

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BROCKWELL PARK, February 21st 2018, NORWOOD LODGE, 7.00PM

**Members present:** Peter Bradley (PB), Chair; Adam Steinhouse (AS), Vice-Chair; Noshir Patel (NP), Secretary; Dean Littler (DL), Treasurer; Laura Morland, (LM), Parks Liaison; Michael Boyle (MB), Newsletter; Alice, Playle (AP); Edward Lavender (EL).

**Apologies:** Antonia Gross (AG) Membership Secretary.

**Reference to:** Keith Fitchett (KF) Web Membership & Payments Manager; Madeleine Boomgaarden (MaB) Website content and Social Media presence; Gal Sapir (GS), Website architect. Alice Salisbury (ASa), literature formatting, montage & printing; originator & manager of Brockwell Park Tranquillity website.

**Minutes of January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 2018:** approved and signed off by PB.

### **Matters arising:**

The proposed new Lambeth Parks Governing Body. PB has contacted Ann Kingsbury Chair of BPCP, but she has no information.

### **Fixed Business:**

**1. 'Field Day & Mighty Hoopla' Event** June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 2018; Park area closure March 20<sup>th</sup>-June 10<sup>th</sup>.

a). The Licencing Application is not to be assessed until March 21<sup>st</sup>; all comments to be received by the Licencing Committee by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

b). Information gathered from today's Park Management Team meeting:

1. Sonia Winifred (Lambeth Council Cabinet member for Equalities & Culture.) and the Parks Officers will review the 5-year Lambeth Parks Events Strategy at the end of this year.

c). However it was not clear whether Field Day & Mighty Hoopla has been given a one or two year commitment.

FoBP's view is that it should be only for one year.

d). Sonia Winifred has written in circulars that she has consulted with Officers on her decision to sanction the Field Day & Mighty Hoopla Event. However no report of that consultation has been issued. The basis of her recommendation is not known, therefore.

**Action:** PB will write to her on this point specifically, requesting a copy of the report.

e). The organizers state now that they will occupy 31% of the Park. Outside estimates are that it will be more like 40%.

FoBP's view is that the latter figure is the more realistic.

f). The Event opening times: on all three days opening time is 11am.

That means that on Friday live and recorded music will be resonating out from the Park from 11am. This will be very disruptive for surrounding businesses. It will also be very disruptive for students studying at nearby schools for exams in this after-end-of-term period.

FoBP's view is that the Event should not function at all on Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

FoBP's view is that the Event should open on Saturday/Sunday at the same time as the Lambeth Country Show opens: noon.

g). The Event closing times of 11.30pm on Friday/Saturday; and 11pm on Sunday. After the closure of the Event comes the departure of the thousands of clients. Previous experience of smaller Events in Brockwell Park (*e.g. SUNFALL*) has shown that this process is prolonged, chaotic, rowdy, noisy, and very disruptive and unpleasant for local residents (*e.g. reports of clients defaecating in residents' gardens in Brixton Water Lane, and offering them drugs*); and going on into the early hours of the morning.

How much worse will these features be if the anticipated numbers of 40,000 or so clients are all trying to leave the Park through the Brixton Water Lane exit, as is planned.

FoBP's view is that the Event should close at 8pm, as does the Lambeth County Show.

h). FoBP's views on the environmental risks posed by the Event have been publicized widely. Dr Iain Boulton (Lambeth Council's Environmental Compliance Officer) has released a document laying out a consultation process on this issue, posing many questions and considerations. At today's PMT meeting Kevin Crook said that Lambeth Parks does not have the manpower to implement this procedure and answer the issues it covers.

FoBP's view is that the full consultation process outlined in Mr Boulton's document should be followed.

i). The Licencing Committee Criteria for the Field Day & Mighty Hoopla Event:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder.
2. Public safety.
3. Prevention of public nuisance.
4. The protection of children from harm.

FoBP's views on the above criteria:

1. Past experience indicates a high incidence of drug-dealing, drug-taking and high alcohol intake. At past Events, this has been related to very noisy, disorderly behaviour over many hours as clients leave the venue. Drug pushing is a crime which occupies the Police enough already; a gathering of this size for this projected time will only encourage more criminals into the the Park and its environs.

2. Public safety may be jeopardized greatly by the exit strategy of the Event organizers: the only exit from the site is through the Brixton Water Lane gates. The Fire Dept. requires a gateway width of 4.8m minimum; the Brixton Water Lane exit, with both gates open measures 3.76m. The risk of injury amongst a surging mass of people, many not in full control of themselves due to drugs and/or alcohol, all trying, perhaps impatiently to squeeze through the narrow exit, must be high.

There is provision by the Event organizers for a fire exit at the Herne Hill entrance to the Park. Given such a designation, the Fire Dept. will probably refuse to allow its use as a public client exit. This view is supported by the rumour that Herne Hill station is going to be closed.

3. There is going to be a large public nuisance effect felt by the resident population surrounding the Park, judging by the experience of SUNFALL, a much smaller Event: noise at all hours; unruly behaviour massive litter in streets & gardens; massive congestion of public routes, impeding use by residents going about their normal business; and general denial of local residents' accustomed amenities. We believe that numbers well short of 20,000, say around 10,000 are suitable for our small Park. FoBP emphasizes its objection to the noise level of 90db to be allowed, instead of 70db. That increase is not as small as it seems, since the scale is logarithmic, and the actual increase in noise level is considerable and very noticeable. In addition the

sound measurement system used by the Council is very questionable, as an independent expert has pointed out. Finally, the Council's sound policy contravenes that of the Mayor of London.

4. It is impossible to guarantee the safety of children in the face of the above overall picture. The serious harm to even one child would be one incident too many. Clients may take their children to the Event. Inevitably, children will be put in harm's way. To organize an Event, or to sanction such an Event is very irresponsible and unacceptable.

\*AS suggested a template for FoBP members to use in order to submit individual objections to the Licencing body. **Action:** PB will produce one.

\*On the Away Day on March 4<sup>th</sup>, the FoBP Committee will formalize its comments on the Licencing criteria. Those from ASa will be included in this document, and the whole will be forwarded to the Licencing Committee on March 5<sup>th</sup>, the cut-off date for submissions.

## **2. Website:**

a). MaB has presented her report of her year's activities (*see Appendix*). **Action:** PB thanks her on behalf of the Committee for what she has done, especially in raising the profile of FoBP on the Herne Hill Forum website, and on social media.

b). Impact of the Government's forthcoming (May) revised Data Protection Act (DPA): KF is going to have to spend 1-2 days on modifying the Membership part of the website to comply. This he has stated he will do at no charge to FoBP.

MaB & GS have not signed the Data Protection Act, despite having been asked to do so; it is not clear why. KF is Data Controller for FOBP membership data which should not be released to anyone who's not signed the DPA. However this data has been given to Ma & GS. FOBP has no Data Controller for personal data of those on the contact list.

( Note: *FoBP Committee Member who handle such data, i.e. PB, NP, DL, AG, have all signed the DPA, but even so PB as Chair of FoBP would also be liable*)

c). Renewal of website contract for the next six months with MaB: it was agreed to renew on the same terms ( £600.00 for continuation of the same activities, along with the further training session which she has already offered, but not had the chance to deliver); with mutual review at the end of that time.

d). However, this renewal must be contingent on MaB & GS signing the DPA.

**Action:** PB will write to MB & GS on these matters.

e). KF wishes to make it clear that he is only concerned with the membership & payment aspects of the website; that content and structure are the domains of MB & GS, and that questions in these areas should not be addressed to him.

f). KF states that it is important that FOBP retains ownership of its domain name, and that it is not surrendered to the website host.

**Action:** Once again the Committee thanks KF very much for his advice, and for the time and thought which he puts into the website, all given so freely.

g). MB asked if MaB is definitely in a consultant not an employee relationship with FoBP.

**Action:** PB will clarify that with MaB.

**3. First Car Boot sale**, on April 8<sup>th</sup>: several Committee Members will be away. AP suggested that we forego the Tea Stand for this date. This idea was accepted.

**4. Away Day**, March 5<sup>th</sup>, topics for discussion:

- a. Formalization of response to the Licencing criteria, including comments from ASa.
- b. Volunteering: we do not have enough, volunteers, and a solid complement is one

criterion of the Green Flag award, and we are deficient in this respect.

c. Policy in the upcoming Lambeth Council elections.

d. The future of the printed Newsletter, now that we have a restructured website.

e. Anticipated issues in the coming year.

f. Financial commitments in the coming year.

g. Future of the FoBP Committee Membership, with its worrying age structure and lack of success in attracting younger Members.

**Action:** NP to book Brockwell Hall for this date and time.

**5. Incorporation:** MB raised this question again, concerned that various potential activities of FoBP may put its Committee Members at risk legally and financially. PB stated that, as a Charity, FoBP and its Committee Members are not liable in this way as long as FoBP acted in genuine pursuit of its charitable objectives.

PB also recollected the previous discussion on this matter, when AG, who had examined the question of incorporation and had reported back to the Committee, (*see Minutes for September 2017, under heading 'Proposals for a Constitutional Amendment'*) indicating that incorporation is not necessary. MB replied that her main argument had been that FoBP does not have any employees, and his concerns relate to wider issues. **Action:** PB suggested that MB revisit the issue with AG, and consult more widely at his discretion, and then report back to the Committee, including costs of incorporation.

**6. Wording on the new Walled Garden notice.** Different texts and formats were reviewed.

A text was agreed; it will contain both the FoBP Logo, and Lambeth Council Parks impress. **Action:** AP will take a new, attractive photo for the notice, and LM will print and laminate the whole.

**7. Park noticeboards:** All but two noticeboards have been repaired and now have glass. New FoBP notices are needed to replace ones that are already past their best or disintegrated and it was decided to laminate them; as moisture still finds its way behind the glass. **Action:** LM to laminate those that concern FoBP.

### **Reports:**

Chair:

a). PB drew attention to the fulsome letter of appreciation for the Walled Garden sent to him by a Park user.

b). Kevin Cross, head of Lambeth Parks, spoke to PB about plans to use Brockwell Park railings for generating advertising revenue. There is a problem with the Council Legal Dept. but no hurry anyway, since his Dept. has excess revenue already, at present.

Vice-Chair:

AS reported that Go-Ape's proposed installation in Brockwell Park is still on hold.

Secretary:

NP gleaned from today's PMT meeting that 'Gung Ho' (of the inflatable tunnels Event) is transferring to Ruskin Park this year.

Treasurer:

a). DL reported that the main A/C contains £25,985.85; the second A/C £12,986.00.

b). the main A/C includes the latest Gift Aid clawback of £335.00. There is also £310 in Paypal, comprising membership fees not yet transferred to the main A/C.

Park Liaison:

a). There are still a few unallocated trees left.

b). LM has been asked to do another Walled Garden talk, and hopes to manage that at some time in the future.

c). Installation of the Bird Sculpture: still awaiting a quote.

**AOB:**

1. EL asked whether the unsightly destruction of the sward left by the commercial Christmas Tree sale site at the Herne Hill entrance to the Park, was discussed at today's PMT meeting. DL said that it was, that although the area had been fenced off, reseeded would be delayed until the growing period comes round. It seems that the Parks Dept. is content for the depressing and mess to persist in the meantime.

EL asked if the company had given the Parks Dept any money for restoration, but DL did not know the answer to that.

2. EL reported that he had been approached by some Park users, putting forward the idea of using the gravel pitch below the BMX track as an Astroturf pitch. Should their presentation be made to FoBP or to BPCP? It was agreed that the latter body is the appropriate one. DL said also that he had heard that the Parks Dept. also has ideas on development of that site.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next Meeting is at 7.00pm at Norwood Lodge on March 19<sup>th</sup> 2018-02-21

FoBP 'Away Day' is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> in Brockwell Hall, from 10-2.00pm.