

## Friends of Friendly Gardens AGM - 14 September 2023

Present: Alex, Christine, Jo, Frances

Apologies: Lorna, Charles, Jeff, Alma

### Minutes (taken by Jo)

A. Recap of achievements this year:

1. New play equipment and a planter arrived this year – partly from the section 106 funding (paid by developers for local infrastructure), and partly from Lewisham Council's Greening Fund. FOFG are responsible for keeping the planter planted up/watered – though the council provided some bulbs initially.
2. The picnic in the summer – over 100 attendees, funds raised for the park, music, dancing, games, choir, and raffle.
3. Ensuring the collapsed wall was fixed (by the post box)
4. FOFG infrastructure set up: website, email addresses, bank account, google business account, socials.
5. In dialogue with Thames Water (meeting them next week on Teams, if anyone would like to join, ask Alex) to figure out how they can contribute further to the park.

Mural has been painted on the Thames Water hoardings (and artist Alma has also done a beautiful sign) Laura and Alma from [Lewisham Arthouse](#) ran a [Family Workshop](#) as part of the Picnic in the Park which was a prelude to the mural: JACK and the Beanstalk

- 6.
7. Launched a design competition this year to create a 'master plan' for the park – three students so far have been to visit the site. The competition ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

B. In the pipeline:

1. The council want to add an interpretive notice board/sign to the park
2. 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Esther Wainright Derry (Lewisham ecological regeneration) visiting. Will be planting some yellow rattle seeds and plug plants in the 'now mow' area of Friendly Street. 10am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. From Thames water: the following were agreed (signed off) when TW were originally going to be in the park for six months. We may be able to negotiate more given they will now be here until 2025.
  - a. Dog park shelter: currently negotiating what type of shelter will be installed (Lewisham Council are reluctant to have one with sides).
  - b. Three picnic benches
  - c. Water fountains x 2 – one in dog park, one in play park. Recently heard that TW are getting ready to 'hand over the assets'.
  - d. 8 trees, grass and bulbs

!Ask for volunteers from Lucas street (Jo - done)

4. Celia Hammond had offered to install a run-off water tank for the park's use if they go ahead with some planned building work. Not clear whether this is going to go ahead.
5. Meeting with Street Trees for Living soon.
6. Applied to City Airport for funding but we haven't heard back from them.

### **C. Committee**

Alex nominates:

1. Alma – Creative Director
2. Jo – Treasurer
3. Jeff – Secretary
4. Lorna – Comms
5. Joseph – Greening
6. Frances – Horticultural Advisor
7. Christine – Administrator

Jeff and Joseph nominate:

1. Alex – Chair
2. Jo - Treasurer

The AGM voted these people in.

!Jo to add Alex to the bank account.

!Jo to see whether any committee members or members want to set up a regular direct debit to donate to FOFG.

### **D. Future Planning/Actions**

1. There's a particular problem with littering in this part of Lewisham. What are the solutions?
  - a. You can rent a large Biffa bin or a wheelie bin collected for £44/week – but this is relieving the council/Glendale of collecting rubbish from the park on a daily basis (which is what we've been informed is meant to happen)
  - b. Could we talk to Lucas Vale school about encouraging the students not to litter?
  - c. Could we try and organize a critical mass of people who are prepared to monitor litter in the park and hold Glendale to account for their daily litter collection – run this as a project?
  - d. Encourage people to use Love Clean Streets so that data from our area shows up on the Council's heat map of litter.
  - e. Writing a legally informed letter to the council?
  - f. Could we run this as a project?

!Scout around for a project lead

!Lorna to put out some 'calls to action' for people to report litter in Friendly Gardens via LoveCleanStreets – let's ensure the council know that there's an issue

## 2. Funding

- a. Greening and NCIL – we will get notified of this by Brockley Assembly
- b. Now we know that we're one of the worst parks in the Borough (from the Council's parks plan – we are the 16<sup>th</sup> worst out of over 300), maybe we have a better chance of getting funding. We're a left behind park.
- c. Keep our eyes open for funding opportunities.

## 3. Events

- a. Lewisham parks capture events through the Glendale Portal – they want to host more events for their parks plan.
- b. Could we do a version of the Brockley Yard sale in Friendly Gardens?
- c. Could we do a film night in That Place In the Park?
- d. A Halloween 'spooky walk' through Friendly Gardens? A pumpkin competition? A Halloween trail?

!Jo to ask Lucas street whether they're interested in contributing to this?

## 4. Next meeting

- a. Aim to meet quarterly – next meeting early December?
- b. Alex to upload these minutes to the website for transparency.