

Friends of Hillside Gardens

MEETING

24th Jan 22

Present

Stephanie Charalambous – Co-chair

Tom Stanbury – Co-chair

Nigel Duckers – Minutes Secretary

Andreas Kappes

Cllr Liz Atkins

Evan Lervill

Delphine Evon

Tony Emerson

Lizzie Kennedy

Apologies

Rosena Skeete

Cllr Rezina Chowdury

Ben Hyde

Cllr Iain Simpson

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Stephanie Chaired the meeting. She welcomed and attendees and gave apologies (above).</p> |
| 2 | <p>Planned Works</p> <p>SC and TS reported back from the Partnership Board meeting. Planned works for the park had gone out to tender with one tender received. This will now be reviewed and either accepted, or the tender will go out to the open market or an alternative framework. Included in the specification is 'provision for floodlights' – although actually providing these would need planning permission and possible LTA funding towards the court surfaces – also resurfacing the area between the play area and the adult gym.</p> <p>The surface put out to tender for the MUGAS us tarmac. The meeting regarded this as not fit for purpose and passed the following resolution:</p> <p><i>"The Friends of Hillside Gardens are disappointed that at least one of the MUGAS does not have a surface that is fully safe for children and mature adult users, as has been long-requested following many accidents and injuries on the existing tarmac surfaces. We ask the Council to reconsider this immediately and respond with urgency to the Chair of the Friends and the Partnership Board"</i>.</p> <p>The resolution was passed unanimously, and it was agreed that it be sent to the relevant Council officers and to Cllr Sonia Winifred and the ward councillors.</p> <p>The tennis courts will have a key-pad system for bookings. Bollard lighting is planned for the central path. Works will be carried out at the Children's centre to install a veranda, a mud kitchen and a gate from the garden into the park.</p> <p>The playground and the toilet block are not in the main tender (being below the threshold to necessitate that). The meeting was concerned about slippage in regard to the playground. The state of the equipment is deteriorating, some of it is unsafe, some has been removed. It was understood that the playground would be renovated prior to the works on the courts etc. Now the Council seems to be proposing the work be done after the</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>main works and with 'leftover' funds. The meeting felt this was unsatisfactory and resolved to request that the playground works be done at the same time as the works on the courts. We also discussed a petition to voice the disquiet of park-users – especially parents of young children – about the condition of the playground, and contacting our MP, Brixton Buzz etc.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Treasurer and Banking</p> <p>Despite the inefficiency of HSBC, it looks as if they will not close our account and we will satisfy their safeguarding requirements. There is £5104.20 in the account. TS has been managing the account since the resignation of John Crilly as Treasurer. Ben Hyde was elected to the post at the AGM but so far has not taken-up access to the account. ND was asked to talk to Ben to clarify whether he will take up the role, involving managing the banking, preparing accounts and reporting to the AGM.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Allotment</p> <p>The allotment group is thriving, this is the time of year that leases are renewed etc. A commercial beekeeper (Luke) has shown interest in locating 6 hives on the site and giving us a percentage of honey, as well as participating in Open Days etc. EL will email the allotment holders to get their view and clarify the terms with Luke.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Tennis</p> <p>No report.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Palace Road Nature Gardens</p> <p>Jerry McAteer is back involved in PRNG. A link is being established with the Coburg Crescent Learning Disability Resource Centre https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/better-fairer-lambeth/projects/coburg-crescent-learning-disability-resource-centre. This has resulted in them going to replant the verge outside PRNG and may involve future involvement by users, which the meeting welcomed.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Café/Coffee Cart</p> <p>The meeting expressed the hope that we might be able to offer coffee and refreshment in the park on a monthly basis, either by</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>using the Children's Centre or having a coffee cart on site. EL has approached Phyllis about using the Children's Centre and will chase a reply. He and SC will also research the possibilities of a coffee cart.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Gardening and Events</p> <p>Tom is going to prune the fruit trees soon and will invite people to join him in doing that. We are also planning to replant sections of the holly hedge; the date for that is dependent on Ruth providing the plants. Tom will liaise. He is also exploring the possibility of a wassailing event with the Tatterjack Morris troupe.</p> <p>The meeting felt that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend (2-5 June) might already be crowded with events. We plan to stick to the Sports Day (September) but may also organise a picnic. There was enthusiasm for this being as diverse as possible and AK will discuss this with his Muslim contact who had shown enthusiasm for something Eid-linked.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Flagpole and Green Flag</p> <p>We have, once again, been awarded the Green Flag Award, but without an inspection of the park. https://www.greenflagaward.org/how-it-works/judging-criteria/ Following concerns that Lambeth are not maintaining the park to the required environmental standards TS has declined the Award. The meeting felt that, if our bid for a different MUGA surface is rejected or playground works further delayed, we should publicise our rejection of the Green Flag and criticism of Lambeth Council.</p> |