

# Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday 23 June 2020

Venue: Zoom online meeting

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## Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Sacha Bright (mins)	BJWP Administration
Joe Beale	Nature Conservation Group
Cllr Geoff Brighty	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Vince Buchanan	London Borough of Lewisham
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
Cllr Mariam Lolavar	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Nicholas Pond	London Borough of Lewisham
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society

## 1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies from Cllr Amanda De Ryk (London Borough of Lewisham), Cllr Juliet Campbell (London Borough of Lewisham), Janine Whittaker (Events, Royal Borough of Greenwich).
- 1.2. Cllr Leo Fletcher replaces Cllr Aidan Smith on the BJWP.

## 2. Minutes and matters arising

- 2.1. Action points from the minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 21 January 2020
- 2.2. 2.3 Forest School - Vince Buchanan said that there had been no activity by the Forest School since Covid 19 and that as soon as any plans to resume are notified Lewisham Council would ensure that OFSTED and the Children and Young People Department are satisfied with arrangements. He said that at the January meeting Nick Pond had stated that there were no concerns about damage to Eliot Pits. Helen Reeves said that the school would probably not open again until spring 2021.
- 2.3. Greenwich Events – Events discussed at January meeting had since been cancelled or postponed for 2020 due to Covid 19
- 2.4. 5.4 Entomology Survey - Nick Pond said that the survey had been postponed for 2020 and hopefully would be re-scheduled for 2021.
- 2.5. The minutes of meeting on Tuesday 21 January 2020 were approved without amendment.
- 2.6. The minutes of public meeting on Tuesday 18 February 2020 were approved without amendment.

## 3. Drive In Cinema on the Heath

- 3.1. A proposal for a Drive In Cinema on Circus Field had been circulated from Janine Whittaker, Greenwich Events.
- 3.2. Kevin Bonavia said that Lewisham Councillors objected in an email to Janine Whittaker and he reported her response to the meeting.

- 3.3. The Greenwich Society were sympathetic to Greenwich Council's need to raise funds but are wholly opposed to the idea even as a one off event.
- 3.4. The Blackheath Society thought that overall this was a safe event for families to enjoy during the Covid 19 pandemic and were not opposed.
- 3.5. Jo Beale from the Nature Conservation Group said that social distancing could also be achieved arriving by foot or bike and it was a very negative message for air pollution to be using cars and even more so with the health issues of the Covid 19 crisis.
- 3.6. The Westcombe Society was opposed to the event.
- 3.7. Greenwich Councillors – Leo Fletcher said that both councils had declared a climate emergency and it was a poor message to be encouraging cars to drive to and park on the Heath. Mariam Lolar said that it was not beneficial to local people, it contradicted Greenwich Councils own rule of no parking on the Heath and she worried that it would set a precedent for future events. Geoff Brighty also opposed.
- 3.8. Tony Butler, Friends of Greenwich Park, said it was inconsistent with the policy of no parking on the Heath and opposed.
- 3.9. Kevin Bonavia summarised that whilst the BJWP appreciated the intention of entertainment during difficult times, the use of cars in a declared climate emergency was not acceptable and also parking on the Heath. This would be sent to the Events Team.
- 3.10. It was agreed that if any further events were proposed before the next BJWP meeting in September they would be sent to the BJWP and a short call would be arranged with voting members to discuss.

#### **4. Blackheath Update from Vince Buchanan**

- 4.1. An update from Vince Buchanan had been circulated in advance.
- 4.2. He said that it had been a very difficult and busy time to manage the Heath with an exceptional increase in numbers of people using the Heath. Glendale had worked very well in the circumstances and he would thank them.
- 4.3. Severe problems have arisen with litter, drug paraphernalia, anti-social toilet behaviour. Temporary toilets have been installed by Lewisham Council by Talbot Place and the facility is being monitored by Vince's team.
- 4.4. Nick Pond said that the contractors had made tremendous adjustments to operations. There are some additional emergency resources available that can be used to get the site cleansed should it be needed.
- 4.5. Nick Pond read an email from Gemma Buttell. Martin Burton, Chair of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain expects new Government guidance on outdoor events will allow for more events. Zippos would like to reschedule their postponed tour to Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> August until 1<sup>st</sup> September, Gemma asks if this is acceptable to BJWP.
- 4.6. Mike Norton asked if Zippos would have parking on the Heath and Nick Pond said this was a postponed event and the arrangements would be the same as previously approved. No other comments were made.
- 4.7. Tony Butler said that the toilets in Greenwich Park were not yet open so unavailable from people coming from the Heath until later in July.

#### **5. Tea Hut update**

- 5.1. Kevin Bonavia said any planning application to rebuild the tea hut would be circulated to the BJWP but one has not been received yet.

- 5.2. Helen said at the public meeting in January Adam Furze expressed an interest in moving to the old toilet block. Greenwich Council have said that the business would have to take on the cost of all the renovations (estimated £60-100,000) and this could be reflected in the rent. The suggested rent would be £25,000 year which is 3 times the amount the Tea Hut currently pays Lewisham Council and is unaffordable.
- 5.3. Helen has the support of the Blackheath Society committee in pursuing a compromise. Greenwich Council have asked Adam Furze to give his suggestions for costs and rent which they will assess and then pass to Crown Estates for a decision whether to give a contract.
- 5.4. **The Greenwich Society supports this proposal and will write to the Council.**
- 5.5. Meg Dinkeldein was concerned about parking and the road safety aspects of crossing the road. These worries were shared by Mike Norton and Joe Beale.
- 5.6. Kevin summarised that all were in favour of the move to the toilet block but that safety and parking issues should be considered. **Kevin and Sacha will write to the interested parties to express support from the BJWP.**
- 6. Trees damaged by Personal Trainers on the Heath**
- 6.1. The Blackheath Society have been approached about the damage to trees with ropes tied around trees. Sue Corlett said she has raised this in the past and it was not solved.
- 6.2. **Vince will ask Gemma Buttell to write to all permitted trainers reminding them that they should not use trees for this and quote the bye laws.**
- 6.3. Vince told David Walker that anyone running a fitness business on the Heath was required to go through an application process with Glendale, providing proof of insurance etc. before a permit is issued.
- 7. Nature Conservation Group - proposed amendments to the BJWP Constitution**
- 7.1. A proposal was sent to the BJWP by Barbara Morris and was circulated for consideration. Mike Norton said that the Westcombe Society would be willing to propose this as Barbara is not a member of the BJWP.
- 7.2. Helen suggested that it was a very lengthy amendment to add and it would preferable to have an explanatory memorandum.
- 7.3. Nick Pond and Joe Beale both pointed out that the Heath is a complicated mosaic of habitats that need to be preserved and this needs to be carefully worded.
- 7.4. **Kevin suggested that the Conservation Group look at this in more detail and liaise with Mike Norton and the Westcombe Society draw up a formal notice.**
- 7.5. Kevin would be in favour of drawing up an informative document to use alongside the constitution to let people know about Blackheath, its heritage and ecological history.
- 8. Application for funding Butterfly Survey (Blackheath Society)**
- 8.1. Kevin Bonavia was reminded to sign the letter of agreement with the Blackheath Society to hold and manage the OnBlackheath funds.
- 8.2. Joe Beale explained his bid for a monthly survey of butterflies on Blackheath which is supported by the Blackheath Society. Nick Pond thought these would be valuable information for others to build on in following years.
- 8.3. Nick left the meeting while this was discussed and all were very much in favour and agreed.
- 9. New litter bins funding**
- 9.1.** Helen said that the final account from Glendale showed that the underspend from previous years had been allocated to lidded bins for Blackheath. The grants given by the BJWP to bins was £7,700

and in fact the allocation in the accounts is £11,500 which is £3,800 difference. It is not known if this has actually been spent by Glendale. Kevin asked Vince for an audit with Glendale on the spending on bins from this fund.

- 9.2. Helen said that Shirley Broughton has asked for 5 lidded bins to be put along the A2 on the eastern side of the Heath. Nick Pond will look into the funds and siting of these bins.

Ref item 9.2-

Shirley added the following for clarification: I didn't ask for the 5 no old style, open-topped bins along the A2 to be replaced with the lidded ones (ie the new, green style ones)- only the one by the Pelican Crossing over the A2. To put 5 along the A2 would be a waste, as its only used by joggers, who don't create a lot of rubbish, though the vehicle drivers might. Perhaps one other along there, but there are other places that need them more- eg. another along St. German's Place; ditto South Row; ditto Prince Charles Road- east side, by car bays nearer the A2 roundabout; always need more by the pond.

**10. Wildlife walks leaflets (Blackheath Society)**

- 10.1. Helen reported that there continued to be delays with these leaflets as the staff at the Creekside Centre have been furloughed due to Covid 19.

- 10.2. It was agreed by all to use the BJWP logo on the leaflets and a website address.

**11. AOB**

- 11.1. Kevin said that any further decisions over the summer could be looked at via email or a Zoom meeting.

These next suggested meeting dates are as follows and may be either on Zoom, in person or a hybrid:

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