

Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes
17 September 2019
Venue: Age Exchange, 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Rachael Hook	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Sue Corlett	Hare & Billet Society
Philip Craig	Greenwich Society
Vince Buchanan	London Borough of Lewisham
Margaret Dinkledein	Blackheath Society
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Shasha Bright	Blackheath Society
Juliet	Nature Conservation Group
Janine Whittaker	Royal Borough of Greenwich
James Bravin (mins)	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Helen Reeves (Blackheath Society), Cllr Juliet Campbell, Cllr Aidan Smith, Cllr Geoff Brighty, Cllr Mariam Lolavar, Cllr Amanda De Ryk, Shirley Broughton.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1. Philip Craig noted that he was disappointed that Royal Borough of Greenwich will not be providing any funding to the BJWP. Mike Norton added that they feel they don't need to support it as it doesn't qualify as committee of the Council.
- 2.2. It was noted that not all the minutes of previous meetings are online yet.

ACTION: BJWP minutes need to be uploaded to the Lewisham for meetings after June 2018 and published through mod.gov as well. Lewisham Officers to inform the BJWP when the latest minutes have been uploaded onto the website.

- 2.3. Once the contract for the clerking of the BJWP has been finalised and signed by both parties Sasha Bright should have an induction and to meet the key people in the LBL and RBG.

ACTION: Paul Aladenika to set up induction meeting with Sasha Bright and officers from LBL.

- 2.4. Janine Whittaker to co-ordinate meetings with Royal Borough of Greenwich officers as well. Janine Whittaker also thanked Rachael Hook for providing her maternity cover.

ACTION: Janine Whittaker to co-ordinate introductory meetings between Sasha Bright and RBG officers.

- 2.5. Vince Buchanan spoke to Nicky Hodgson from OnBlackheath, as she is now the main point of contact regarding the festival. Tom Waites is less involved since Festival Republic have taken over.
- 2.6. Cllr Kevin Bonavia said there hasn't received an update on the Quietway yet. Vince Buchanan said that he contact Josh Learner for an update.

ACTION: Vince Buchanan to contact Josh Learner for an update on the Quietway work.

- 2.7. One member asked if Nick Pond's note on the erosion of the Heath by cyclists could be re-circulated.

ACTION: Vince Buchanan to circulate Nick Pond's note on erosion of the Heath.

3. Parking Arrangements for the Bank Holiday Fair on Circus Field

- 3.1. Tony Butler said that he was concerned that as part of the Bank Holiday Fair on Circus Field the signs had directed visitors to park in Greenwich Park which had caused congestion in the Park which needed the police to come and sort out.
- 3.2. Rachael Hook and Janine Whittaker not aware that these signs had been put in place, but agreed to share the feedback so that the issue doesn't occur again.
- 3.3. Cllr Kevin Bonavia said that the next BJWP meeting on the 5th November would be regarding the Events.

ACTION: Janine Whittaker to invite the Showman's Guild/Circus Providers to the 5th November.

ACTION: Paul Aladenika to organize the next meeting for 5th November to start early at 18.30.

4. OnBlackheath

- 4.1. Vince Buchanan provided an update regarding OnBlackheath, including the following points:
 - Festival Republic felt that they had learnt many lessons from their first time organising the festival. Despite one issue with a spillage, Festival Republic felt the event had been very successful.
 - Festival Republic would like to hold next year's event on the same time as this year's event.
- 4.2. Cllr Kevin Bonavia suggested that a report should be provided to demonstrate the impact of OnBlackheath at the new dates. Vince Buchanan said that the mitigation (e.g. changes in times and areas of meadow cutting) had been successful, and there had been no greater impact on the Heath holding the event at the new date as opposed to the old one.
- 4.3. Cllr Kevin Bonavia noted that there had been a discussion at the last meeting about the improved noise control measures and overall success of the event. Vince Buchanan added that it had been discussed at ESAG and there hadn't been any major issues brought up.

- 4.4. Janine Whittaker said that with the proposed Fan Zone event for the UEFA Euro 2020 would clash directly with the OnBlackheath event. Vince Buchanan said that he was aware of this and had discussed with the GLA who were ok with both events taking place at the same time.
- 4.5. Cllr Bonavia said that it was important to take a view from the Police, Emergency Services and Transport Services as what the impact of holding both events at the same time.

ACTION: Vince Buchanan to provide two reports:

- Report demonstrating the impact of holding OnBlackheath at the different time.
- View of Transport, Emergency Services and Police on the impact of potentially having the two events on at the same time.

- 4.6. One member of the BJWP asked if the provision of extra meadow space was sufficient, to cover the loss of meadow due to moving the date of On Blackheath. Vince Buchanan said that the mitigation had been successful and was sufficient.

5. Blackheath Fireworks

- 5.1. Andy Thomas presented an item on the Blackheath Fireworks. The following points were discussed:
- No change to the footprint of the event from last year. Fireworks will be at 20:00, and the fair will take place from 12:00, with Bars and food open from 17:00.
 - There is a slight variation to the licence, as the whole footprint is being licensed rather than the individual areas.
 - The overall cost of the fireworks is £115,000.
 - There is now a crowdfunder campaign which is aiming to raise £20,000 - <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/blackheath-fireworks-2019/>

ACTION: Amenities Societies to promote the Crowdfunder through their channels.

- 5.2. Cllr Kevin Bonavia stated that the Blackheath Fireworks is always a proposed cut and they have fought to keep it. The fear is that once it is gone it will be gone, so it's great that it has been retained for another year.

6. Forries School

- 6.1. Councillor Kevin Bonavia said that there had been some concern about what exactly the Forries Education was offering, in particular.
- How much was being charged for the sessions.
 - What activity was taking place at Eliot Pits.
 - How frequently and for how long each session was taking.
- 6.2. Vince Buchanan said that Nick Pond did not have any concerns regarding the activity that the Forries Education sessions entailed, from an ecological perspective, and in fact thought it could have a beneficial effect on the Heath, and teaches children about the flora and fauna of the Heath.
- 6.3. Philip Craig said that he was concerned about the fact that the building of fires was advertised on their website. Vince Buchanan replied that this could be referring to one of the other sites that hold the Forries Education.

- 6.4. One member of the BJWP said that there had been confusion about dates and the frequency of the sessions and members of the public had felt that they couldn't use the space when Forries School were using it.

ACTION: Cllr Kevin Bonavia to find out:

- How frequent the sessions on the Heath are.
- Find out what the safeguarding arrangements for the children.
- Ensure that the activity is not breaking any of the Heath's bye laws.
- Cllr Kevin Bonavia to invite James Hazlerigg-Kinlay to a future BJWP to discuss the Forries Education.

7. Blackheath Gate

- 7.1. It was noted that there had been no progress on the Blackheath Gate issue.

8. Nature Conservation Group Report

- 8.1. The report was noted.

9. Update on previously agreed projects

- 9.1. Vince Buchanan provided the following update:
- Replacement tree work is complete.
 - The bund work is due to start on 30th September.
 - Wildlife walks have not progressed much since last time, but they are looking at it.
- 9.2. Cllr Bonavia said that as the funding from last year hadn't been spent yet there is now a fund of £30,000 available if you combine this years and last years.
- 9.3. Cllr Bonavia invited members of the BJWP to propose any additional ideas for funding. The following were proposed:
- Christmas tree for the Heath approximately £1000 including installation and turning on and off of lights. It was discussed and agreed that £1000 was a lot. The BJWP agreed to cap this at £500.
- 9.4. Blackheath Society said there were several ideas that they had, and they would bring a list to the next meeting for discussion.

10. Options for resourcing Blackheath Working Party

- 10.1. Paul Aladenika (LBL) advised that some details of the contract needed to be ironed out, but in theory the contract should start from next meeting.
- 10.2. Royal Borough of Greenwich are not contributing towards the running of the group as they do not consider the group to be an official committee of the Borough.
- 10.3. One member said that the membership list, and email circulation list should be agreed.

11. Kidbrooke Grove and South Row Quietways

11.1. This issues had been covered in matters arising. Vince Buchanan is going to request an update report from Josh Learner.

12. Disused Toilet Block

12.1. There was no progress to report. An update should be brought to the next meeting.

13. AOB

13.1. Sue Corlett commented that there was an excessive amount of shingle left behind the tea hut.

ACTION: Vince Buchanan to investigate the shingle behind the tea hut.

13.2. One member commented that several bus shelters looked damaged. It was unclear who had ultimate responsibility for maintenance of the shelters.

ACTION: Vince Buchanan to investigate which authority had responsibility for the shelters.

Date of next meetings:

- **Meeting to start at earlier time on 6.30 - Tuesday 5 November 2019**
- 7pm - Tuesday 21 January 2020
- 6.30pm – Tuesday 18 February 2020 (Bakehouse Theatre)