



Forum Partnership Meeting No. 30

Thursday 29th June 2023, 10am – Video Conferencing

Larry Herbert (LH)
Richard Gibbons (RG)
Keith Rodwell (KR)

James Hilsden (JH)
Hugh Chapman (HC)
Jane Askew (JA)
David Braybrook (DB)
Cllr Aisha Cuthbert (AC)

Richard Burton (RB)
Martyn Bradley (MB)
Sue Holland (SH)
Angela Wood (AW)
Jess Dalton (JD) (Minutes)

AGENDA

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last meeting / Action tracker
4. Council update
5. *idverde* update
6. Forum 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: Tony Allen (TA) Walter Leonard (WL) Barbara Arora (BA) Vivien Smith (VS) Kari Silvester (KS)

***idverde*:** Andy Hodgson (AH)

LBB: Hannah Jackson (HJ)

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

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting

The 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 24: Park signage updates – **Continued to be reviewed.** JH & LH agreed that a meeting of the working group should be arranged within the next fortnight to pick up momentum on the programme, review after one month, and then decide whether to go ahead with monthly reviews or not.

LH mentioned there had not been a follow up meeting since November 2022 or any discussion about the proforma which AH produced to record signage. JH needs availability from people to set meeting date and go through form AH has prepared. MB added AH has taken feedback in the interim period and refreshed the form.

Action 25: Water fountains – **Ongoing.** JH confirms project has been handed over to Colin Arnold, still awaiting update. JH to pick up progress in next week.

Action 30: Website information- **Continued to be reviewed.** KR had meeting with HJ and Andrew Rogers (AR) in May to provide info on what needed updating. HJ took notes of discussion, hasn't had feedback from Council yet. DB to speak to HJ for an update on progress AR has made, and for collaboration to be included.

DB added AR is committed to completing update, due to be done by the end of summer. KR wants involvement between Friends and AR for the updates. MB added still in process for idverde website to be replaced. Have been working through Bromley Database to resolve irregularities or broken links, colleague is working on it to make changes.

KR suggested collaboration is needed between idverde and Friends Group so relations of both websites are displayed. States communication doesn't happen. MB thanks for feedback and will let the colleague know to ensure communication is made, so that links are made.

Action 37: Communications processes- DB has just got round to writing this, requested to be pushed forward to next quarter. JH added DB will be presenting Parks Projects update & shows he will need until next quarter for this.

4. Council Update

DB showed presentation which gave an update on the current park projects: Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund, Water body Management & Infrastructure

Updates on the Jubilee Parks Fund were:

- Total number of applications had increased, as of April 2023 the total was 40
- In correspondence with relevant stakeholders for St Paul's Cray
- Some projects have started to be delivered, PO's are being raised for equipment etc
- Estimated that 15 will be delivered by December 2023
- Haven't received applications from Biggin Hill, Bromley Town, Chelsfield & Mottingham wards. Started to have correspondence with the Councillors to see if they would like projects to be put in place. Confident will have applications from these wards in the next round.

DB added the Council website now has a table displayed to show how much funding is remaining in each Ward, to make people aware of how much they can apply for. If anyone would like an updated one, can email jubileeparksfund@bromley.gov.uk where JA can present latest figures.

DB gave an update on Water body Management which included:

- Paper going to committee on 29/06/23 for Kelsey Park to request to draw down monies and proceed with the work to de-silt Kelsey Park lake.
- Ecology surveys have started which include Phase 1 Habitat Survey & EDNA survey's

Updates on Infrastructure:

- Additional funding that was set aside has enabled funding of perimeter fencing of Hoblingwell
- Works continuing on Kelsey Park Bridge, relevant stakeholders have been made aware of the works in advance
- Had meeting with contractor for Croydon Rd Bandstand, works looking to commence on 10th July and complete end of the year.

JH gave an update on the Nature Friendly Verges:

Has been successful so far, 400 responses to the survey, 73% being supportive. Added purple orchids have been spotted during this trial. Advised idverde have picture-framed around the verges to show area is still being maintained. Received new advise from the LFB as the longer grass can increase risk of fire and anti-social behaviour. Changes that will be made include having channels cut at the intervals, as a lot easier to control in risk of fires. JH added new signage has been displayed, thanked Sue Holland and Steven Lofting for this.

JH gave an update on PSPO's for Dog Controls:

Passed at the committee meeting, link to report is on presentation. When this first was released in 2019, there was only 90 responses, and this year there is about 5,000 as an estimate including emails and enquiries.

HC gave an update for the tree team on Arboriculture:

Second year of tree planting under tremendous project has completed. Over 1500 have been planted, 1250 were part of the project, the remainder have a policy commitment to replace any trees that are removed from the year before. Watering programme is performing well at present. Have recently undertaken a programme for communication to encourage residents to supplement the water programme. 3,000 letters have been distributed. Public launch for QR codes is due on 3rd July.

Changes occurring on management of arboricultural services due to committee meetings taking place and tree officers leaving LBB.

AC asked on progress of recruiting, is advertising needed more widely. HC unable to answer, will come back with answer outside of meeting. HC advised adverts have been put out to different number of platforms. AC added going to produce video with one of the Tree Friends, which will demonstrate how to water trees & publicising the app so everyone knows how to use it.

LH raised query on trees, issue at Cator Park, are LBB prosecuting. AC advised this was on private land, police called several times. LBB & tree officers working closely with police to gather evidence. Clear that the police will be prosecuting, will keep LH updated.

LH raised query on Customer Satisfaction survey which occurred, if there's any feedback yet. JH added can't remember when finished. DB advised HJ gave him update in her absence, it has had 509 responses and it closes at the end of July. LH asked if this will be shared, wants facts rather than rumours. JH advised once finished, the information is produced as a report and presented by idverde to explain to LBB, where improvements need to be made and what areas are focused on by the public. The report can then be circulated to the Friends, it is also included at the November committee meeting.

LH mentioned the poo bag situation, whether there is any progress. JH added idverde had looked into it, and can be potential. MB added him and AW are attending meeting with the company on 30/06, there is an opportunity to extend the programme. AW added has invited VS to meeting, not 100% sure if she can attend, if she doesn't attend AW will provide update.

RG raised query on trees, asked for update on current Tree Friends/Co-ordinators, advised has had no communication on the situation. HC advised doesn't have numbers at the moment, but when they launch the numbers will be distributed. RG added is the QR app working only on the trees that have been planted on the current cycle, HC said yes it is a new tag which is being installed on trees, it differentiates to the trees planted last year. AC added she requested for old tags to be removed, and they will have different logos, to prevent confusion from public as much as possible. RG added how residents are going to be encouraged to water trees, as the increasing cost of domestic water. HC advised trees will not automatically be watered from previous years, still looking case by case to see what trees need it.

LH raised query on Jubilee Park Fund and acceptance of Croydon Road Rec (CRR) project, how will it integrate on action of signage. If they are having something made, how will it be adopted for the rest of the Borough. JA added Friends of CRR want a different design which compliments the bandstand. LH is concerned that the format and detail on the signs, whether this is reconsidered so the whole Borough has the same look. JA advised it's also the design of the sign itself, any projects that have a sign to it, happy to share what groups have proposed. Is only CRR that have sent artwork. LH added doesn't want it to differentiate across the Borough. JH added concerns are understood, there will be separate signage for different aspects.

KR raised further query on signage, has final signage been agreed. JA added none has been, fully working in partnership with idverde, once it has been fully agreed can be shared. KR is concerned if it is going to be a park entrance sign. JA stated back in scoping phase, will be more about the bandstand rather than entrance signage. JH accepts concerns and need to include CRR in signage working group.

AC asked JH if chairs of Friends of South Hill Woods & Croydon Road Rec to be involved in working group. JH – to include South Hill Woods, Kingswood Glen & Croydon Road Rec to be included.

KR raised query on trees – dead trees by allotment, no indication on when anything will happen. Are allotments supposed to be inspected. HC confirmed allotment trees have an inspection, 3 or 5 year cycle dependent on last officer inspecting them. Not aware of any being overdue, asked KR to forward last communication on this query and he will follow up.

5. idverde Update

RB gave an update on current situation of grass cutting, idverde are currently behind but have a recovery plan produced to bring the company back up to speed with their schedules. Have recently had additional staff join the teams to support this matter. JH added from an LBB perspective appreciates recovery plan has been put in place, and weekly updates. Mentioned has been an increase in enquiries and complaints so far this year, although Confirms & FMS' have been kept on top of, and are being able to solve majority of the enquiries in the allotted time frames.

KR raised query on grass cutting at Winsford Gardens not being completed. Concerned idverde do not share the current issues with the Friends Group. RB thanks for comments, understands concerns and will speak to AH about when the site will be cut. Advised idverde are working towards the Borough looking how it should.

LH raised query on paths not being cut in Meadows. RB understands concerns, advised idverde are working on having teams attend to cut the paths back.

RG asked what policy is on grass cuttings being left behind, asked if these are supposed to be cleared, RB understands and agrees, advised trying to remove arising where practically possible. RB also added doesn't think policy of not strimming around trees is helping, as makes the area look more unsightly, is in discussion on the policies.

SH started presentation by giving an update on behalf of the countryside and education team including:

- Breeding Bird Surveys
- Dragonfly ID & Survey Training
- Meadow Condition Assessments
- Spring Bat-box Surveys
- Easter BEECHE Events that occurred, Amphibian ID & Survey Training

LH asked if he can be informed of which Friends Groups are attending the courses, as they don't receive feedback of these. Also would like to know how the number of attendees are controlled. SH advised this can be sent across, and reminders need to be sent out, as some do not attend.

AW continued the presentation to show the projects which have recently been undertaken by The Parks Development Team, who have recently recruited a New Infrastructure Supervisor.

LH raised query on how events in parks are financed, had a conversation with JH, as to whether there are any donations that could go to the Friends Group for the disruption that they cause. Asked whether this would be a fixed amount or percentage of profit.

RG raised query on experience of littering in parks, Green St Green have seen increase, since beginning of 2022 Friends have collected 10,000 bottles. MB added not seeing significant uptrends of litter in parks, hasn't seen trends of seeing increase of litter, since COVID we have received a reduction, will look into more detail, but the stats are not specific by site. AC added in discussions with a cohort who issue tickets for parking restrictions etc, to extend service to Bromley's parks, and hopefully reduce litter by issuing fines.

LH raised query with JH as to how the Dog Control PSPO is being advertised. JH added signs will be put up, metal ones are being made, in same fashion/design of the current ones. Dean Laws is currently working on this. JH will keep LH informed with an implementation plan.

LH raised query with MB – asked if insurance renewal has gone through and if Friends Groups will be getting their certificates. MB advised has been resolved, and the insurance company are in the process of distributing the documentation.

6. Friends Forum Update

LH gave an update on the Friends Group which included:

- First Aid Courses have taken place and have successfully been attended, looking to run another in the Autumn
- Only 23 Friends Groups have responded to Forum's registration request, will chase up to see if more will respond. Beyond this will seek idverde's help to persuade Friends Groups to get more involved.
- Current Acting Chair of Harvington in disagreement with Local Ward Cllr. It is hoped to resurrect this Group and see them become more active.
- Planned Members Meeting occurring next month, AC to attend and update Friends Groups on LBB matters.
- FMS issue at Tugmutton Common with a notice board, confusion on responsibility for repairs.

AC asked for details of FMS to be sent to herself, she will pick this up with HJ. AW added has been in contact with Friends Group on this issue and they suggested to apply for Jubilee Parks Fund, to apply for a new and lockable one.

RG raised query on press releases for Jubilee Parks Fund, asked that they are sent to the mentioned Friends Groups in advance, so they have notification. DB understood concerns, will take on board for future press releases. JA added would like to know what the social media tags are, so they can be mentioned on any posts that are put up.

7. AOB

KR raised query on how the FF Meeting is planned and set out, is time-consuming. Suggests presentations are made available in advance of the meetings. LH added there's useful information on the presentations, would be good to have in advance so questions can be prepared. JH agrees with concerns, thinks presentations are important. LH added thinks there needs to be more focus on issues and problems that are occurring. AC suggested that the 1st hour to be issues/concerns discussed, and the 2nd half to be key information sharing & questions.

Everyone agreed on the new meeting layout.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting date has been arranged for: Thursday 28th September 2023 starting at 10am (Online). The subsequent meeting will be Thursday 11th January 2024.

[Meeting ended]