

Blackheath Joint Working Party

Minutes of Meeting

14 November 2017

Venue: Age Exchange Blackheath

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Nicholas Pond	London Borough of Lewisham
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Kellie Blake	London Borough of Lewisham
Lisa Lawrence	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Aidan Smith	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Matthew Frith	London Wildlife Trust
Phillip Craig	Greenwich Society
Marilyn Little	Westcombe Society
Paul Aladenika	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies and introductions

Gemma Buttell (RBG), Cllr Amanda De Ryk (LBL), Joe Beale, Margaret Dinkeldein, Ian Andrews (RBG), Cllr Mehboob Khan (RBG) Janine Whittaker Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG)

Special Executive

Cllr Kevin Bonavia introduced the Special Executive Meeting (SEM), which had been called to review proposed amendments to the BHJWP constitution. As part of this, the BHJWP considered extending voting rights to the Westcombe Society and whether the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) should remain a voting member.

During the discussion, Matthew Frith of the LWT, spoke about the role of his organisation and noted that the Trust had not been involved in the work of the BHJWP as it used to be. However, Mr Frith welcomed the suggestion that the LWT should be contacted whenever conservation issues arise as part of the BHJWP's deliberations.

ACTIONS

It was agreed that:

- i) the London Wildlife Trust be removed as voting member but retain on the BHJWP mailing list
- ii) the Westcombe Society be added to the constitution as a voting member
- iii) the constitution should be circulated to all current members
- iv) hard copies of the constitution be maintained in archives

Following agreement of actions going forward, the chair brought the SEM to a close.

Ordinary Executive Meeting

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- i) Accuracy

Matters arising item 2: the correct surname of the officer identified as Tim “Loroughtagel” is Le Rougetel

Item 5 action number two: This should read: “GB to provide a spreadsheet of all community projects approved by BHJWP”

- ii) Matters arising

Whitefield Mount report

Nick Pond advised the group that the Whitefield Mount report is in his inbox and he will circulate it to the group.

Let’s Dance

Agreed that the action point remain as follows: Gemma Buttell to agree footprint with OS and confirm proposed location to BHJWP.

Race for life/ Pretty Muddy

BHJWP members were asked to contact Gemma Buttell if they wanted to join her on the walk around the site to establish the route and location of obstacles.

OnBlackheath

- i) Kevin Bonavia and officers from Greenwich Council (probably Janine Whittaker) to be invited to attend ESAG to ensure a more joined up approach
- ii) Conversation with Gemma Buttell about the spreadsheet detailing all the charity contributions that have been made by OnBlackheath so far

3. Blackheath Fireworks

Cllr Bonavia and the membership expressed thanks to Kellie Blake and her team for the excellent job they had done this year. Kellie then provided a short presentation in terms of highlights and lessons learnt from the event. As part of this she noted that, prior to the event, the website promoting the display received 140,000 hits. The total cost of the display was c£100k, of which Lewisham Council contributed about £37k and a further £63k was donated by other parties including the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council, which contributed £15k. In total the display lasted 13 ½ minutes.

The group went on to discuss a range of other issues such as the feasibility of an earlier display for children and whether text donation could be used as a future fundraising option. In her briefing, Kellie also noted that there were fewer instances of public urination than in the previous year.

With regard to the display itself, a note of concern about the earlier start of the display by raised by Sue Corlett, who mentioned that residents were unable to receive visitors once the roads were

closed. In addition members asked whether future displays could ensure that the release of fireworks was sequential, rather than simultaneous, to better appreciate the spectacle.

4. OnBlackheath Community Funding

It was noted that £15k would be made available for the coming year and that the decision regarding the allocation of the funding would be made in the same way as last year. Cllr Bonavia proposed that BHJWP members sift through suggestions and invite people to present their ideas, with a final decision to be made at a public meeting. A short discussion then ensued as to whether funds could only be spent on the Lewisham side. Cllr Bonavia suggested that it may also be possible for money to be spent on the Greenwich side, if an argument could be made that any spend would benefit Lewisham residents.

ACTION

- i) Cllr Bonavia to check if there are legal issues that might impact upon the way in which community funding can be spent.
- ii) Cllr Bonavia to prepare a letter for circulation to BHJWP members which can then be forwarded on to various parties
- iii) Agreed that letter from Cllr Bonavia should be sent out by the end of November. However, if Cllr Bonavia receives legal advice that this cannot be done, BHJWP members will be advised accordingly

5. (SMINC) Nature Conservation Group Issues

Sue Corlett noted that there were deep tracks across the heath following the fireworks. Matt Frith noted GLA's review of sites of metropolitan importance and advised the group that Blackheath is part of the GLA process. A discussion then ensued on various sites within Lewisham that might fall within the GLA designation and how that designation might be made. As part of this Matthew Frith advised the group that the LWT would be happy to offer advice on designating wildlife sites in Lewisham. It was also noted that should GLA make such a designation, it would be for Lewisham to ratify it through local planning policy.

ACTION

- i) Shirley Broughton offered to organise a walkabout as a starting point involving Matthew Frith, Joe Beale, Nick Pond and Juliet Cairns
- ii) Matthew Firth to send the LWT brochure to Cllr Bonavia
- iii) Nick Pond to provide a larger map of the heath for Shirley Broughton

The group then turned its attention to Whitefield's Mount. It was noted that Joe Beale's report, regarding the impact of OnBlackheath to the bird habitat at the Mount, would be sent to Kevin Sheehan (Executive Director for Customer Services). Based on this and other information, Kevin will be making a decision about the future of the site. Shirley Broughton stressed that the Mount is a special part of the heath and should not be fenced off for commercial purposes. Shirley Broughton went on to note that she may not attend future BHJWP meetings if Kevin Sheehan agrees to fence off the site.

6. AOB

Illuminated advertising on A2/Prince of Wales Road roundabout

The group expressed strong opposition to an application for the installation of illuminated advertising or any permanent signs. David Walker presented a letter from RBG in which a similar application had been turned down and asked that consideration be given to letter.

ACTION

Cllr Bonavia to send the RBG letter on to Lewisham Council's Planning Division

Derelict Building to the West of Talbot Field

Cllr Bonavia asked if BHJWP members have any specific views about the future use of the derelict building to the west of Talbot Field. Cllr Aidan Smith suggested that it should be refurbished and used for toilets and showers for coaches. Helen Reeves advised that she had written to Crown Estates to ask whether they intended to make use of it and if not, then to board it up. She advised that estate agent, John Payne, had offered to prepare a report on market values and used of the site.

ACTION

Agreed that this matter should be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Coach park cycle accident video

ACTION

Cllr Bonavia to see if a video of the coach park cycle accident has been received from Graham Deer (Park Manager, Greenwich Park)

Christmas tree on the little island Vale

Sue Corlett advised the group that children would like to plant a Christmas tree on the little island vale. It was agreed that the matter should be put to Vince Buchannan (LBL) to see whether or not it is feasible.

ACTION

Sue Corlett to contact Vince Buchanan.

7. Dates

The dates for future meetings were all agreed:

- 16th January
- 13th February (public meeting)
- 20th March
- 19th June
- 18th September
- 16th October (Events planning)
- 20th November

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for February 13th would be a public meeting that would take place a week earlier than normal to take account of half term. The venue for this meeting will be the Bakehouse.