

Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes 21th February 2017

Venue: Age Exchange, Blackheath

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Janine Whitaker	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Sue Corlett	Hare & Billet Action Group
Philip Craig	Greenwich Society
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
John Thompson	London Borough of Lewisham
Chris Devine	Royal Borough of Greenwich
James Bravin (mins)	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies and introduction

Cllr Kevin Bonavia thanked Steve from Age Exchange for coming out especially to open the meeting room for the BJWP. Apologies were received from Amanda de Ryk, Mehboob Khan, Ian Andrews, Lisa Lawrence, and Gemma Buttell.

2. Minutes of 20th September 2016

(i) Accuracy:

Item 4 refers to NS when it should be NP. Jemma Reeves should read Helen Reeves.

(ii) Matters arising

Race for Life course walkthrough

The walkthrough of the course had not yet been organised.

Action – KB to organise a walkthrough of the obstacle course

3. Community Project 2017 (Allocation of £15,000)

Bid 1 - Benches

Bid 1 funds to provide more benches and to repair any existing broken ones. The BJWP discussed that any broken benches would be repaired as part of maintenance contracts and therefore spending the community fund on this was not necessary.

Action – KB to respond to Diana Martin, to try to find out where there are broken benches in Blackheath.

Bid 2 - Feeding Wildfowl Signs

SB explained the proposal is to provide a new A2 size sign, adjacent to the Prince of Wales Pond. The sign would provide advice and information about feeding the wildfowl, which lives and/or visits the pond.

KB asked if the signs could be incorporated to the new historical signs that are being designed. HR noted that they would not be able to fit any additional information. NP noted that very simplistic signs work best for conveying the type of information in this case.

KB asked if this type of sign should be provided by Glendales in the first instance. NP added he didn't expect that this type of sign would be covered by Glendales. The BJWP agreed to provisionally provide the £1600.

Action - SB to provide an extra quote for the cost of the sign, as well as the location and to look into gaining approval through planning/signage.

Bid 3: Part 1 – Further protection for the heath

The proposal was for added protection in the form of bunds in two locations: East side of Watt Tyler Road and the East side of Prince Charles Road.

NP noted that bunding the whole heath would significantly change the open nature and character of the heath. KB said that some of the existing bunds looked a bit tired. HR said that this is because some of the bunds are seeded with non-local seeds which aren't local and thrive.

The BJWP agreed to provisionally put in £2000 for added bunds to the East side of Watt Tyler Road and the East side of Prince Charles Road.

Action: - NP/ KB and Vince Bucanhan to take forward the proposition.

Bid 3: Part 2 – A Nature Walk Leaflet for the Heath

Part 2 was for the production and printing of two nature walk leaflets for Blackheath. HR noted that the leaflets could be shared with schools and circulated throughout libraries. They would be an introduction to some of the background of Blackheath. NP added that an electronic version could be placed on a website so that anyone could print a copy if they wanted to.

KB said that the proposed cost was not cheap, and wondered if funding from other sources was available. The BJWP agreed that it would provide the £4100 for the two leaflets.

Bid 3: Part 3 - The Story Board Project

Part 3 was for additional funding for the Blackheath story board project.

KB said that as a large proportion of the money had already been raised and the Blackheath Society were near to their total that the money should be provided to

allow for the story board project to be completed. BJWP agreed to provide the full £6000 for the project.

Bid 4: Repairing “bald patches” on Blackheath

Bid 4 was received by email and was for the repairing of bald patches across the heath. SB noted that some of the bald patches on the heath are actually due to the acid grass. NP noted that there were two areas where that was a legitimate problem with; around All Saints school and the Tea Hut. NP added that the problems around All Saints School were already being dealt with.

SB said that the problems around the Tea Hut were due to enforcement issues around vehicles being parked around the area.

Action: - KB to respond to the bidder.

Bid 5: Community re-ordering project from Church of the Ascension

A representative from Church of the Ascension presented the bid which was a contribution £250,000 needed for the complete refurbishment of the Church of the Ascension to create an adaptable, inclusive, accessible, multi-purpose and welcoming community space.

KB said that while he thinks it is a worthy cause he wasn't sure that this was appropriate for the On:Blackheath.

SB agreed and felt that the On:Blackheath community projects fund had always been intended to be spent on projects that would directly benefit Blackheath and heath users. NP said that he feared if they decided to make a contribution that it might set a precedent that “non-heath” related projects could start to use the fund.

4. The Point Blackheath

Tony Butler updated the meeting with the latest position on the Point Project. He had circulated the proposals both before Christmas and again before this meeting. There had been no reaction from Members, which he had taken as approval. This was reflected in the article “Help make the Point look sharp again” in the February edition of the Greenwich Visitor. There had been a subsequent public meeting at the home of Tim Barnes, and a note of that meeting had been circulated to Members. There was only one main concern and that was about the gap in the railings. After discussion, it was agreed that there would not be one, thus safeguarding the flora and people. The project had come second in the Tesco Bag lottery and so will receive £2000, when it had been hoped that it might come first and net £5000. There is consequently a short fall of £3000. TB had looked to the BJWP allocation from Lewisham for possible funds if there might be an end 2016/17 year underspend. KB said that these funds were not available for a project on the Greenwich side of the Heath, despite Greenwich residents suffering from the noise of On-Blackheath. (The allocation of funds between Greenwich and Lewisham might be discussed at a further meeting.) TB then asked if any other members might contribute to the £3000 gap. There were no immediate offers. The outcome of the remaining bid to Veolia was expected to be known on 7 March. TB would keep BJWP informed of progress.”

5. Forest School Application – Eliot Pit

NP informed the BJWP that officers from LBL took has agreed to a 3 month trial for the Forest School.

6. In the Night garden – Clarification of licence review

JW noted that licence was put in last day for representations was 28th February. JW noted that so far there had been two representations. 1 from leader of the council and 1 from Cllr Geoffrey Brighty. JW asked whether a 3 year licence would be approved for.

JW said that yes it would be acceptable specific to that event the terms of licence would not vary. JW noted that a 3 year licence doesn't mean that the event would go ahead every year and that the right to review the licence is always retained. JW noted that the ITNGL will still have go through the BJWP approval process each year.

JW noted that the Foodies festival asked if they can have an extra ticketed sit down dinner meaning that there would be a slightly later ending the event on one of the evenings. KB asked if the BJWP could see the licence application. JW said she will ask the Foodies festival for more information.

JW noted that the Easter funfair is taking place on the 7th of April, and that there would be additional tracking laid down for

Action: JW to ask for more information from the Foodies festival about their extended hours sit-down meal.

7. Dates of future meetings

Date	Venue
21 st February	Age Exchange – Studio
28 th March (Annual Public Meeting)	To be confirmed
18 th April	Age Exchange – Studio
18 th July	Age Exchange – Studio
19 th September	Age Exchange – Studio
17 th October (Event Approvals Meeting)	To be confirmed
14 th November	Age Exchange – Studio

8. Any other business

There was no other business.