.  She felt really welcome in the garden, and then saw that Sylvie refused to engage, and recently stormed into the garden and took plants. As a new member of the garden she was really shocked by this behaviour.  All present listened to this and recognised that we are all committed to the garden being happy, healthy and inclusive.
13. AOB – FDH asked about children coming to litter pick with parents – this is unclear in terms of public liability.  BL and FDH will liaise to understand this more.
14. LM mentioned the Baptist Church wanting to become more involved in the park. NB has also been involved in this – all were keen to support. BL suggested asking if live music performances could happen in the venue and LM and NB will suggest this.

**Next meeting: 24th May 2021, 1930.**