

FoLP Committee Meeting 23rd Feb 2021 – Minutes

Present: Blake Gilchrist, Paul Smith, Ben Linton, Florence Daguerre de Hureaux, Linda Suggate, Paulette Lester, Artur Klasskow, Julia Barfield, David Oxley, Carl Kowsky, Gareth Davison, Nick King, Pegatha Gaile, Sarah Lush, David Oxley, Linda Mills, Nickie Bell, Helen Marasha

Apologies: Claire Jostins

1. The AGM minutes from the last meeting ([AGM, 10th Feb](#)) were approved.
2. Playground update (Nickie Bell)
 - Some questions from Helen Firminger for local stakeholders – welcome any other contact details to help seek local views in this information gathering phase.
3. Update on interviews and appointments for Partnership Board's additional staff for Larkhall Park (Linda Suggate)
 - Development officer, gardener and apprentice gardener to be employed from £120k budget. One set of adverts has gone out for gardener and development officer, with interview dates postponed. Last Friday – gardener interviews took place but no candidates suitable for appointment. Ian Ross suggests posts need to be upgraded to attract more candidates. Timescales for this not clear.
 - Development officer advert has gone out with 96 people interested, interviews to be arranged. Many of the applications seem generic and unsuitable.
 - BL asked if it is possible to use the funding in the short term (perhaps employing a local gardening firm). LS not sure – would need to ask partnership board. Action: JB/CK.
 - NB asked if money “has to be spent” or if it stays in the budget. It seems that it doesn’t roll over, to confirm at partnership board. Action JB/CK.
 - NB queried where advertising is taking place and asked whether we could advertise more widely. We could ask for locations of adverts and consider expanding. Needs to be raised at partnership board to understand program. Action JB/CK.
4. Update on Larkhall Park Partnership Board expenditure list (Linda Suggate)
 - Extensive work by LS working with Lambeth (Theresa Hoare).
 - Metal benches (10). JB suggested layout on park plan. Some variations to plan suggested – benches on mounds not supported by Lambeth (erosion and access by frail and elderly).
 - Waste bins (10). Old bins being removed also.
 - Eurobins – 4 have been ordered, when FoLP only wanted to 1 to be on Courland Grove. To be raised at Partnership Board. Action: JB/CK.
 - Notice Boards – two ordered. Three need replacing. Three more outstanding to be ordered. Action: CK to confirm with Theresa as to details.
 - Security Storage Container – shipping container ordered. Paul Smith lives nearby and expressed displeasure at location being suggested – consultation needed as some children play football on that area.

- Hedging plants – Alex Draper has been advising and met GD and LS on site to discuss. Going out to tender with Ian Boulton and hopeful this should move ahead and form a substantial boundary to community garden area.
 - Tools (for community payback and other volunteers) – Alex Draper has prepared list and this is very nearly ready to go. PG also made suggestion of further tools for community garden – may need to go to partnership board for funding approval (potentially form next financial year) – thanks to PG for drawing up for further consideration.
 - Watering equipment – some being ordered. Alex Draper wants the FoLP to work towards a sustainable water plan. This needs further consideration in the future.
 - The committee expressed their huge thanks to Linda Suggate for all the work, and Linda wanted to in turn thank all the others who have helped (details to follow from Linda).
5. Update on engagement with The Larks gardening group (Linda Mills)
- About 3 weeks consultation has taken place with many interested parties – about 46 people in total. Some group meetings have also taken place. Lot of hopelessness and frustration expressed initially. Everyone wants to be involved. Linda M asked everyone how they would like to move forwards and what solutions they propose. Sore point identified by Sylvie was related to funding. Linda M also raised Sylvie’s actions re her mistakes and prepared to offer olive branch. Situation has calmed a lot.
 - Desire to focus on moving forwards, with access to shed and garden clear – how will it work.
 - BG has reviewed all the current licences. Lambeth are the owners and managers of the land. The licences that were in place expired. When the recent issues came to light, Lambeth expressed a desire for the FoLP to oversee the garden, with the FoLP signing the licence. The One O Clock club licence grants access to community groups to access.
 - Paul Smith – has looked out on garden for 21 years. There is enormous misinformation being put around which needs correcting.
6. Access to Community Garden areas and draft Community Garden licence (Blake Gilchrist)
- There is much more work to be done to understand the situation and this work is ongoing to ensure the community work together jointly.
7. Larkhall Park 3 year Management Plan (Carl Kowsky)
- Kevin Crook would like our comments on the management plan. Action for all to send comments to CK.
8. Future FoLP weeding and planting sessions (Linda Suggate)
- Not able to have any recently for obvious reasons! Keen to restart as soon as possible and will set up program of dates as restrictions lift.
9. AOB
- CP group may be able to restart soon, BL working on this.
 - Next meeting dates – BG suggested monthly meetings in the short term. Suggested alternating Monday and Tuesday evenings. Propose 1930 on Mon 22nd March, Tuesday 20th April, Monday 24th May.
 - Petanque sub group being gently formed by BL to bring people together.

- BL suggested a short survey of members. JB to arrange meeting with Kate Swade to link this in with her work.
- LS mentioned the Southville Entrance project – needs engagement with the council for update. CK will talk to Caroline Streek.
- BG has been thinking about new website and refreshing branding. Will update in due course.
- LS, GD and Paul Smith to meet to discuss container location.
- Helen Marasha expressed her huge thanks for the FoLP supporting the Big Kid Foundation. They are working on a proposal for the café with another partner to bring a well run café with an experienced manager, with Big Kid engaging widely with the community. In contact with Kevin Crook and hope to update shortly.