

Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes

Meeting 7pm, Tuesday 12 January 2021

Venue: Zoom online meeting

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Sacha Bright (mins)	BJWP Administration
Cllr Geoff Brighty	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Sue Corlett	Hare & Billet Action Group
Philip Craig	Greenwich Society
Meg Dinkeldein	Tidy Blackheath Group
Cllr Leo Fletcher	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Gemma Marston	Glendale Services
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Janine Whittaker	Events, Royal Borough of Greenwich

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies from Cllr Juliet Campbell (London Borough of Lewisham), Cllr Amanda De Ryk (London Borough of Lewisham), Nick Pond (London Borough of Lewisham). Cllr Mariam Lolavar (Royal Borough of Greenwich)

2. Minutes of 24 November 2020 and matters arising

- 2.1. The minutes were agreed with one minor amendment.
- 2.2. Philip Craig queried why he had received an email from a member of the public at his personal address. It appeared that an email from the BJWP had been forwarded to someone outside the group who had then used the circulation list. It was agreed that Kevin and Sacha would edit the list and consider circulating draft minutes to those who attend or send apologies.
- 2.3. Review of bins on the Heath: Vince reported that he didn't have a map and asked if Meg and Helen would carry out a further survey. Vince will provide a key to the different types of bins and also some designs for larger bins which might be preferred.
- 2.4. OnBlackheath community fund: Sacha reported that's the £5400 surplus from Glendale had now been paid to the Blackheath Society. The £15,000 for 2019 had not yet been received. Vince will look into this and report back. It was noted that if this money is not eventually paid there will be considerably less available for new projects.
- 2.5. 3.3 Parking on the Heath: Vince reported that the two boroughs have now agreed a joint policy not to allow parking on Heath at events. More clarity is needed about exceptions and this needs to be added to the joint events policy. Janine has discussed this with the Showman's Guild and it is now agreed.

- 2.6. 5.6 & 5.7 Forries School: BJWP have received clarification of the hours at which the school plans to operate but also another complaint. Kevin confirmed the BJWP is not a safeguarding body and our role is simply to pass on complaints to the correct body which has been done. The Lewisham safeguarding team is monitoring progress of Ofsted registration etc. Mike Norton reminded the meeting that the Westcombe Society and the conservation group are still opposed to a commercial company having so much time where access is denied to the general public. There is also concern that Forries should pay an appropriate contribution to maintenance of the Heath. Glendale is satisfied that payment is sufficient and will be reviewed if the hours increase.
- 2.7. 11.1 Trainers on the Heath: Gemma confirmed that trainers working on the Heath should be registered and they will be reminded of Covid 19 distancing rules.

The meeting adjourned for a Special Executive Meeting to alter the constitution, see separate minutes.

3. Events planned for the Heath 2021

- 3.1 Gemma and Janine told the meeting that all the usual annual events are on the calendar for 2021 but all are provisional subject to the Covid situation. The kite festival applied for last year is also on the calendar for 10 October. It is not yet known if additional applications will be made when the Covid restrictions are lifted.

4 Blackheath Joint Events Policy Review.

- 4.1 Kevin reported that there has been some progress in discussions between the two boroughs. Janine reminded the meeting that some difficulties arise because of the different procedures adopted by the boroughs when making decisions. Greenwich has now sent draft amendments to Lewisham and a response is awaited. It was agreed that a new draft will be circulated to the BJWP by 15 February in time for comments to be received prior to the next meeting.
- 4.2 Tony asked if there had been any development in the proposal to make Juke Humphrey Road traffic free. It had been reported that £70,000 had been provided for this project but no one was aware of the current position.

5 Nature Conservation Group

- 5.1 No report had been received from the group for this meeting. Kevin asked how the group plan to be represented following the retirement of Shirley Broughton. Mike has discussed this with the group. Shirley has agreed to provide reports to the meetings but not to attend. Joe Beale will attend as often as possible but cannot guarantee every meeting.
- 5.2 Joe reported that the work of the volunteer group on Vanbrugh Pits had been progressing well until the Autumn but is currently suspended due to Covid. They are applying to Greenwich for new tools. Similar work is also being undertaken at the top of Hyde Vale.
- 5.3 The Butterfly survey has been completed and will be written up by February for publication on the Blackheath Society website.
- 5.4 Joe reported that three rare White Fronted Geese had been seen recently on the Lewisham side of the Heath.

6. OnBlackheath Fund

- 6.1 New applications for projects had not yet been called for pending confirmation of the amount of money available. It has however been agreed that projects can be on the Greenwich side of the Heath if they can be shown to provide amenity value also to Lewisham residents.
- 6.2 Sacha and Helen have carried out a review of projects which have been agreed but are still pending, the largest of these being the entomology survey. One piece of information missing relates to the Whitfield mount project. The old broom bushes have been removed and the new gorse has not yet been planted and there is no record of the £2800 agreed having been applied for. **Vince agreed to look into this and to report back.**

7. Memorial Benches survey

- 7.1 Meg reported on the survey of benches on the Heath which she had completed with Helen. In all there are 75 benches of three main designs and 35 of these are dedicated to someone's memory. The survey has reported on those benches which need to be painted or repaired and a few that need to be replaced altogether. Helen asked if the family is contacted when a memorial bench needs to be replaced. It seems that there is no formal policy on this although Vince thought it would be dealt with sensitively if details of the family were known. He thanked Meg and Helen for their very useful report.

8 Future meetings agreeing dates

- 8.1 In view of the current situation it was agreed that this year's annual public meeting would be virtual and also the next two working party meetings, the first of which would be immediately prior to the public meeting in March. The following meeting will be in May. All members were asked to complete the doodle poll circulated by Sacha so that dates could be fixed.

9 AOB

- 9.1 The Blackheath Society has been told that most of the five gazebos stored in Talbot Place have been either lost or damaged. They have not had access to the store to see the problem for themselves. Helen asked if information can be provided and also the position regarding the insurance. The gazebos had been paid for from the OnBlackheath fund following an application by the Blackheath Society for Village Day. **Vince agreed to provide more information about both the condition of the gazebos and the insurance situation.**

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.