

FRIENDS OF ROCKLIFFE GARDENS

NOTES AND ACTIONS OF ORDINARY MEETING - 12 MARCH 2015

Set out below are highlights of the meeting and actions arising.

Present: Alison Miller (Acting chair), Stephen O'Connor, Jessica Currie, Lisa Wand, Ivanhoe Noruma

Apologies received: Kay Bartlett

Progress update

It is hoped to appoint a new group chair shortly. In the meantime, AM took over chairing the meeting.

The chair summarised events and milestones of over the winter of 15/16. Friends of Rockcliffe Gardens continued to meet on a monthly basis for tidying, improvement and maintenance works. The group has been in contact with Crossrail community organisers with regards tasks being undertaken by their volunteers. The railings at the Camdale Road entrance were identified as suitable for being dealt with by Crossrail. Unfortunately further investigations proved that the railings were covered with lead paint, which requires specialist equipment to remove so Crossrail were unable to action the task. Efforts are being made to seek an alternative task. Action SOC.

The meeting again thanked Councillors Merrill and Kirby (Shooters Hill ward) for their efforts to raise the Gardens profile and issues within the council, with the effect that work was able to commence refurbishing the Gardens.

The meeting noted that there are other funding opportunities available - some long term projects, some potential quick wins (both small and large contributions): Heritage lottery funding (feasibility), Tesco (carrier bag/local community investment).

Grow Wild seeds applied for - which provide native seeds to aid bee and insect populations. Post meeting notes; seeds received and planted.

Rockcliffe Gardens was now represented at the Greenwich Parks Forum which meets regularly to share knowledge and ideas. The forum also organises and funds the ParkFest summer events program.

Outstanding actions:

- To chase up Crossrail (SOC)
- To chase up Hadlow on plant selection (SOC)
- To establish connection with any local landscape gardener
- To improve signage in gardens. (SOC)

Aims for 2016

- To secure additional funding for planting
- To secure additional funding for exploratory pond work
- To plan and organise at least one event in the park - to be part of the ParkFest series
- To work with the local community to raise awareness and increase voluntary action.
- To work with local schools to engage children in using the gardens

ParkFest 2016

The meeting then focused on initial requirements for the main summer event.

Discussion about what sort of events should be presented on the day. It was felt there should be a mix of music, children activities, stalls and art related activities.

- Need to establish those in critical roles
- Who would be First Aid (SOC and AM certified first aiders other maybe required?) / Lost Children
- Would power be required?
- Would water be required?
- Permits and licences required?

A list of roles and responsibilities is to be established and published online (with expectation that people can volunteer for particular sections) [SOC/AM]

Plan for the day to be developed -

Initial plan for discussion [SOC/AM to develop]

- *Drinks stall required.
- *Info stall
- *Wildlife trail
- *music from local artists
- *craft stalls from local groups?
- *Performance from local school?

Music on the day could be provided by / in conjunction with Music Mill - [AM]

Photography - a competition could be held to establish the best photo of the area. Post meeting note - a similar competition was being investigated by PCEG - looking at joint event.

How it could work - photos shared to website, shortlist established (most views / likes etc) then judge final winner? Or people's choice for winner at event.

Plumstravaganza

Watercolour class in Rockliffe

Chalk drawings on Southland Road outside gardens.

Potential cinema screening connected to Woolwich and Charlton Free film festival.

Actions arising from the meeting

	Issue	Action with / Lead person
1	Continue to talk with Crossrail - establish when they might carry out initial works and whether they can carry out anything else? UPDATED 04/16 - Establish if anything else Crossrail can be involved in?	Stephen O'-Connor
2	Review Hadlow's assessment of plants, to inform our planting strategy. [what plants should go where?] UPDATED 04/16 - Assessment needed for funding applications	Heidi Barnes / Stephen O'-Connor
3	Links to the local community. Art Plumstead are planning an Extravaganza for summer 2016. The Gardens should be part of this program of events. Other uses should also be investigated for similar events. (e.g. Fitness classes etc). UPDATED 04/16 - See separate actions below	Alison Miller
4	Make contact with Bexley Wildlife Group with regards Owls and Bats using the Gardens	Heidi Barnes
5	What is the state of the water pipes to the pond or any other locations in the Gardens. This may help determine next steps for the pond UPDATED 04/16 - Discussions continue, quotes being sought for pond restoration	Stephen O'-Connor
6	Start engaging with local schools UPDATED 04/16 - Working with Rockliffe Manor School	Everyone
7	Spreading details of the Gardens beyond Facebook and website. Other sites exist about local community and life / resources. Increase our presence on these sites. 'Street life' Posters / contact information at local events (Community market stall)	Kay Bartlett Stephen O'-Connor
8	Investigate having a 'bank of volunteer people' available to provide information or guides around the Gardens should the need arise (school groups etc) UPDATED 04/16 - no resource at present for this	Stephen O'-Connor
9	Develop application for 'Grow Wild' seed bank donation UPDATED 04/16 - Seeds received and planted	Alison Rooke
10	Agree with Council transfer of start-up funding (£150). UPDATED 04/16 - Ongoing	Alison Miller
11	ParkFest - Need to establish those in critical roles [By end of April]	Stephen O'-Connor
12	ParkFest - Logistics prior to event (Power, water, permits etc)	Alison Miller, Stephen O'-Connor
13	ParkFest - Events on the day - timing of events / organising	Alison Miller, Stephen O'-Connor

14	ParkFest - investigate musical performances (Music Mill?)	
15	ParkFest - investigate community organisations / groups who may want stall	