

Blackheath Joint Working Party

Minutes of Meeting

16 January 2018

Venue: Age Exchange Blackheath

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Lisa Lawrence	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Janine Whittaker	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Phillip Craig	Greenwich Society
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Sue Corlett	Hare and Billet Action Group
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Gemma Buttell	Glendales
John Thompson	London Borough of Lewisham
Stewart Snellgrove	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies and introductions

- i) Cllr Amanda De Ryk (LBL), Cllr Mehboob Khan (RBG), Cllr Aidan Smith (RBG) and Margaret Dinkeldein
- ii) The scheduling of the BJWP on a Tuesday evening is presenting on-going attendance issues for other Councillors due to commitments with existing Council Committees (e.g. Planning Committee). It was suggested that following the local elections in May 2018 it would be timely to re-visit the scheduling of the BJWP to ensure that at least one Councillor from the Royal Borough of Greenwich can attend each meeting.

ACTION:

- A discussion item should be added to the agenda of the BJWP on 19 June 2018 to review the scheduling of future BJWP meetings. (**ACTION OWNER – Cllr Bonavia**)

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- i) Accuracy
 - **Item 1 (Apologies)** – Gemma Buttell represented Glendales and not the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Sue Corlett's apologies for the meeting have been omitted.

- **Item 3** (Blackheath Fireworks) – In paragraph 3, Sue Corlett’s name should be replaced with Helen Reeves.
- **Item 5** (Nature Conservation Group Issues) – In paragraph 1, Sue Corlett’s name should be replaced with Marilyn Little.
- **Item 6** (AOB) – In the item/action regarding the ‘*Christmas tree on the little island vale*’, Sue Corlett’s name should be replaced with Helen Reeves.

ii) Matters arising

- **Special Executive** (Item 1) – In Section 4 (Membership) of the revised *BJWP Constitution* it refers to the ‘Westcombe Park Society’. This should be amended to the ‘Westcombe Society’.
- **Let’s Dance** (Item 2) – Gemma Buttell advised that the ESAG visit is currently scheduled for 23 January 2018 and that an update will be provided after this date as to whether the event is going ahead.
- **Race for Life** (Item 2) – No members of the BJWP joined Gemma Buttell to walk around the site to establish the route and location of obstacles. Apologies were shared by Shirley Broughton on behalf of a member of the Nature Conservation Group who had recorded the incorrect date for this walkabout. Gemma advised that the obstacles would be located on ‘general grass’ and that obstacles would only have mitres where mud existed. A map of where the obstacles will be placed has been drafted.
- **Nature Conservation Group Issues** (Item 5) – Shirley Broughton advised that she had received the larger map of the heath from Nick Pond. The walk-around on the heath to help designate possible wildlife sites was still to be resolved due to scheduling issues with all parties.
- **Illuminated advertising on A2/Prince of Wales Road Roundabout** (Item 6) – Cllr Kevin Bonavia advised that LBL Planning had rejected the application and that RBG were due to make their decision next week, but the expectation was that it would also be rejected.
- **Christmas Tree on Little Island Vale** (Item 6) – Helen Reeves advised that following consultation with Vince Buchannan (LBL) the proposal to plant a permanent living Christmas tree on Little Island Vale was not feasible as it would grow too large to be decorated safely by the children.

ACTIONS:

- Inaccuracies within the BJWP minutes (14/11/17) to be amended. (**ACTION OWNER – Liz Bryant**)
- BJWP Constitution to be amended to correctly reflect Westcombe Society. (**ACTION OWNER – Liz Bryant**)
- Update on ‘Let’s Dance’ event to be provided following ESAG visit on 23rd January 2018. (**ACTION OWNER – Gemma Buttell**)

3. Report back – cycling on the heath

- i) Cllr Bonavia advised that discussions are continuing with the Earl of Dartmouth (freeholder of the southern side of the heath) regarding the proposed cycle route across the heath. The proposed route has not been agreed and so cannot be put out for public consultation just yet. However a comprehensive and transparent consultation remains a priority. Nick Harvey (Cycling Programme Manager, LBL) is in contact with his counterpart in RBG and the intention remains that the consultation for LBL/RBG will be undertaken jointly. Proposals for the consultation will come to BJWP for review in advance of publication.

ACTION:

- Proposals (including cycling route) and details of public consultation to come to BJWP for review as soon as they are available. (**ACTION OWNER – Nick Harvey and RBG counterpart**)

4. OnBlackheath Community Funding

- i) One-off funding of £15,000 has been provided by the organisers of the 2017 OnBlackheath festival as a contribution towards community development. This funding is to be spent in 2018 on projects that have a strong LBL affiliation.
- ii) The allocation of funding was put out to residents in a letter dated 20th December 2017, alongside the application process. All bids were to be submitted for initial review by the BJWP on 16th January 2018.

Bid 1 – Provision of six new lidded litter bins

John Thompson presented this bid on behalf of LBL. It proposes the installation of 6x90 litre Balmoral lidded litter bins to replace open-topped bins or to be added in new locations where additional bin capacity is needed. The lidded tops will help to reduce scavenging by wildlife and the scattering of rubbish by the wind, both of which currently add to the unsightliness of the heath and the cost of collection. Installation would be undertaken by Glendales free of charge. Estimated cost = £4,200.

Bid 2 – Replacement of four dead/diseased trees on the heath

Helen Reeves presented this bid on behalf of the Blackheath Society. Following a four-yearly tree survey by LBL several trees were found to be diseased/dead and so needed to be removed. Four of these trees were located on the heath. Due to limited resources there are no plans to replace them and so this bid covers the purchase of four new trees as replacements, plus the future maintenance of these by Glendales. Estimated cost (inc. discounts by LBL) = £1,000.

Bid 3 – Re-instatement of timber of timber bollards on the west side of All Saints’ Drive and along Duke Humphrey Road

Cllr Kevin Bonavia presented this bid on behalf of the Revd Canon Nicholas Cranfield from All Saints Church. Previously timber bollards existed on the west side of All Saints Drive to prevent cars parking on the verges and eroding the grass. These have gradually been damaged/destroyed and not replaced. The road is wide enough to allow for on-road parking and the through passage of other cars. This bid proposes the restoration of the timber bollards. The bid also extends to include timber bollards along Duke Humphrey Road, marking the perimeter of the green space in front of nos 6-10 Duke Humphrey Road and 1 Talbot Place. Whilst costs were not provided, these have been estimated by LBL at c£100 per bollard including VAT.

Bid 4 – Provision of portaloos at weekends for those using the heath for sports

Cllr Kevin Bonavia presented this bid on behalf of the Revd Canon Nicholas Cranfield from All Saints Church. With the closure of the Talbot Place changing rooms there are no WC facilities on the heath for those involved in organised sporting activities at the weekends. This had led to anti-social behaviour in the garden and driveways of Duke Humphrey Road and around Talbot Place. This bid proposes the installation of portaloos either permanently or on a week-to-week basis. Whilst costs were not provided, the installation-only costs have been estimated at £16,000 for x3 portaloos.

Other suggestions raised either before or during BJWP:

- a) **Additional events/information notice board** (*Juliet Cairns via email*) – Another notice board (e.g. at the train station) that tells people what’s going on, including events. Local naturalists could provide details of sightings.
- b) **Dedicated website for BJWP** (*Juliet Cairns via email*) – A proper website for the BJWP with access to dedicated minutes.
- c) **Bunding on Prince Charles Road** (*David Walker at BJWP*) – The existing bunds on Prince Charles Road are only in place for two-thirds of the length. These could be extended to reach the bus stop.
- d) **Planters and horse troughs in Blackheath Village** (*Helen Reeves at BJWP*) – In commemoration of the centenary of the Suffragette movement the planters at the top of Tranquil Vale and the horse troughs on the Montpelier Row triangle could be populated with a purple/white/green flower and foliage scheme.
- e) **Controlling invasive scrubs on Vanbrugh Pits** (*Shirley Broughton at BJWP*) – Invasive scrubs on Vanbrugh Pits will kill acid grass and so need to be properly controlled and dealt with.
- f) **Blackheath Station Garden** (*Helen Reeves at BJWP*) – A new station manager at Blackheath Station is amenable for the Blackheath Society to assist with the revival of the Blackheath Station garden which exists adjacent to Platform 1.
- g) **Hare and Billet Pond** (Cllr Kevin Bonavia at BJWP) – There is a standing commitment to contribute £500 annually to the Hare and Billet Pond from the OnBlackheath Community Fund.

- iii) The formal bids and other suggestions were discussed by the BJWP and attending officers with the following feedback or comments:
- **Bid 1 (Lidded Bins)** - The locations of any new lidded bins should be reviewed with BJWP at a future meeting. This discussion should also include the re-location of any existing bins (e.g. A2 south side).
 - **Bid 2 (Replacement Trees)** - Under the terms of their contract, Glendale remain responsible for the maintenance of all young trees. Through the *Street Trees for Living* project, an associated army of volunteers in Lewisham could be mobilised to assist with the watering of any replacement trees on the heath. Glendale will work with Blackheath Society to select the correct species of tree with an aim of planting these in Autumn 2018.
 - **Bid 3 (Timber Bollards)** - An expenditure cap would need to be applied to the replacement timber bollards around All Saints church as the volume required is unknown and they cost c£100 per bollard. This would allow for bollards on All Saints Drive but not along Duke Humphrey Road. It was estimated that x40 bollards should be sufficient to cover All Saints Drive.
 - **Bid 4 (Portaloo)** - The risk of damage and vandalism of the portaloos on the heath is cause for concern. The provision of x3 portaloos at £16,000 is not the real cost. These would need to be serviced and emptied weekly, kept locked when not in use and enclosed so that they couldn't be tipped over. These responsibilities would be attributed to LBL and will result in significant complaints if not upheld. Portaloos are suitable for temporary, one-off events only. Until the Talbot Place changing rooms are renovated, users of the heath should be signposted to locations within the Village that are enrolled in the Community Toilet Scheme promoted via Lewisham Local.
 - **Additional events/information notice board** – The existing Noticeboard needs to be maintained and properly updated before additions are considered. This would require dedicated volunteers. Residents/visitors are more likely to look for event information online than via a physical noticeboard. Blackheath Society have an events page as do Glendales. Glendales page includes a calendar that covers all events and which is kept up-to-date. Other sites should signpost to this page.
 - **Dedicated website for BJWP** – RBG already have a webpage for BJWP and cover heath events in their listings. LBL have BJWP information on their dedicated Blackheath page and could also develop the BJWP dedicated page in the 'Outside Bodies' section of the website. A standalone website is too resource-intensive to maintain.
 - **Bunds on Prince Charles Road** – There remains £2,000 for bund enhancements from last year's OnBlackheath Community Fund which could be used. Any extension of the bunds on Prince Charles Road needs to allow for continued vehicular access to the heath.
 - **Planters and horse troughs in Blackheath Village** – Glendale will source the necessary plants and will work with the volunteers identified by the Blackheath Society to design and implement the scheme, which should be pollinator/wildlife friendly. The possibility of planting the water troughs on the RBG side of the A2 should also be explored, though not under this funding arrangement.
 - **Controlling invasive scrubs on Vanbrugh Pits** – As this is on the RBG side of the heath a clearer proposal would need to be developed to demonstrate the direct

benefit to LBL residents. This would also require Glendale approval. Whilst this can't be agreed in principal it will be re-considered if a more substantive proposal is submitted.

- **Blackheath Station Garden** – The location of this garden does not fall within the geographic remit of the OnBlackheath Community Fund and so cannot be considered.
- If the full £15,000 is not allocated then 'nice to have' projects should be brought to BJWP in-year by Glendales.
- Westcombe Society don't have an email distribution list and the lead-in time for their hand-delivered Westcombe News is 5-6 weeks. In future more notice is required for the OnBlackheath Community Fund process and deadline.

iv) Following discussion, the BJWP agreed to the following funding allocations:

Bid / Other Suggestion	Approved Y/N?	Amount Allocated
Bid 1 – Lidded bins (x6)	Y	£4,200
Bid 2 – Replacement trees (x4)	Y	£1,000
Bid 3 – Timber bollards (x40)	Y	*£4,000
Bid 4 - Portaloo's	N	N/a
Additional events/information notice board	N	N/a
Dedicated website for BJWP	N	N/a
Bunds on Prince Charles Road	Y	**£2,000
Planters and horse troughs	Y	£1,000
Controlling invasive scrubs on Vanbrugh Pits	N	N
Blackheath Station Garden	N	N
Hare and Billet Pond	Y	£500
Total		£10,700

*All Saints Drive only
 **£2,000 from last year's fund

v) The bids or suggestions that have received approval will need to be presented at the public meeting on the 13th February alongside design or handout information highlighting each respective proposal. The following have been nominated to prepare and present:

- **Bid 1** – Nick Pond or Vince Buchannan
- **Bid 2** – Blackheath Society
- **Bid 3** – All Saints Church
- **Bunds on Prince Charles Road** – Blackheath Society
- **Planters and horse troughs** – Blackheath Society

vi) At the public meeting there should also be an agenda item on what has happened over the last 4 years (e.g. projects funded to date).

ACTIONS:

- Plan for location of new lidded bins to return to BJWP for review. **(ACTION OWNER – John Thompson)**
- Glendale to work with Blackheath Society on the selection and planting of replacement trees. **(ACTION OWNER – Gemma Buttell)**
- Glendale to work with Blackheath Society on the design and implementation of the planting scheme in Blackheath Village. **(ACTION OWNER – Gemma Buttell)**
- Possible planting of the water troughs on the RBG side of the A2 to be explored. **(ACTION OWNER – Lisa Lawrence)**
- All approved bidders to prepare designs and/or handouts for distribution at the public meeting on 13th February **(ACTION OWNERS – Nick Pond/Vince Buchannan, Blackheath Society and All Saints Church)**
- Presentation for public meeting on projects delivered over the last 4 years. **(ACTION OWNER – Gemma Buttell)**
- Decision on the outcome of bids/other suggestions needs to be communicated to those not present at the meeting. **(ACTION OWNER – Cllr Kevin Bonavia)**

5. Derelict building

- i) Helen Reeves advised that she had received a letter from Crown Estates prior to Christmas regarding the derelict building to the West of Talbot Field. Although Crown Estates technically own the land, any proposals regarding its development need to be initiated by the Local Authority, in this instance the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Crown Estates would need to be consulted on these proposals and retain the authority to approve or reject them. As per previous discussions at BJWP, there may be commercial opportunities for the site which could be explored in coordination with John Payne Commercial Estates.

ACTION:

- Blackheath Society to meet with Cllr Geoffrey Brighty and relevant officer from RBG to explore initiation of proposal(s). A representative from the Greenwich Society should also be involved in these discussions. BJWP should be updated as matters progress and the letter from Crown Estates should be circulated to members in the interim. **(ACTION OWNER – Helen Reeves)**

6. Coach park accident

- i) Cllr Kevin Bonavia advised that due to data protection regulations the video of the cycle accident in the coach park could only be viewed directly by visiting Greenwich Park offices and that it couldn't be viewed remotely at a meeting of BJWP.

ACTION:

- CCTV footage to be reviewed by Cllr Bonavia at Greenwich Park offices with a report back to BJWP at a later date. **(ACTION OWNER – Cllr Kevin Bonavia)**

7. Any other business (AOB)

- i) **King's Troop** – Janine Whittaker advised that the King's Troop will traverse the heath on Saturday 3rd February (AM) in a scheduled exercise to test their ability to get into Central London at short notice. This will involve horses and gun carriages making passage on the heath itself to give the horses much-needed time off the road. RBG has put the King's Troop in contact with Glendales to finalise details.
- ii) **OnBlackheath 2018** – John Thompson advised that the organisers of OnBlackheath are re-considering the scale of the event for 2018 since it hasn't been as commercially successful as anticipated. This may result in a 25 per cent smaller footprint, with a license for 10,000 rather than 25,000 people. No formal proposals have been received to date but BJWP will be updated with new information as it becomes available. This may necessitate an additional pre-meet of BJWP on 13th February before the Public Meeting.

ACTION:

- Confirm whether a BJWP pre-meet is required in advance of the 13th February Public Meeting. (**ACTION OWNER – Cllr Kevin Bonavia**)

- iii) **Christmas Market 2018** – Gemma Buttell advised a proposal had been received to hold a two-week Christmas market on the heath (Washerwoman's Bottom) adjacent to All Saints church. This would include an ice-skating rink, Santa's Grotto, refreshments and stalls. This has not received pre-approval and dates in December are still being considered. It might be possible to launch this on Village Day (1st December), though this may prove too early. The organisers will be asked to complete a proper pre-application which will come to the March meeting of the BJWP. Cllr Amanda de Ryk will also need to be engaged in these discussions and the possible linkages with Village Day.

ACTIONS:

- Pre-application for Christmas Market to be added to the 20th March 2018 agenda for BJWP. (**ACTION OWNER – Cllr Kevin Bonavia**)
- Cllr Amanda de Ryk to be kept informed of developments regarding this proposed event. (**ACTION OWNER – Gemma Buttell**)

- iv) **Launch of Story Boards** – Helen Reeves advised that the formal launch of the Story Boards on the heath will take place between 12 noon and 2.30pm on Sunday 29th April 2018 at Washerwoman's Bottom, adjacent to All Saints church. This will entail an exhibition on the history of the heath, leaflet distribution, music by Trinity Laban, and refreshments. John Thompson added that two new wildlife walks will also be publicised at the same event.

ACTION:

- LBL website to publicise the launch of the story boards. (**ACTION OWNER – Cllr Kevin Bonavia**)

8. Future dates of BJWP

i) The dates for future meetings of the BJWP have been agreed as follows:

- 13th February 2018 (Public Meeting at the Bakehouse)
- 20th March 2018
- 19th June 2018
- 18th September 2018
- 16th October 2018 (Events Planning)
- 20th November 2018

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