

# **Friends of Brunswick Park**

The Tenants Room – Lomond Close, 45-46 Lomond Close, London, N15 5DF

Tuesday 12 December 2017, 7pm

Annual General Meeting

**- DRAFT MINUTES -**

**Present:** Brenda, Charlotte, Graham, Gerar, Jenny, Lucia, Maggie, Maurice, Mike (minutes), Oliver, Robert (interim chair)

PC Mitcham, PC Taylor, PCSO Wyle (Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team)

CLlr Isodoros Diakedes (ward councillor, Tottenham Green)

**Absent:** Amandine, Sandra Hoisz (Groundwork)

## **1) Introductions**

As interim chair of the Friends of Brunswick Park group, Robert relayed apologies from Groundwork, the organisation that is overseeing the Brunswick renewal project. There was a misunderstanding over the meeting's dates which meant they were unable to attend.

Robert explained there were advantages to the Friends of Brunswick Park existing as a formal group, including providing a platform with which to liaise with council and the opportunity to apply for funding.

CLlr Diakedes said Friends groups had more clout if they were able to operate as a bona fide organisation and that the opportunity existed to lobby for greater resources, such as council funds or a dedicated park ranger.

## **2) Park renewal project**

Robert said the Brunswick Road Open Space, as it is presently known, had long been a hotspot for antisocial behaviour and there was a clear need to improve it. A consultation exercise and funding drive over the past two years resulted in some significant developments:

- A detailed plan by Groundwork to regenerate the park space; and
- Funding from the London Marathon Trust, Haringey Council and Tesco to finance the project.

Robert explained that a local residents' association, the Fountain Area Residents' Association (FARA), was instrumental in obtaining funding and coordinating the project in its early days, but that a Friends group was vital to drive it forward from here.

He said that contractors had been procured and building work was due to begin in the New Year.

Robert then listed some of the changes that would take place in the park as part of the project:

- A new exercise area, with outdoor gym equipment, will be installed;
- The games court will be rebuilt and relocated closer to the railway arches, with special markings for basketball and volleyball as well as football;
- The Roslyn Road entrance will be rebuilt with new iron gating;
- Improved and additional lighting provided, including to the south of the playing court;
- Landscaping work including new trees, a new direct footpath to the playing court from Roslyn Road, and some scope for wild flowers.

### *Lighting*

PC Taylor said the Metropolitan Police had made a lot of suggestions to improve lighting and landscaping because it helps drive crime and antisocial behaviour away. He said the police had asked for some trees and hedgerows running alongside the railway line in the northeast of the park to be cut back because they were used as hiding places by suspects and rough sleepers.

### *Motorcycle traffic*

Jenny said the park was too often being used as a shortcut by motorcyclists between West Green Road and Seven Sisters Road. Robert said the new gates would help prevent this.

### *Rubbish*

Robert said that flytipping continued to be a significant problem in the area with a large proportion of it coming from residents in nearby properties. The park development would involve removing the bins from the park entrances at Birstall Road, Brunswick Road and Roslyn Road in an effort to combat the false perception that these were areas where rubbish could freely be abandoned.

Rubbish bins would still be located outside the outdoor gym area and the children's playground for park users.

### *Response to proposals*

PC Taylor said the police supported the outdoor gym in particular because it helped bring the park back into wider public use. Other examples across Haringey – such as the installations at Ducketts Common opposite Turnpike Lane tube station – had seen families bringing their children and spending more time out of doors, deterring criminal activity.

Brenda said it was helpful because so far the playing court was dominated by adult men, often preventing children from having their turn. Charlotte said there would now be an opportunity for local football clubs and other space-sharing schemes, although Cllr Diakedes pointed out that this would be challenging to sustain as it would require an individual to help organise it.

PSCO White said Tottenham Hotspur were particularly keen to support local initiatives like this.

### *Reaching out to the community*

Oliver said it was important to ensure the new Friends group was able to reach out to all sections of the community. Robert said that setting up the group was a start and that they were able to tap into a lot of experience from FARA, which has been extensively involved in the project so far. Graham said the court's volleyball markings will help engage the local South American community in the Seven Sisters area.

There was general support for a launch event in the park that embraced local residents and businesses in the summer of 2018, once the building work is complete.

### **3) Constitution**

Mike gave an overview of the proposed Friends of Brunswick Park constitution.

The council was receptive to changing the park's name from Brunswick Road Open Space to Brunswick Park once the works were complete, he said.

The document was put together by combining the constitutions of other Friends groups operating around the UK and could be amended in the future if necessary.

The meeting voted to approve the constitution, subject to the following amendments and a review on the first anniversary of its adoption:

Clause 2.

Add the address of the park.

Clause 7. (a)

Indicate that these will be meetings open to the public.

Clause 7. (b)

Revise the quorum to at least three, or half of the committee plus one member.

Clause 8. (b)

Clarify that the five public places should include internet locations

### **4) Election of officers**

The following officers were chosen to their roles until the next annual general meeting

Chair: Charlotte (proposed by Robert, seconded by Patrick)

Deputy chair: Robert (proposed by Charlotte, seconded by Patrick)

Secretary: Mike (proposed by Patrick, seconded by Robert)

Treasurer: Oliver (Mike nominated, Charlotte seconded)

## **5) AOB**

Cllr Diakedes suggested nominating “link-up officers” from the membership who would liaise with local businesses, the council, Groundwork and other stakeholders on the Friends’ behalf. This was **agreed** as an agenda point for the next meeting.

Robert asked if the Lomond Close Hall could be made available to the Friends of Brunswick Park’s public meetings. Brenda, from the Lomond Close Tenants Association, **agreed** and said this would be possible.

Meeting adjourned at 8.40pm. Next management committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 16 January 2018, 7.30pm, at Charlotte’s house.