

Friends of Larkhall Park

Committee meeting notes, 13th January 2021 (via Zoom)

Present

- Ben Linton (Vice Chair, acting Chair in Carl's absence)
- Blake Gilchrist (acting Secretary, note taker)
- Christian Laflamme (Treasurer)
- Gareth Davison
- Jan Kirkpatrick
- David Oxley
- Florence Daguerre de Hureaux
- Linda Suggate
- Julia Barfield
- Nickie Bell
- Jose Canle
- Pegatha Gaile (joined late due to scheduling issue)

Apologies

- Carl Kowsky (Chair) - Technical issues prevented from joining
- Claire Jostins
- Minna Cowper-Coles

Minutes

1. Welcome, introduction, apologies

- Apologies from Carl who was unable to join due to technical issues
- Ben agreed to chair in Carl's absence, with Blake taking notes
- Round table introduction

2. Community Garden updates

- At the last Partnership Board meeting Lambeth Council expressed desire to pass management of the licence for the Community Garden to FOLP
- However, FOLP are yet to receive a draft agreement for inspection
- In the interim, Kevin Crooke at Lambeth Council has confirmed that the lease for the new One O'Clock Club tenants ([Streatham Youth and Community Trust](#) (SYCT)) includes a specific provision for ongoing use of and access to the Community Garden area currently located within the One O'Clock Club area
- Ben has spoken to Angie and John at SYOT about the possibility of restarting the Community Payback scheme (which was previously paused due to tools and access issues) and they sounded positive/receptive about supporting this initiative
- Ben asked whether FOLP felt it would be helpful to assign someone to take on oversight of the overall Community Garden activities. The committee broadly agreed in principle but felt that it was too early to do this given we are still in the early stages of the updated proposal from Lambeth
- **Action:** Linda/Ben to liaise with Lambeth and SYCT on getting access to the locked area in the short term so that our community gardeners can recommence work as soon as possible

3. Lambeth Parks Management Plan, Larkhall Park 2020-2023

- Committee agreed that is a large piece of new documentation and that we need further time to digest
- **Action (all):** Review document and provide internal feedback by email. Schedule separate meeting to discuss further.

4. Expenditure of Partnership Money

- Committee reviewed Lambeth spending proposals for remaining money from the FOLP 2020-21 budget that needs to be spent before the end of February - agreed with all items in the list in principle
- **10 (additional) Park benches.** **Action:** Carl/Linda to dig out previous location plan, pass to Julia for review, come back to FOLP with proposal
- **10 (additional) bins.** **Action:** Florence and Jan to take on mapping exercise, come back with proposal
- **Hedge plants** (Community Garden, new boundary). **Action:** Gareth to look at options and create proposal
- **Large metal storage container** (for FOLP tools etc): **Action:** Linda/Ben/Nickie to look at options (size, location) and circulate
- **Noticeboards (new, replacements).** **Action:** (Linda) - Need to ask Lambeth for further details (number of units and specifications)
- **Watering equipment -** **Action:** Linda to lead
- The following additional items were suggested for inclusion, should budget allow:
 - New tools for FOLP/CPS
 - New/additional composting solution (large wooden sleepers?)
- **Action:** Committee agreed Linda would continue to lead and coordinate overall response with Lambeth
- The committee thanked Linda and Florence for all their work on these initiatives

5. Next meetings and AGM dates

- Committee agreed more regular meetings would be beneficial and help us work more effectively
- Meetings will continue to be held virtually until it is safe again to do so in person
- The following dates were agreed for the next regular meetings:
 - 23rd February at 19.30
 - 6th April at 19.30
 - 8th June at 19.30
 - 3rd August at 19.30
- In addition, the following date was agreed for the AGM:
 - 10th February at 19.30
- **Action:** Blake to circulate previously proposed constitutional amendments for review
- **Action:** Ben to send Blank additional amendments
- **Action:** Once the above have been reviewed/updated, email FOLP mailing list advising of the AGM (must be 21 days beforehand)

6. Playground update

- Nickie updated the committee on progress and engagement with company called London Play, who specialise in consultation with local groups and designing play solutions (see her previous email for further details)

- Nickie also confirmed that Helen Firminger (Fundraising Officer for London Parks) is very keen to be involved and assist with next steps (e.g. matched fundraising etc)
- The committee relayed their thanks to Nickie for all the hard work on this initiative
- **Action:** Nickie to continue liaising with London Play and Helen

7. Partnership Board

- Julia updated everyone that the Partnership Board have begun engaging the services of an external organisation called Shared Assets to assist with wider FOLP visioning, future structure, and stakeholder engagement and management
- Julia mentioned the need to develop a long term spending strategy for the 15 year Lambeth finance period, as well as building towards a sustainable financial model for the longer term future
- **Action:** FOLP working group to continue initial explorations with Shared Assets and report back to committee at next meeting.

8. A.O.B.

- Cafe: Previous tenants have dropped out due to unforeseen expenditure on roof repairs and other issues. The committee expressed disappointment at this news. Ben mentioned that the Big Kid foundation (who previously bid for, unsuccessfully, the changing room redevelopment) are very interested in the cafe and already have some ideas, including a bakery, community cafe, and learning programs. **Action:** Ben to continue talking to Big Kid to explore further in how FOLP may be able to support.