

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Parks, Green Space and Countryside Stakeholder Panel Agenda

Date and Time: Monday 10th of July 2023
19:00 - 21:00.

Location: Online Teams Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies,
2. Previous minutes (09/01/2023) – agreement,
3. Review of actions in ‘Action Update Document’ (13/04/2023),
4. idverde Update,
5. LBB Update,
6. Feedback from Stakeholders,
7. AOB,
8. Date of future meeting – Monday 08/01/24

Attendees

London Borough of Bromley (LBB)

- **Hannah Jackson (HJ)** - *Assistant Director, Carbon Management and Greenspace (Chair),*
- **James Hilsden (JH)** - *Parks & Greenspaces Borough Manager,*
- **Hugh Chapman (HC)** – *Arboricultural Services Manager,*
- **Paul Mellor (PM)** – *Principal Planner,*
- **Helen Stickling (HS)** – *Arboricultural Support Officer,*

idverde

- **Martyn Bradley (MB)** - *Operations Director,*
- **Susan Holland** – *Conservation & Education Manager,*
- **Angela Wood (AW)** - *Community Development and Fundraising Manager,*

Stakeholders

- **Larry Herbert (LH)** - *Friends Forum, Chairman,*
- **Peter Woodward (PW)** - *Chislehurst and St Paul's Cray Commons,*
- **Janet Clayton (JC)** - *Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS),*
- **Carol Gould (CG)** - *Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) & Orpington Field Club (OFC),*

Apologies

- **Andrew Hodgson (AH)** – *Operations Manager,*
- **Councillor Aisha Cuthbert (Cllr AC)** - *Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services,*
- **Councillor Will Rowlands (Cllr WR)** - *Chairman, Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee,*
- **Dr Judith John (JJ)** – *Orpington Field Club (OFC),*

Other Non-Attendance

- **Clive Randell (CR)** - *Chairman of the Leisure Garden and Allotment Federation.*
- **Mike Ruffhead (MR)** - *Bromley Council Bowling Club Association (BCBCA),*

Agenda Items	Owner	Target Date
<p>Welcome and Apologies Attendees noted those that sent apologies.</p>		
<p>Previous minutes (16/01/2023) Attendees had no suggested amendments to the previous minutes. LH suggested that future minutes are not so lengthy.</p>		
<p>Action Log Review Attendees reviewed the action update document (dated 13/04/2023) which had been circulated prior to the meeting and contained updates for each action. See the updated action log dated 10/07/2023 for action updates.</p>		
<p>idverde Update</p> <p><u>Community Development and Fundraising</u></p> <p>Angela Wood provided the below updates at the meeting:</p> <p>Since the start of the year and departure of Fundraising Manager Amy Rogers, the Fundraising, Community and Infrastructure Teams have merged to form the Parks Development Department.</p> <p>Croydon Road Rec Bandstand Earlier this year following the project going out to a competitive tender, LBB and conservation architect Purcell appointed AF Starr as the contractor to undertake the restoration works. Unfortunately, there had been some delays in signing of the contract, however the works are due to commence later this week, with a pre-start launch meeting with the stakeholders and an update to follow on the LBB website. We've been reaching out to the brick customers for their inscriptions and have a few remaining until we are ready to send to the contractor to being producing these. There are still opportunities to buy a brick around the bandstand. If anyone is interested in that, they're £100 each. You can put your own inscribed message in there and you can do that via Bromley Council's website.</p> <p>Cudham Recreation Ground The Friends of Cudham Rec put out a consultation to members of the community. We had a good uptake with 198 people responding, which will help direct the overall aims and outcomes of the project. The group were approved as an applicant for the Platinum Jubilee Parks Project and are currently raising further match funds through Crowdfunding and community events, before approaching a large grant funder.</p> <p>Amber We are continuing to support Amber Charity to raise funds for the memorial garden, aimed to provide a community space for bereaved families who have sadly lost babies. The Friends of Chislehurst Cemetery have reignited and are very supportive of the project. The group were awarded a grant from the Platinum Jubilee Parks fund and we are continuing to support the Charity in apply for additional grants and a crowdfunding appeal.</p> <p>Queensmead recreation ground We're working with ward councillors, the Friends of Bromley town Parks and Shortlands Residents Association who have formed the Queensmead Playground Committee. The group were successful in their application to the Platinum Jubilee Parks fund and also the Community Initiative Fund. They are</p>		

<p>currently preparing for a Fun Run event to be held in the park on 22nd July and have set up a crowdfunding appeal. If you would like to attend the event or donate to the project then please contact us for more info.</p> <p>Coney Hall Play for All project The Friends of Coney Hall were successful in the application to the Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund and have been very busy with hosting events to raise additional match funding for their project. We have received planning approval for the project to go through as permitted development. The project will be using a flexipath solution to provide disabled access without compromising the landscape or trees. We will now be working with the Friends on grant application to secure the remaining funds for the project.</p> <p><u>Countryside and Education</u></p> <p>SH updated that there had been some personnel changes in the Countryside and Education team. SH said that at the last meeting she updated that Freyja Prince had joined the team as a RSPB ranger, but she has since left. SH updated that Jonathan Lynch has joined the team who was formally a ranger in Medway. SH mentioned that idverde are recruiting for another vacant post.</p> <p>SH updated that the Countryside team have been doing bat hibernation surveys, as well as surveys into amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, birds, and dragonfly.</p> <p>SH said that they have teamed up with the RSPB to provide training for the idverde rangers to improve their skills. SH mentioned bird and butterfly ID courses.</p> <p>SH noted that the number of biodiversity champions has increased from 13 to 21. SH said that idverde provided a butterfly ID course at Dorset Road. SH said that there was good attendance and now those champions are doing the butterfly surveys.</p> <p>SH reported on the number of volunteer hours completed since January. SH said thank you for all the help that the Friends and the countryside volunteers do. SH said that their work allows idverde to do the surveys and infrastructure surveys.</p> <p>SH mentioned an amphibian survey at Scadbury park and tree ID at High Elms.</p> <p>Education – SH said that idverde are recruiting for a full-time instructor to replace Judy Pain. SH reported on the number of educational events completed since January and noted that they had doubled their public events. SH said that they have been working hard and are looking forward to the next 6 months.</p> <p>Grass Cutting - MB apologised for the standard of grass cutting across the borough. MB explained that due to the substantial rain fall in March, coupled with operational issues with machinery breakdown this led to a difficult time. MB said that idverde have a recovery plan and are bringing in additional equipment and resources. MB said that they have learnt a lot of lessons this year and at the end of the season they will be reflecting on how they can stop this happening in future.</p>		
<p>LBB update</p> <p>HJ presented her '23.07.10 Stakeholder Panel Presentation' in which she provided updates on:</p>		

<p>1. Nature Friendly Verges. 2. Sustainable Planting Trial. 3. Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund. 4. Park User Satisfaction Survey. 5. Arboriculture. 6. Water body management. 7. Infrastructure. 8. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – Dog Controls. 9. Sports in Parks. 10. Crystal Palace Park.</p> <p>Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) – LH said that the photo of the signage included in HJ’s slide didn’t seem clear. HJ said that the photograph is a draft. JH said that they may keep the dog control sign separate to the PSPO sign. JH said that they have a separate PSPO sign for drugs and alcohol, and they are still in the process of putting that all together.</p> <p>NEW ACTION: JH to feedback to the stakeholders regarding developments on the PSPO dog licence signage.</p> <p>Sustainable Planting Trial - CG said that in regards to the sustainable planting trial, she thinks that JJ fed back that it sounded like a very good idea but questioned whether the plants will be native.</p> <p>HJ said that she believes there are native plants included and she would share the draft planting list with her.</p> <p>NEW ACTION: Sustainable Planting Trial - HJ to share the draft planting list with stakeholders.</p> <p>Open Space Strategy (OSS) - JC asked if there was anything to report on the OSS. HJ said that she meets with MB regularly to discuss the OSS. MB said that there is lots of work going on and progress is being made. MB said that it’s a far-reaching strategy and a 10-year plan. MB said that he is pleased to say they have a strategy and are moving forward. JC asked if they are on track for the Scadbury milestone due in December. HJ said that yes, this will be picked up within the fund-raising strand. HJ said that there are 3 things they are focusing on this year and fundraising is included in this year.</p> <p><u>Arboricultural Services (Lot 5) Update</u></p> <p>Tree Planting - CG said that JJ has previously talked about the need to plant native trees. CG noted that here have been a lot of trees planted in Orpington and a lot of them are not native. HC said that, as he has explained before, LBB are trying to develop a resilient tree stock taking into account pests, disease and the future predictions of climate change. CG said that it is understood that there won’t be 100% native tree planting but as many as possible would be good. HC said that the woodland planting project will have a higher percentage of native planting which will increase the number of native trees in the borough.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>HS</p>	<p>08/01/24</p> <p>30/08/23</p>
<p>Chislehurst and St Paul’s Cray Commons – (Peter Woodward)</p> <p>Grass Cutting – PW said that he was interested in what MB said about grass cutting as they are in the same position. PW said that he knows how difficult it is when things go wrong and that they can go wrong very quickly. PW said that in their case, they lost their truck which makes it almost impossible to carry the grass away. PW said that they have put up temporary notice boards which have</p>		

<p>been well received by the public. PW said that this Wednesday they have a walk to look at their grassland management and there was an article in their July Newsletter.</p> <p>Trees & Sooty Bark Disease – PW reported that a few weeks prior, they were shocked to find that 1 of the large sycamore trees on the A222 was dead and had sooty bark disease. PW said that what is worst is that they walked the A222, and they identified 20 trees in the same position which all must be felled. PW said that they are convinced that it is to do with the previous year's hot climate. PW said that Simon Hobbs (LBB Arboricultural Officer) and Paul Smith (LBB Tree Officer – Planning Division) provided advice on the issue and the situation will require some traffic management. PW said that it will be quite expensive to resolve.</p>		
<p><u>Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Species (Carol Gould)</u></p> <p>CG reported that the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership (BBP) has been working with PM to suggest some more 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs) for the area. CG reported that they have been working with people on ancient woodlands and that they have surveyed 70 different sites in the borough which have been considered.</p> <p>Cator Park - CG said that she had a question to ask on behalf of JJ, which is whether anyone knows what will happen with the area in Cator Park (where illegal felling took place)? CG said is there any news on what is going to happen with that. HJ said that the land is not owned by the Council, but LBB is taking action against the individuals involved and are investigating prosecution. HJ said that the people who did the felling are being pursued. PM said that he thinks that that part of Cator Park was one of the proposed extensions to the SINC network. PM said that he is not sure how the recent occurrences on site effect that proposal. PM said that they will need to revue how the biodiversity value of the site has been altered since the tree felling.</p>		
<p><u>Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS) – (Janet Clayton)</u></p> <p>Open Weekend - JC said that ODAS are planning their open weekend on September 9th and 10th, which they have added to the Bromley events page, but it hasn't appeared. JC said that she is not sure if that is still operating. JC said that they also invited the Portfolio Holder to see if she would like to attend on the first day and open the event. JC said that they have not received a response.</p> <p>NEW ACTION: HJ to chase Cllr Cuthbert for JC, to ask if she would like to open the Scadbury open day event.</p> <p>JC said that they were pleased to see with the dogs order that they are not meant to be leaping into water bodies like the moat. JC said that this will assist in protecting the moat.</p>	HJ	04/09/23
<p><u>Friends Forum - (Larry Herbert)</u></p> <p>LH reported that they had their regular meetings with idverde and the Council, 2 members meetings, one in March and one in May. LH said that they have a meeting booked in the following week which the Portfolio Holder will be joining.</p> <p>Open Actions - LH discussed a number of long outstanding open actions that he would like to get to a conclusion with. LH said that it was agreed that they would have a welcome pack for new Friends groups. LH said that he is aware</p>		

<p>that they have been granted £5000 and hope the definition can be agreed soon. LH said that there are 2 new Friend groups coming along in stream so it would be helpful. LH mentioned an outstanding action regarding a future date to discuss signage in parks. LH also said that they requested that a few water fountains could be put in parks, and he is waiting to hear about costs.</p> <p>NEW ACTION: SH to send LH information on which groups are getting involved in courses and which aren't.</p> <p>Friends Groups - LH said that they launched a new registration with the Friends groups and offered £150 to help them. LH said that he thinks there are now 56 Friends groups. LH said that he was told there is a new Friends group in regards to Chislehurst Cemetery. LH said that he requested information on this as he has no contract details and isn't able to communicate with them directly.</p> <p>LH reported that Stanhope Friends group is starting a new Friends group. LH said that more recently the Forum has been involved in discussions of resurrecting the Friends of Harvington. LH said that there are 2 competing groups trying to start groups there. LH said that they need to come to an agreement on who the group is.</p> <p>First Aid - LH said that since the last meeting the Forum has organised 2 first aid courses and are doing a third one in autumn, potentially on the 23rd of October. LH said that they will send out invitations shortly.</p> <p>Websites – LH said that another discussion is about the websites. LH said that he hopes they can come to an agreement on how to formulate the 3 websites, so they don't clash, and they are succinct. LH said that it is not always easy to find things on the LBB website. LH said that he hopes they can streamline.</p> <p>Funding – LH said that the Forum keeps in touch with the Friends groups and tries to support them where possible. LH said that there is a process of offering grants to Friends groups to support them which has been quite quiet, and he would like to encourage more applications.</p> <p>Friends Forum Meeting - PW asked for reminder of when the date for the next Forum meeting is. LH said that it is scheduled for Wednesday the 19th at 7 pm in person at the Council offices. LH said that there is also a Zoom option.</p> <p>Leadership Courses - PW asked for an update from SH on courses regarding small group leadership. SH said that idverde were finalising this in the morning and they have been putting their presentation together. SH said that the plan will be finalised imminently. PW asked if it is likely to be a set date. PW said that it would be good if they could have something processed early September but the danger with August is that people go on holidays. SH said that they will have a recorded version which they can send out if people are unable to come. PW said that sounds excellent. LH said that the slight concern with recording is that they won't know if those people have attended the course. SH said that they could ask them to record and report. MB suggested that SH could talk to Elaine to see if they can run the attendances through an E-Learning generator. MB said that he is unsure if this can be done with volunteers.</p> <p>NEW ACTION: SH to liaise with Elaine about whether they can run the Leadership Learning course through E-learning to track who has attended the course.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>SH</p>	<p>08/01/24</p> <p>08/01/24</p>
<p>Paul Mellor – LBB Planning</p>		

<p>Bromley Local Plan review process – PM said that they conducted an ‘Issues and Options’ consultation at the end of March. PM said that it was a high-level consultation, and it has now ended. PM said that they are reviewing responses and there were about 260 different responses.</p>		
<p>AOB Attendees had no other business.</p>		
<p><u>Next Meeting</u> The next meeting is scheduled for 08/01/2024.</p>		