

Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday 21 January 2020

Venue: Age Exchange Studio, 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA

Attendees

Cllr Amanda De Ryk	London Borough of Lewisham
Sacha Bright (mins)	BJWP Administration
Martin Smith	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Philip Craig	Greenwich Society
Vince Buchanan	London Borough of Lewisham
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Janine Whittaker	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Sue Corlett	Hare & Billet Action Group
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Cllr Geoff Brighty	Royal Borough of Greenwich

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Chair Cllr Kevin Bonavia (London Borough of Lewisham), Cllr Juliet Campbell (London Borough of Lewisham), Joe Beale (Nature Conservation Group), Cllr Mariam Lolavar (Royal Borough of Greenwich), Meg Dinkeldein. Cllr Geoff Brighty advised he would be late.
- 1.2. Cllr Amanda De Ryk chaired the meeting in Kevin Bonavia's absence.

2. Minutes and matters arising

- 2.1. The minutes of previous meeting on 5 November 2019 were approved without amendment.
- 2.2. Sacha has not yet received a response from TfL about the bus shelter, she will try to make contact again.
- 2.3. Helen asked for clarification as to how the various conditions agreed for the Forest School would be checked. Vince Buchanan confirmed that Glendale would check all the necessary requirements and that Lewisham would ensure that all the registrations etc are agreed by OFSTED and Children and Young People Department.
- 2.4. Aiden Smith reported that he had heard from TfL that they will be planting four trees on the A2 roundabout. The committee welcomed this very good news.

3. Greenwich Events – Janine Whittaker

- 3.1. Janine Whittaker explained that, because of Greenwich staff shortages, the bids for 2020 events in Circus Field had been delayed.
- 3.2. The BJWP had already been informed about the Euro Fanzone which will be taking place in Greenwich Park in the summer. The organisers plan to use one third of Circus Field for storage and deliveries from mid-May to early July. Janine will check the exact dates from the planning

application. The organisers have suggested that they may wish to remove some of the bunds on Charlton Way to allow access for their lorries. Members of the committee expressed the view that this would not be acceptable as all other events use to the access from Prince Charles Road. Removal of the bunds would cause considerable damage to the wildflowers which have become established there. Janine will pass these views to the planning committee and ask for more detail

- 3.3. There will be the usual fairs and circuses on Circus Field. In addition, there has been an application from the Greenwich Comedy Festival to use the field in the first week of September. There is a further application which is still being considered for an African cultural event from a Wednesday to Sunday in early August. The organisers of each of these two events will be invited to attend the next BJWP meeting if required. Janine will provide dates of these events for BJWP and Gemma at Glendale.
- 3.4. Janine will ask all event organisers hiring the field to extend their litter picking to Vanbrugh Pits.
- 3.5. The policy of no parking on the Heath will continue with the exception of blue badge holders.
- 3.6. It was noted that the recent Fireworks event for Greenwich Performs which had taken place at The Point had been a great success but it had not been brought to the BJWP for prior agreement.
- 3.7. Janine will contact Greenwich Park again regarding parking, and will ensure all events organisers are promoting public transport and not directing drivers to Greenwich Park.
- 3.8. Janine will work with the council film unit to ensure better coordination and comms regarding any filming on the Heath, and will ask for notifications to be sent to the BJWP.
- 3.9. Janine agreed that it had been a difficult year for Greenwich and that every effort would be made to bring all proposed events to the BJWP planning meeting in October.

4. Nature conservation group report - Shirley Broughton

- 4.1. A report from Shirley Broughton had been circulated in advance. The project to remove the dead broom and to replace it with native gorse is in hand and Glendale will begin work shortly.
- 4.2. The group is asking for an early decision on the proposed entomology survey and also for a decision in principle that 50% of any future community funding should be allocated for nature conservation. Each of these issues to be considered under the next agenda item.
- 4.3. Shirley also made it clear that the group continues to oppose the use of Eliot Pits for a Forest School. This issue had been discussed in detail at the last meeting.

5. OnBlackheath Community project funding

- 5.1. A financial account of the funding for the first four years from 2014 to 2017 had been prepared by Glendale and circulated to the committee in advance. The committee had been aware that there had been underspend in some years and that some projects had not taken place. The accounts had been needed to show how much money remains to be allocated.
- 5.2. It appeared that in order to provide balanced accounts on an annual basis, Glendale had shown all underspend as allocated to the provision of new lidded bins, a total of £3,829 in addition to the two allocations specifically agreed for that purpose. As not all of that money has actually been spent, Vince will enquire if there is any amount still awaiting allocation.
- 5.3. Regarding the £15,000 2018 fund, this is being managed by the Blackheath Society. Vince confirmed that the new owners of OnBlackheath have confirmed a further donation of £15,000 for 2019 and that this will also be paid to the Blackheath Society. Unlike last year's payment, this will

be a corporate donation and the details will need to be discussed between Lewisham and the Blackheath Society.

5.4. The application for £4,800 for an entomology survey was considered. The decision is needed urgently if the consultants carrying out the survey are to be available this year. It was agreed that the views of the relevant Lewisham officers would be essential. It is understood that Nick Pond has agreed in principle but that various details still need to be considered. A meeting will be arranged between Lewisham officers and members of the conservation group and any agreements will be notified to the committee before the next meeting. It was agreed in principle that £4,800 (plus VAT if necessary) could be allocated to this project subject to the meeting and email consultations already agreed.

5.5. The request from the conservation group that 50% of all future Community grants should be reserved for nature conservation was discussed. Although sympathetic in principle the group agreed that each decision would depend on the specific project applications available at the time of each allocation.

6. Blackheath Tea Hut

6.1. The well-known Tea Hut which has been operating on the Heath, reportedly, for 100 years was recently demolished in a road accident. Members expressed their concern for the people who had been injured.

6.2. Amanda confirmed that although it has been there for many years detailed planning permission would now be needed before it could be replaced. It is likely that TfL will have concerns about the proximity to the A2 and the possibility of further accidents. There would be different concerns if it were to be moved further onto the Heath because of the problems of litter and damage to the grass, particularly from people parking illegally.

6.3. There will be ample opportunities for individuals and organisations to express views during the consultation periods in the planning process.

6.4. Geoffrey Brighty had raised the question of whether the business could move into the unused toilet block opposite. This would require various surveys before The Crown Estate (which owns the building) would even be willing to consider change of use. Aiden Smith suggested that Greenwich could issue a Section 215 notice requiring the owner to take action. In any case, it is understood that the owner of the Tea Hut doesn't wish to move.

7. Annual Public Meeting

7.1. It was agreed that both the future of the Tea Hut and the future of the toilet block could be discussed at this year's public meeting and that the owner of the Tea Hut and representatives of The Crown Estate would be invited to attend.

7.2. It was also agreed that the progress of proposals for Talbot Place would be an interesting item for discussion.

7.3. Any other suggestions for the agenda should be sent to Sacha.

8. AOB

8.1. There has been a request on behalf of the Conservation Group for amendments to the BJWP Constitution. Owing to short notice, these will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

- 8.2. There was a query about the amount of broken brick being used to build up the new bund on Prince Charles Road. Vince explained that this will be covered by a quantity of top soil sufficient for the wildflowers which will be sown and this is the usual method of construction.
- 8.3. Sacha had prepared the diary of meetings for the coming year and has checked that rooms have been booked.

These meeting dates were agreed :

Tuesday 18th February Bakehouse Theatre Public Meeting

Tuesday 31 March Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 9 June Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 22 September Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 20 October Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 24 November Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 19 January 2021 Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 Bakehouse Theatre Public Meeting