

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BROCKWELL PARK, June 18th 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; Antonia Gross (AG) Membership Secretary; Michael Boyle (MB), Newsletter; Edward Lavender (EL), Scribe.

Observers: Ania Tomaszewski-Nelson, Artist; Alastair Bulger.

Apologies: Alice Playle (AP);

Reference to: Madeleine Boomgaarden (MaB) Website content and Social Media presence: Alice Salisbury (ASa), literature formatting, montage & printing; originator & manager of Brockwell Park Tranquillity website; Kevin Crook (KC), Head of Neighbourhoods in Lambeth Parks Landscape Structure. Mike Penney (MP), Brockwell Park Manager. Fred Cowell (FC), Lambeth Council Member for Thurlow Park. Sonia Winifred (SW), Cabinet member for Inequalities & Culture. Rebecca Collins (RC), local artist.

Minutes of May 18th 2018. Approved and signed off by PB

Matters Arising:

1. AP's suggestion for sharps boxes to be placed in the lavatories in Brockwell Park has been welcomed by the Herne Hill Safer Neighbourhood Police Team. **Action:** They plan to take it up with MP.
2. The small room at Norwood Lodge was cleared and organised in a four hour stint. PB thanks all those involved.
3. The new Lambeth Mayor, Cllr Christopher Wellbelove, and Mayoress, Anne Sassoon attended the Tree Ceremony with enthusiasm. **Action:** PB will write to express the appreciation of FoBP.
4. LM's horticultural report was received well by KC. **Action:** PB to discuss it further with KC.
5. Trustee situation: all members of the FoBP Committee are automatically Trustees.

Fixed Business:

1. The 'Field Day/Mighty Hoopla' Event of June 1-3.
 - a. discussed at the last Park Management Team meeting which DL & LM attended. Representatives from the Event were present. They were asked to prepare a spread-sheet detailing all the damage identified in the post-event walk-about, with updating of task completions. It was stated that much of the work would have to wait until after the Lambeth County Show.
 - b. The next PMT Meeting is not until September, a big time lag in its focus on the on-going remedial process in the Park
 - c. The Autumn review by Councillor SW of Lambeth Parks Events Strategy: BPCP will be invited to be involved.

- d. On June 26th ‘Field Day/Mighty Hoopla’ is to report on feed-back it has received from stakeholders.
- e. Some local traders suffered financially during the Event. There seems to be no mechanism for compensation. **Action:** MB volunteered to canvass experience of local traders, with referral of findings to the Herne Hill Forum (since events outside the Park are not within FoBP’s remit).
- f. Experience of the sound nuisance in the community was variable, on account of wind direction, location of the different performance stages, and the shielding effect of the hill in Brockwell Park. Some people reported ‘intolerable’ noise levels.
- g. Many local attendees reported a good experience the Event, with well-behaved and heavily-policed crowds. However, one stage performance had to be stopped for an hour due to a dangerous situation when too many people crowded into too small a space.
- h. Despite the well-behaved crowd and the ideal weather conditions, huge damage was sustained by the large area of the Park used by the Event. It has left an unsightly mess which destroys the beauty of the Park.
- i. MaB received many *tweets* about the Event, but these have not been analysed yet.
- j. ASa displayed a banner criticising the Event for its disturbance of nesting birds; though this was not verifiable.

Action: PB will prepare a Press Release on FoBP’s response to the Event, highlighting the damage to the Park; the variable but sometimes ‘intolerable’ sound levels; the fact that the Organisers analysis of ticket-holders indicated that only 11% were locals, so that the Park is being used as an entertainment and commercial venue for a mainly alien population; that a large part of the Park was off limits to the local community during the preparation and take-down of the Event.

The Lambeth Country Show on July 20th-23rd.

- a. PB observed that there has been no consultation with community stake-holders, and no specific details of arrangements, though the Event is only a month away.
- b. The Event is to be walled in, with no casual entry and departure at will, as before. Entry will be controlled to specific queuing lines.
- c. The area to be walled in has not been defined; no map is available.
- d. Set up of stalls is to be on Friday 20th July; the Event will run from midday to 8pm on Saturday, and midday to 5pm on Sunday; two hours, 9-11am are allowed for clear-out of all stalls on Monday. The Committee questioned how that will be possible.
- e. There are multiple queue lines for entry by the public laid out, and each time a visitor wants to go back in, they will have to join a queue again. There is no information about how stall-holders will be treated in this queuing system.
- f. The walls are to be taken down by July 26th.
- g. AS has seen the figures released by Lambeth concerning the LCS budget for last year: total cost £691,000.00; total cost to Lambeth after payments to it: £358,000.00. It is obvious that with the cost of the fencing this year, costs will increase considerably.
- h. The suggestion was made that we try to do a joint stall installation with BPCP this year. However, the stall sites have not been published, and that may not be possible
- i. MB will, once again organise personnel manning of the FoBP stall. Committee Members indicated their availability. It was suggested that MaB should advertise on the website for volunteers to help Committee Members.

Action: PB will issue a Press release this week on this matter. It was agreed that this takes precedence over his Press Release on the 'Field Day/Mighty Hoopla' Event, which can come later.

The July 8th Carboot sale. Available personnel were identified.

Reports:

Chair. *The possibility of a 10-year Family Membership has been raised.

*The Mayor of London is to issue a paper on 'Green & Open Spaces.

*The Charity 'Fields in Trust' is organising a lists of Parks which should be protected. **Action:** PB to contact them, in order to have Brockwell Park included.

*Lambeth is re-organising itself so that Parks, Events, Sports & Cemeteries are part of one administration.

Vice-Chair. *AS has written to FC & SW for their assessment on the Outcome of the 'Field Day/Mighty Hoopla' Event, but has had no reply.

Treasurer. *Main Account £27,058.32, 2nd Account £12,827, unchanged.

*Yet to be added is £561.00 from May's Carboot sale; £114 in Paypal.

*DL said that Membership seems to be increasing, judging by the payments coming in, but we cannot be sure. **Action:** DL suggests that we have a regular update from AG on Membership numbers.

*The surviving Partner of the deceased for whom the Bird statue has been made, has agreed to pay the remaining £1000.00 for its installation, after she had heard that FoBP had volunteered to pay £200.00 towards the installation cost.

Park Liaison. *LM will help RC install her sculpture in the Walled Garden on June 25th, a day before the 'London in Bloom' inspection on June 26th.

*Some people missed the Tree Celebration because they did not know its timing. LM suggests use of Facebook for advertising Park events. **Action:** PB will discuss with MaB.

AOB

EL raised the point that the more members we have, the greater our weight with the Council. He called for the matter of the new leaflets for canvassing new members, be an Agenda Item for September. This was agreed.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

Next Meeting July 16th at 7pm in Norwood Lodge.