

Blackheath Joint Working Party

Annual Public Meeting Minutes 7pm, Tuesday 18 February 2020 The Bakehouse Theatre, Blackheath SE3

1. Welcome

1.1. Cllr Kevin Bonavia welcomed everyone to the meeting and was very pleased to see such a good number. He explained that the Heath was split between the Lewisham and Greenwich Boroughs and the role of the BJWP was to provide input and recommendations from council officers, amenity societies and interested groups on the running of the Heath. The Heath is currently looked after by Glendale. He welcomed Cllr Amanda De Ryk and Cllr Geoff Brighty.

1.2. **The minutes of the 2019 Annual Public meeting were approved with no comment.**

2. Plans for Talbot Place

2.1. Cllr Amanda de Ryk told the meeting she had been meeting with an active group of residents who had taken on the challenge to progress and idea to regenerate the site of the changing rooms at Talbot Place.

2.2. Kathryn Johnston gave a PowerPoint presentation as an update of the ideas of an informal group of locals. Their aim is to bring back the site into active public use, enhance the amenity of the Heath for all, especially children and young people. She showed some initial ideas produced pro bono by Ian Chalk, local architect. There have been several public consultations through the council and the response has been very positive.

2.3. Nick Patton added that any progress would require the council to take a strong role and it is hoped that this would be a suitable project for the northern part of the borough. Cllr Amanda de Ryk said that project could find seed funding and that a meeting with the Mayor, Damian Egan was planned to discuss further.

2.4. . Next steps would be:

- Engage further with local community
- Surveys to assess baseline position
- Costings and feasibility
- Engage with affected parties
- Survey footfall/demand
- Take proposals to Mayor of Lewisham
- Work up proposals for potential funders

2.5. . Cllr Amanda de Ryk thanked Kathryn Johnstone, Nick Patton and Diane Summers for their work and presentation.

3. The Future of the Blackheath Tea Hut

- 3.1. Cllr introduced Adam Furze, Blackheath Tea Hut manager. Adam gave the meeting an update on the situation following the destruction of the Tea Hut by a car in January 2020. He said that a member of staff was recovering well after some very serious burns and injuries which was his biggest concern. . Jacky one of his staff
- 3.2. Adam said he is submitting plans to Lewisham planning officers with the help of his architect Terry Wilson and these would include moving the hut further back from the A2 road to improve safety. The site originally had two huts, one for serving and another for storage and he wanted to combine into one building however the Lewisham planning officers felt this was too imposing.
- 3.3. Margaret Dinkeldein said she was very pleased to see the litter had improved near the hut however she was concerned about the erosion of the Heath around the site. This would be something that Adam and Terry would consider with the new design they will submit.
- 3.4. It was suggested to Adam he might consider moving into the disused toilet block on the opposite side of the A2. He said this would be a dream of his however there are many complications including a different borough and who actually owns the building.
- 3.5. Cllr Aiden Smith, Royal Borough of Greenwich, said that the building is owned by the Crown Estates who want the council to pay for surveys before any negotiations can be advanced and this is not acceptable.
- 3.6. Cllr Kevin Bonavia said that the BJWP, Greenwich Council and Blackheath Society have all been working on this and it has taken a long time to get a response from Crown Estates. It is very slow progress to bring all parties together however if there is a will for this he hopes that it could move along.
- 3.7. The architect Terry Wilson said that they were working with Lewisham planning on ways to prevent erosion of the Heath with the new designs.

4. Work of BJWP over past year & update on 2020 calendar

- 4.1. Cllr Bonavia told the meeting the standard events on the Heath were planned such as the London Marathon and Race 4 Life.
- 4.2. He said that the organisers of OnBlackheath have decided the event will not go ahead in 2020 because it would coincide with the Euro 2020 fan zone planned for Greenwich Park. It is hoped that the festival will return the following year.
- 4.3. Crowd funding for the Blackheath Fireworks in November raised over £8000. Kevin said that Greenwich and Lewisham Council worked together on this event.
- 4.4. Diane Summers said that the Blackheath Society were planning to revive the popular Kite Festival by organising a Kite Day on Sunday 4th October.
- 4.5. Vince Buchanan confirmed no community fund from OnBlackheath in 2020. Cllr Bonavia reminded residents to send in bids for funding from last years' OnBlackheath fund.
- 4.6. David Kerr said that Circus Field would be used by Fanzone contractors from April to July and he asked for Greenwich council to re-seed the area which has deteriorated over they years particularly due to vehicle access.

5. Community Projects Update

5.1. Vince Buchanan gave a summary of the projects on the Lewisham side of the Heath including:

- Bin Bins with lids

- Bunds

- Grassland survey

- Bollards by All Saints Church

6. AOB

CLr Bonavia closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the meeting and joining in the discussions. He reminded residents to raise issues to do with the Heath through their local councillors. There is now an email for the BJWP administrator BJWP@blackheath.org.