



## Forum Partnership Meeting No. 27

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 9am – Video Conferencing

LH	AC	MB
KR	HJ	AH
BA	JH	SH
RG		AZ
VS		SL (minutes)

### AGENDA

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last meeting / Action tracker
4. Forum update
5. *idverde* update
6. Council update
7. Any other business
8. Date of next meeting

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

LH welcomed all participants and began introductions.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Friend's Forum: JC, KS

*idverde*: AR

LBB: HC

#### **3. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising (Action Tracker Update)**

Minutes accepted as a true reflection of previous meeting

Action tracker was reviewed, amended and updated including new due dates for actions outstanding, this can be found attached to the minutes. A summary of changes to the action tracker is as follows:

- Action 18: Tool provision for Friends Groups – JH finalising documents to be sent to LH for 1<sup>st</sup> October
- Action 24: LBB to provide update on park sign upgrades- HJ to pick up actions from PMC to establish working group.

- Action 25: Additional water fountains installations and upgrades for existing fountains- JH is consulting with property on this, remains ongoing
- Action 27: JH to send updated Neighbourhood Management organisation chart to the Friends Forum – LH has been provided with chart for parks, JH to send across the rest of the division once available following staff changes and review.  
Discussion regarding reporting mechanisms for parks issues, the Community Manger is the first port of call for parks related matters and for non-parks issues use Fix My Street.
- Action 28: LH has now received clarity on 20-year maintenance costs matters, action closed.
- Action 29: Revised fundraising process map is to be produced by AR/VS and Community Managers for review at next meeting - Feedback has been received, changes will be implemented/discussed upon AR return from leave - action remains ongoing
- Action 30: information shared on the Bromley Council website regarding volunteering as shared in the recent Environmental Matter Newsletters are inconsistent, have broken links and have some out-of-date info - JH to review and feedback. - LBB has assigned Jackie Baxter to oversee. JH to put KR in touch with Jackie.
- Action 33: increase in FF grant from LBB – Funds received; action closed.

#### **4. Forum Update**

LH requested if FMS Reports could be discussed at these meetings going forward.

AC offered to invite Cllr Turrell to present to his ongoing work reviewing the FMS system.

LH raised concerns where Friends Groups were not necessarily being informed when minor works such as bin or bench repairs/ installation were being undertaken within their parks. AH confirmed that due to the dynamic nature of the service and ongoing supply and demand issues it is not possible to inform Friends Groups when these works will take place, idverde community mangers will still communicate as best they can regarding major projects.

HJ suggested that a formal document be written up to agree communications expectations and escalation process – action added to tracker.

BA asked if Jubilee Fund applications require maintenance costs. HJ confirmed that where these can be ascertained please include them with the application and where this is not possible LBB will work with idverde to calculate these.

RG raised the continued issue of litter shredding at Green Street Green Common.

AH stated that there is in the region of 1100 road verges to be cut every 3-4 weeks. idverde are happy to communicate with Friends regarding the parks cutting but the same information relating to verges cannot shared in the same manner due to the sheer quantity of roads cut daily and dynamic nature of the service. It is not always possible in longer grass to see it

before the grass is cut but teams should clear afterwards if cut litter is discovered. Supervisors are currently implementing measures to highlight this.

RG raised Priory Gardens and that he felt the repairs undertaken were substandard. JH stated that this is a property issue that has had a number of challenges due to antisocial behaviour within the park that has affected the works and created additional damages. RG acknowledged that there were ASB issues but stated the workmanship was the issue. JH agreed to meet with RG onsite to discuss.

VS asked if the tree team could attend these meetings in future and provide feedback regarding tree comms. HJ stated that HC was invited to this meeting but is on leave at current, HJ to take feedback raised to HC.

RG asked if Tree Friends could be provided with the materials to re-tie trees where the hessian ties have degraded. AC said these issues should be reported to FMS and can be fixed by contractors on weekly water rounds. AC added the tree QR codes are currently contractor facing, it is hoped once the technological issues are resolved these will be made available to the public in 2023. RG said it would be quicker for Friends to fix the tree guards rather than the delays of reporting. AC to speak with HC.

LH raised water retention and sustainable planting schemes. AH said that new planting scheme are being explored as part of the open space strategy.

LH raised the issue of e-scooters in parks. JH said to please report these incidences on FMS with as much detail as possible.

LH passed on his gratitude to LBB and idverde for resolving a recent issue at Jubilee Country Park.

BA reported that Whitehall Rec and Chislehurst Rec received 'Outstanding' in the London in Bloom Competition.

RG asked if further information could be shared to educate people regarding the naturalised grassland verges. AH stated that some signs are in place, but SL can look into this.

## **5. idverde Update**

AH gave an update on grounds maintenance and summer highlights in the community. This included Green Flag success, impact days, playground improvements and the open house weekend. The presentation of this is attached to the minutes.

RG thanked idverde for the Brilliant Butterflies Project at Green Street Green Common.

AZ gave an update on fundraising including:

- The Croydon Road Recreation Ground Bowie Bandstand Restoration Project: Procurement is underway via LBBs portal.
- Play for All Coney Hall Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA): Fundraising team's Recommendation Report is with LBB and awaiting formal approval. We are preparing to launch the Public Consultation that will shape the project further.
- Heathland Restoration Project – Hayes and Keston Common: working closely with SL and his team to finalise our report for LBB approval. This project will seek to undertake a range of major habitat works.
- Amber Baby Memorial Garden in Chislehurst Cemetery: Continuing to apply for further grants to reach fundraising target and starting to prepare for the Tender Process.
- Cudham Recreation Ground Playground Improvements: working closely with newly founded group (March 22) to prepare recommendations for LBB approval.
- Revitalising Queensmead Playground: we are halfway through Public Consultation that will help understand user group and needs in the community.
- There are a number of minor Fast Track Projects that the Community Managers are also working hard on and helping us move forward.

SH gave an update on behalf of countryside and education including:

- Outline of the new team structure, diagram can be found attached to the minutes. This will see a greater strategic emphasis on biodiversity and allow for additional project capacity.
- As a result of the restructure and new staff coming on board some sites and Friends Groups will be reallocated to new rangers, this will be communicated with the affected Friends Groups and the Forum once formalised.
- 220 idverde led volunteer work sessions took place over the summer this is down on the 2021 numbers due to two weeks of extreme heat where it was not safe to work.
- Urban surveys continuing.
- Allotment surveys of Herptiles will continue into 2023 plus other species.

LH asked for an update on the Friends Forum Training: SH there is a different course a month up until Christmas which can be booked onto. The Leading volunteer workdays course received positive feedback with Friends reporting that they are now more confident in running independent workdays.

LH thanked idverde for all their hard work.

## **6. Council Update**

JH gave an update on behalf of LBB which included:

- The push on infrastructure issue repairs including fencing and potholes.
- Drainage works at Hollydale Rec.

- Work with the Lawn Tennis Association to find new site in Bromley where they can offer coaching and court improvements.
- Sports pavilion and Delegated Sports Manager lease reviews. These leases end in 2024 therefore work is being undertaken to assess and put in place next steps.
- Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund deadline extended until 10<sup>th</sup> November. One full application has been made so far with a further seven known applications being prepared.
- War memorials are being evaluated and prepared for remembrance events in November.
- Several LBB staff and volunteers have been involved in Operation London Bridge following the passing of our Queen.

### **7. AOB**

LH asked if idverde could offer a tool sharpening service. MB and SH confirmed that the majority of tools Friends Groups have can be sharpened by hand with a sharpening stone. The tool maintenance course is taking place in October and will cover this.

### **Next Meeting Date**

**Post meeting note:** The next meeting date has been re-arranged for: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 10am (Online).

[Meeting ended]