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FOHG08032017NRD

**Friends of Hillside Gardens**

**MEETING**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Present:**

Jesse Scharf - Chair

Nigel Duckers - Secretary

June Hyde

Tony Emerson

Gerry McAteer – Palace Road Nature Gardens

Rosena Skeete

Dino Skeate

Martin Wright

Mich Thill

Cllr Regina Chowdhury

Martin Goffe

Chris Redman

Nici Yarlett

Sara Jane Spratt

David Cargill

Glenda Gillies

Chris Lysaght

Jo Marshall

Dan O'Connell

Fiona Lamont

Peter Sterry

Esperanza Harvey

Lara Mifsud-Bonici (Parks Development, Lambeth)

Antonia Gracie

Phyllis Hayden

Julian Roche

Chris Worsley

Sarah Lamont

Alison Roche

Suresh Ellanala

Jo Anah Ellawala

Roger Lord

Chas Stevens

**Apologies:**

Mich Thill

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Tennis</b></p> <p>Dino Skeate reported that the park was now LTA registered and that there is a draft policy in place about working with coaches.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>JS said that the previous meeting had discussed projects we would like to financially support or see happen. Resurfacing the tennis courts and maintaining fencing seemed the top priorities. Glenda Gillies raised broken fences allowing dog access and Alison Roach suggested that Veolia vehicles might have damaged some fences. JS said that the tennis fences were the current priority but that we did want to rehang the dog gate.</p> <p>The idea of a mural, funded by Tesco Bags for Life, was raised (as presented at the previous meeting by artist James Andrews). ND explained the current 'cascade design'. DS said he preferred a sporting theme; Glenda Gillies suggested planting... The meeting unanimously voted in favour of a mural, with the artist being invited to submit further designs.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Sports Day</b></p>

	<p>Sports Day is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Rosena Sleate appealed for volunteers. TE outlined plans and asked if anyone had access to a loudhailer, which GMcA volunteered. Tony also wanted suggestions for football coaching. 'Learning points' from last year's event would be taken on this year.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Gardening</b></p> <p>Martin Gough reported on various working parties, digging up brambles etc. There would be another working party to coincide with sportsday.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>David Cargill circulated a petition raising objections to a local planning application.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>The Wall</b></p> <p>JS has met with Councillor Ian Simpson. It looks like the wall will be rebuilt, with some garages being knocked down and other refurbished. Martin Wright asked about the rationale for that. JS would seek further detail.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Lambeth Parks Forum</b></p> <p>JS had attended the Lambeth Parks Forum and had forwarded the report on that from Kevin Crook, Head of Services for Parks. Our budget is set to be steady for next year. The toilets may be shut during the week.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Locking/Unlocking</b></p> <p>Lara Misfud-Bonici outlined Lambeth's position on locking/unlocking. Several parks have been left unlocked. It currently costs around £55-60k to lock 14 sites. LC have not found any significant rise in vandalism where parks have been left unlocked and can no longer sustain the expenditure of locking. They want to save money in this area to keep open</p>

other facilities eg toilets, some paddling pools. They wish to explore the installation of a turnstile for exiting the park and, if local people wish to have the park locked, some sort of rota system for keyholders to do that. They want the new system in place from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

JS outlined the history of this issue and the strong desire of local people that the park should be locked.

Many contributions were made to the discussion:

Phyllis Hayden said that Hitherfield School, who were due to take on the One O'Clock Club wanted locking. They were already concerned by drug paraphenalia around the club (and, on another issue, by the state of the building itself).

Glenda Giillies wanted more financial information eg was the saving a false economy because there would be more demands on the police?

Chris Redman felt we could leave the park unlocked and monitor things to see if there was any adverse impact.

TE pointed out that our park was 'unique' in being enclosed and that anti-social behaviour was not therefore easily policed.

GMcA was OK with the principle of the park being unlocked but outlined his ideas for community wardens being implemented at PRNG.

JS focussed the plan on the council unlocking in the morning and the community locking in the evening.

Various ideas were put forward as to how to organise this: a Wat's App group was mentioned, Jo Marshall said that she felt that locking should be done in pairs, Chris Lycett mentioned shared calendars, Marting Wright wanted things kept low-tech and to involve young people, Fiona Lamont asked about standardising opening and closing times, Roger Lord volunteered his services, Antonia Gracie felt we could be part of a research project...

In conclusion, it was decided that a subcommittee should be formed to see how we could take this on. Dino Skeate and Suresh Ellewala volunteered to work with JS on this. Names of locking/unlocking volunteers were also gathered.

	<p>JS said he felt confident that we could achieve at least 90% reliability and the mood of the meeting was that we should have a go at setting up a system, however, timing for start-up needed to be realistic.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Martin Gough mentioned the idea that he would like to see a community café as part of the new flats adjacent to the park</p> <p>Phyllis Hayden elaborated on issues re Hitherfield and the One O’Clock Club. The school wanted to take it on but only if structural repairs had taken place. Currently it is not fully fit for use by young children and the Director of Children’s Services has been contacted in this respect.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>DONM</b></p> <p>?</p>