



**Patrons: Neil Coyle M.P.  
Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes**  
[www.friendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/](http://www.friendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/)  
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**Committee Members**

**Sharon Bassey  
Barry Duckett  
Jean Cunliffe  
Dave Fisher  
Gary Glover (Chairperson)  
Ron Henocq (Assistant Treasurer)  
Marjorie Hill (Assistant Treasurer)  
Pat Kingwell (Secretary)**

**Gary Magold (Treasurer)  
Jean Mulholland (Membership Secretary)  
John Reid  
Sue Sexton  
Amanda Squires (Vice-Chairperson)**

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**General Meeting  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
6.00pm at the Park Office**

**Agenda**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Notes of General Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May and Matters Arising (attached)**
- 3. The Old Nursery Site Update – Rebecca Towers, Head of Parks**
- 4. Park Manager's Report – Andy Chatterton**
- 5. Any Other Business**
- 6. Dates of Future Meetings**

**INTERVAL**

7. **Talk: 'Famous Women of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe' by Graham Taylor. Graham will include Eveline Lowe, Anna Martin, Jessie Stephen, Mary Richardson, Grace Kimmins, Ada Salter and some mediaeval nuns in his talk.**

**Pat Kingwell  
Secretary  
2 June 2015**

## Notes of General Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Present:** Clare Armstrong; Alison Clayburn; Cllr. Stephanie Cryan; Jean Cunliffe; Judith Deschamps; Barry Duckett; Jan Duckett; Dave Fisher; Colin Hartridge-Price; Marjorie Hill; Jill Jerram; Simon Kenward; Pat Kingwell; Gary Magold; Andrea Pita (London Borough of Southwark); David Potter; Jak Purcell (London Borough of Southwark); Jim Saunders; Tracy Scales; Sue Sexton; Colin Smith; Rich Wale and George Witsey.

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr. Anood Al-Samerai; Sharon Bassey; Judith Carlton; Andy Chatterton (London Borough of Southwark); Neil Coyle M.P.; Gary Glover; Debra Gosling; Kate Nottidge; Jim Lodge; Stephanie Lodge; Pam Miller; Stewart Morgan; Colin Smith; Amanda Squires; Cllr Kath Whittam; Cllr. Bill Williams and Eleanor Wright	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of General Meeting of 15th April 2015</b> The notes were agreed as a true record.	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> None not covered on the agenda	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Park Manager's Report</b> Andrea Pita reported:	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Southwark Park - Blue Cross Mobile Clinic</b> Blue Cross are now doing micro chipping on dogs and cats for free, even if people are not on benefits.	
<b>3..2</b>	<b>Southwark Park - Bowling Green Condition</b> The condition of the bowling green remains a serious concern and the Sports Turf Research Institute will be visiting Southwark Park on 1 <sup>st</sup> June to review this. A detailed report will then be provided.	<b>Andy Chatterton</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Southwark Park – Sports Centre</b> Tim Clee is currently working through some details relating to the protection of the big tree where the access point is due to be created and although work is expected to resume in the near future, a date has yet to be confirmed.	<b>Tim Clee</b>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Southwark Park Car Parking Review</b> Banners will be erected on the railings inside the entrance of Southwark Park Road and in Hawkstone Road car park on 29 <sup>th</sup> May and removed on 19 <sup>th</sup> June, as part of the review. An online questionnaire can be completed on <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/parkingprojects">www.southwark.gov.uk/parkingprojects</a> - deadline 19th June.	
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Southwark Park - Green Flag Award</b> All of the existing sites (19) including Southwark Park will receive a group allocation assessment in order to retain the award for a further year and they will be undertaken by two LBS (Parks) Green Flag Judges who are required to sign a declaration of interest document before doing so. Southwark Park was judged today and King's Stairs Gardens will be judged tomorrow by external judges. The results will be announced in late June / early July.	
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Southwark Park - One o'clock Club Fence</b> Rotherhithe Family Centre offers a range of services to the community for families with children under five. Some of the services are universal but most are targeted at some of the most vulnerable families in our community. Parents and children attend stay and play sessions, drop in's with the health partners and some attend courses whilst their children are looked after by the staff in the crèche. RFC are very keen for children to engage in outdoor play for both health and educational reasons and they have invested in their outdoor area by purchasing new equipment, building a mud kitchen and digging and planting areas for the children and families to use.	

Recently there have been several incidents that have compromised the safeguarding of the children and staff using the outdoor area. Parents who use the Family Centre have also made their views known both informally and through the suggestion box and systems for evaluation that they would like the security for the centre increased. RFC discussed this and talked through several solutions and they decided on bamboo fencing because:

- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> It's a natural fabric and less intrusive than a solid fence made of wood or metal
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> It lets light through and is partly transparent although not enough to allow photographs to be taken
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> It is within their budget.

We have asked RFC to replace the section of bamboo fence at the front completely and as soon as possible, especially where holes have been made for signs and noticeboards as it looks very unsightly and out of character with the rest of the park.

A longer term solution would be to plant some mature Laurels along the front to join up with the existing hedge at the side and we have asked RFC to explore options for funding this work.

**In the discussion Cllr. Cryan said she would be happy to speak with RFC and it was also agreed to invite RFC to our July meeting.**

**Cllr. Cryan**  
**Pat**  
**Kingwell**  
**Andy**  
**Chatterton**

- 3.7 King's Stairs Gardens - Area behind Cathay House**  
Quadron have advised that more of the newly planted Pyracantha have been stolen and we may now consider topdressing/overseeding the area and replanting the remaining shrubs elsewhere.
- 3.8 King's Stairs Gardens - 34 Elephant Lane – Garden Fence**  
The wooden fence has now been repositioned in line with the existing boundary walls and fences.
- 3.9 King's Stairs Gardens – Covered Walkway**  
The graffiti reported by Simon Kenward has now been removed.
- 3.10 King's Stairs Gardens - Pathway Repairs**  
FM Conway have recently undertaken some repairs to the paths in Fulford Street, especially where the roots of the mature trees had lifted the surface.
- 3.11 King's Stairs Gardens - 14 King Stairs Close – Unauthorised Access**  
Although the issue remains unresolved, some mature Pyracantha have been planted along the boundary wall including in front of the gate as possible solution.
- 4. Friends of Southwark Park Activities Programme 2015**  
The completed brochure was handed out at the meeting. 1000 copies will be distributed in the community. A number of locations were suggested.
- 5. Network Challenge Community Days**  
Andrea Pita and Pat Kingwell reported back on a meeting with Network Challenge at which a programme of activities for 24 young volunteers was discussed. It was agreed to focus on work with bees and improving the south-western boundary of Southwark Park. The volunteers will come in to plan the activities on 10<sup>th</sup> August and carry out the works on 26<sup>th</sup> September. They are also expected to help raise funds towards the activities. In the discussion some concern was raised about this aspect of their task.
- 6. Cleaner Greener Safer Programme**  
There have been no further developments on the capital works to improve the bandstand or to complete the Cathy/Fulford Street works, but a full update will

**Andy**  
**Chatterton**

**Andy**

be provided at the next meeting.

**Chatterton**

**7. Bowling Club Update**

Jim reported that a match had been played that day but the condition of the green had led to some adverse comments.

**8. West Lane War Memorial Issues**

The lettering issue has been raised with Asset Management but to date no further progress has been made.

**Andy  
Chatterton**

**9. King's Stairs Gardens Issues**

In addition to above (3.7-3.11), Simon Kenward mentioned that vandalism is becoming more evident recently.

**10. Planning Matters Update**

Cllr. Cryan advised that the planning application for Scout House has been submitted – (Ref: 15/AP/1074) – consisting of a six-storey building including a new scouts hall and 8 flats.

Pat Kingwell reported that planning permission for the relocation of the 'Family of Dolphins' Sculpture (Ref: 14/AP/0558) was approved on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**11. Key Projects Update**

A table of key projects was given, to be updated for each meeting - see below.

**12. Any Other Business**

**12.1 Archives**

It was agreed to relocate the Friends archives to the Park Office. Marjorie to liaise with Parks.

**Marjorie  
Hill**

**12.2 Patrons**

Simon Kenward gave thanks to Simon Hughes for his work in support of King's Stairs Gardens and the wider community over the years, his feelings being echoed by the meeting. I was agreed to formally write to Simon and also to invite Neil Coyle to also become a patron of The Friends of Southwark Park.

**Pat  
Kingwell**

**12.3 Rotherhithe Interpretation Boards**

Cllr Cryan said she would put forward our list of boards for consideration, namely: Southwark Park – Oval; Bowling Green, Sports Centre and Old Nursery. King George's Field; and West Lane Memorial Gardens.

**Cllr. Cryan**

**12.4 China Hall Trees**

Gary Magold raised the point of ensuring the recently planted trees are carefully managed, especially with regards to watering. Parks agreed to check.

**Andy  
Chatterton**

**12.5 Horses in Southwark Park**

David Potter reported the case of horses being ridden in the park near Dilston Grove, seemingly out of control. Parks to investigate.

**Andy  
Chatterton**

**12.6 Out of Hours Contact**

David Potter asked about contact. Andrea confirmed one or other of the Park Attendants (Duncan Mackinnon or Lynne Murray) are on duty until 9.30pm and can be contacted on **07974 325909**. Any problems after that to the emergency line **0207 525 2000**.

**12.7 Subway Helping Hearts Family Charity Run Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

Pat reported on a proposed 5k event managed by PRISM to raise money for Subway stores charity partner, Heart Research UK. This will be one of 12 planned races across the UK in 2015. The event will be a fun day out for all levels of ability with a real family atmosphere – participants can run or walk the course. Expected maximum numbers would not exceed 1000 participants which includes a split of adults and children.

- 12.8 Primary Schools Athletics Festival Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 9am-3pm**  
An event is being organised by PE and Sport Network at Bacon's College to take place in Southwark Park. It was agreed we would sponsor a trophy for the winning school and run a stall on the day.
- 12.9 'It's Our Park' Film**  
Pat reported that although our film festival applications have not been successful, we have been nominated for the Southwark Arts Forum Visual Arts Award on 24<sup>th</sup> June.
- 12.10 Friends of Parks Conference Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June**  
The annual Friends Conference will take place on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9.30am until approximately 12.30pm, in the Belair Park Recreation Rooms. Refreshments will be provided. All welcome.
- 13. Dates of Future Meetings 2015**  
<sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> **17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – N.B. from 7pm a talk by Graham Taylor, 'Famous Women of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe'.**  
<sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> **15<sup>th</sup> July 2015**  
<sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> **16<sup>th</sup> September - Annual General Meeting**

**All Wednesdays 6.00pm at The Park Office unless otherwise notified.**

## Key Projects Update – June 2015

Project Description	Current Position
<p><b>1 Southwark Park Sports Centre Refurbishment (Ref: 14/AP/2455)</b> After a decade of decline the centre is undergoing a major refurbishment. Works include reconstruction and layout changes of synthetic athletics track, conversion of synthetic turf football/hockey pitch to natural grass, installation of a hammer and discuss cage and the relocation and installation of the following athletic facilities: shot putt circle pole vault runway long/triple jump runway and pit high jump fan and javelin runway Additional works include landscaping to facilitate the these changes and the movement north of the fence at the southern boundary.</p>	<p>Planning approval was obtained with conditions, which are subject to further approvals. The outstanding planning matters concern tree protection; hard and soft landscaping; site assessment; hammer and discus circle and cycles.</p> <p>Blakedown Group have been appointed as contractors.</p>
<p><b>2 Southwark Park Old Nursery Master Plan</b> In 2013 the Council’s CGS Programme awarded FOSP £20k to develop a plan to bring the Old Nursery site back into park use and to also improve the café, toilet and office provision. The aim of the plan is to help secure capital funding.</p>	<p>Works were due to commence in February/March 2015 and complete in summer 2015, but as planning approvals are outstanding, the programme has fallen behind.</p> <p><b>The key issues are now to do with planning.</b> Public consultation on the options for a new café/office and Old Nursery was completed on 14<sup>th</sup> March. A report back to FOSP and Stakeholder Group is due in May; thereafter procurement of architects and contractors; with a build targeted for mid/late 2016.</p>
<p><b>3 Southwark Park Relocation of ‘Family of Dolphins’ Sculpture (Ref: 14/AP/0558)</b> David Backhouse’s sculpture was gifted to the Council by Tesco, Surrey Quays and a new home was sought. A feasibility study led the Council agreeing Southwark Park lake for relocation. Planning application was approved on 12<sup>th</sup> May.</p>	<p><b>The key issue now is for the contractor to find a design solution to progress the scheme.</b> In October 2014 we were advised that an engineering solution was being sought and that discussions were taking place with FM Conway contractors, who were subsequently appointed. They are developing a system which will both weight the sculpture and not puncture any lining to the lake. Installation was originally estimated for the end of March 2015 but has slipped.</p>
<p><b>4 Southwark Park south-western boundary improvements</b> In October 2014 we agreed that improvements to the boundary were needed. We asked if the Maydew House redevelopment scheme might provide a solution and also reported an offer made by Grosvenor Estates to provide trees.</p>	<p>It was decided to use the Grosvenor trees on the China Hall side of the park and they have now been successfully planted with help from Bede Centre. <b>The issue therefore remains of how to improve the south-western boundary.</b></p>
<p><b>5 Southwark Park New Tennis Courts</b> In November 2012 FOSP applied to the Council’s CGS programme for two new hard courts. The scheme was approved in July 2013, but additional funding had to be found. In March 2014 MSC Consultants were appointed to progress the scheme. Planning approval was obtained on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.</p>	<p>Key milestones of the project are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Out to tender week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015</li><li>Return of tenders 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015</li><li>Evaluation and Gateway 2 award end May 2015</li><li>Commence works mid-June</li><li>Works 12 week programme end of works late August 2015</li><li>Opening late August 2015.</li></ul>