

Patron: Simon Hughes M.P.

Chairperson: Gary Glover

Vice-Chairperson: Amanda Squires

Membership Secretary: Corinne Turner

Secretary: Pat Kingwell

Treasurer: Marjorie Hill

Assistant Treasurer: Ron Henocq

**Notes of Friends of Southwark Park General Meeting**

**held on 13th July 2011 at**

 **The Gallery in the Park**

**In attendance:**

Phil Burkett; Andy Chatterton (London Borough of Southwark); Alison Clayburn; Dave Fisher; Gary Glover; Marjorie Hill; Pat Kingwell; Sharon Lomas (London Borough of Southwark); Andrea Pita (London Borough of Southwark); Jim Saunders; Claire Sexton; Sue Sexton; Amanda Squires; Corinne Turner; Susan Vaughan.

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|  | **Item** | **Action** |
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| **1.** | **Apologies**Cllr. Anood Al-Samerai; Blair Bidmead (Groundwork Southwark) Lindsay Gowlett (Groundwork Southwark); Kathy Hennessy; Ron Henocq |  |
| **2.** | **Notes of meeting of 1st June 2011** The notes were agreed as a true record. |  |
| **2.1** | **Matters Arising**  |  |
| **2.2** | **Matters Arising - Bowling Club issues**Jim Saunders reported that the club had a good meeting on site with Cllr. Hargrove and LBS officers to discuss concerns about quality of work, and that a number of action points had been agreed.On putting flower beds around the bowling green Andy Chatterton reminded the meeting that due to budget cuts this would not be a high priority.Andy Chatterton also confirmed that the number of green keepers allocated was one, not two, as previously indicated by Bayliss. |  |
| **2.3** | **Matters Arising - Former Southwark Park Club Housing Development**Cllr. Anood Al-Samerai had provided the following e-mail:“Dear Pat and Corinne,Please see e-mail below which I have received from the planning dept. As you can see, I am told that planning permission for a four storey building was granted. I understand that the building had to be further back from the park boundary and that the developers have also made a section 106 contribution to the community.It does appear that you may not have received all the information and I would, of course, be very happy to discuss further. If you would like to do so please drop me an e-mail or give me a ring.Best wishes,Cllr Anood Al-SameraiLiberal Democrat Councillor for Riverside WardLeader of the Liberal Democrat groupDear Councillor Al-Samerai  Thank you for your enquiry in which you requested information concerning the former working men's club in Southwark Park Road.  I can now provide you with a full response to your enquiry.Planning permission was granted for:Erection of a 4-storey building comprising social club at ground floor level (Use Class D1) and 17 flats (Use Class C3), following the demolition of the existing building on the site (ref 10-ap-3458)  on 24-2-2011 at 386 Southwark Park Road. Friends of Southwark Park, the council's urban forester and the Parks and Sports division were all consulted on the application. The rear building line, and  how it related to the trees within Southwark Park, was examined in some detail, with negotiations on the final position agreed between the applicant's arboriculturalist and the council's urban forester.  This rear building line was moved away from the park boundary in order to minimise impacts on the trees in Southwark Park. There were no objections to the proposal (in fact there were quite a number of letters of support).  Friends of Southwark Park did not reply to the consultation. There is a S106 connected with the application: this will secure the standard S106 toolkit sums, including £16,505 for public open space, children's play equipment and sports development.  If you have any questions about this response please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 7525 5427 or email Alison.Brittain@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK.Yours Sincerely, Alison BrittainTeam Manager Development Control”It was noted that nobody from The Friends had been consulted as referred to by Alison Brittain.It was agreed that Pat Kingwell would enquire about position of s106 funds; and that Corinne Turner would try to obtain a copy of the approved plans for next meeting.  | **Pat Kingwell****Corinne Turner** |
| **2.4** | **Matters Arising – Photography Project**Pat Kingwell confirmed that a grant of £800 had been awarded to The Friends by the Rotherhithe Community Council, and that the project would need to be completed by March 2012.It was agreed to set up a working group to organise the project, consisting of Pat Kingwell, Gary Magold, Claire Sexton and Ron Henocq.  | **Pat Kingwell** |
| **2.5** | **Matters Arising – Park Walkabouts**Prior to the meeting a successful walkabout around Southwark Park had taken place, from which Andy Chatterton had gained a good insight into the various issues of concern to The Friends.It was agreed to hold a walkabout around King’s Stairs Gardens immediately before the next meeting on 10th August. Meet at Jubilee Stone at 4.45pm. |  |
| **2.6** | **Matters Arising – One o’clock Club**Following concerns over opening hours raised at previous meeting Pat Kingwell had written to LBS for clarification, but had received no reply.It was agreed to ask Cllr. Anood Al-Samerai to check the position. | **Pat Kingwell** |
| **3.** | **The Young Friends of Parks**Representatives from Groundwork Southwark were unable to attend. Agreed to invite to our next meeting. |  |
| **4.** | **UK Power Networks Cable Tunnelling Works Proposals**Sharon Lomas updated on the current position. LBS had met with UKPN, and Planning officers had informed the company that their proposals are not in line with the Metropolitan Open Land status of the park. While the company has not yet ruled out using Southwark Park it has indicated that other potential locations/options are being investigated. Gary Glover reported on the successful deputation to the Southwark Council Assembly, resulting in all-party support for our campaign of opposition. The Assembly praised the work of The Friends.Gary Glover said that some question marks remain over the early advice given to us by LBS officers about the extent to which UKPN’s proposals could be challenged. Pat Kingwell reported that the petition had received a lot of local support at both the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe carnivals, but needed one final push, before being submitted to UKPN. It was agreed to ask Surrey Quays Shopping Centre if we could collect names there on Saturday 6th August. Alison Clayburn said we need a simple leaflet to hand out both on the day, and to distribute around nearby housing estates and residences. Pat Kingwell agreed to produce copy, and Gary Glover said he could get some printed. | **Pat Kingwell****Pat Kingwell****Gary Glover** |
| **5.** | **F.A. Albin and Sons Memorial Proposals**This item was not discussed. Agreed to wait until the matter is raised again by either F.A. Albin or LBS.  |  |
| **6.** | **Former Nursery Clearance Works**Sharon Thomas circulated a consultation paper on criteria for potential lessees of the site. She asked for comments by 1st August. A number of points were raised, including:* Any future use must put public use and access high on the agenda – concerns were raised about the statement in the criteria “public access provided on occasion”.
* The Friends would like to be represented on any selection panel
* The residents of Gomm Road must be fully consulted
* The Council should review the essential criterion of incurring no cost on the project because without some financial support good community applicants might not get far.
* Concerns raised about commercial use as this would seem at first sight to be counter to the aim of bringing this part of the park back to the public access
* Refer to site as former nursery not fish farm
* Link future use to environmental awareness and education for young people and investigate possible use of s106 monies for that purpose.
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| **7.** | **Thames Water Boreholes Proposals** A site meeting with LBS officers and Thames Water has been arranged for 4pm on 27th July. |  |
| **8.** | **Park Manager’s Report – Andy Chatterton** Andy and Andrea were warmly welcomed to the meeting. Prior to the meeting they had been on a walkabout around Southwark Park with Friends, and a full list of issues had been raised, including:* Children’s playground equipment repairs
* Lake fountain
* Water play feature
* Railings in Hawkstone Road
* Bandstand and tennis court graffiti
* Perimeter fencing holes
* Unauthorised access by neighbours

Andy spoke to several of these and it was agreed he would report back on progress in more detail at the next meeting.  | **Andy Chatterton** |
| **9.** | **Art Gallery Update**None given. |  |
| **10.** | **Bowling Club Update**Jim Saunders said the club was looking forward to working with Andy Chatterton and Andrea Pita on outstanding issues, including the roof. Gary Glover asked if Andy could check if LBS insurance should cover the repairs. | **Andy Chatterton** |
| **11.** | **King’s Stairs Garden Sewer Update** Gary Glover updated the meeting on recent activities in KSG, and said that pressure needs to be maintained. An important decision is expected in September.Amanda Squires reported on the Butterfly Garden planting and a forthcoming party on 24 July noon-2pm |  |
| **12.** | **King’s Stairs Grounds Report** Andy Chatterton has been advised of a variety of issues. |  |
| **13.** | **King’s Stairs Jubilee Stone**Amanda Squires reported that a small inscription is going to be added and that discussions are being held with Royal Diamond Jubilee Trust over the stone and the Coronation tree in Southwark Park |  |
| **14.** | **Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnivals Feedback**Phil Burkett said that initial feed back on the Bermondsey Carnival had been good, and he noted that Lee Thompson had been injured in a motoring accident shortly before the day, so credit for his performance.Gary Glover Said that the lead-in to this year had been especially difficult for Bermondsey Beat as the date of the event was not confirmed until very late in the day. As funding has been secured this should not be a problem next summer. Marjorie Hill thanked Phil and Russell Dryden for all their efforts.Jim Saunders felt the event was policed well, but raised concerns about use of Gomm gates for access. |  |
| **15.** | **Finances**Marjorie Hill reported the latest balance as £2536.18. |  |
| **16.** | **Membership Report**As the UKPN petition had generated a lot of interest it was agreed to contact those who had signed and offer them membership of the Friends of Southwark Park.  | **Pat Kingwell** |
| **17.** | **Friends of Southwark Park Website**Pat Kingwell reported that the site is now up and running on [www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk](http://www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk) Thanks to David Gee.  |  |
| **18.** | **Any Other Business** |  |
| **18.1** | **Any Other Business – Former Lido Fountain**Phil Burkett and others asked why the fountain has been left to deteriorate so badly. Given the success of the Rotherhithe Caryatides project, it was also asked if we could consider ways of improving the fountain. Agreed to discuss at next meeting, but in the meantime for Andy Chatterton to look into the matter. | **Andy Chatterton** |
| **18.2** | **Any Other Business – Filming in the Park**Jim Saundersraised concerns about permissions and control of film crews in the children’s playground and other parts of the park. Agreed Andy Chatterton to discuss current arrangements with Paul Cowell and report back. | **Andy Chatterton** |
| **18.3** | **Any Other Business – Old Photographs**Dave Fisher appealed foe people to dig out their old photographs of the park for possible use on the website. | **All** |
| **19.** | **Dates of Future Meetings****10th August – at St. Peter’s Church, 72, Jamaica Road****21st September – AGM – venue to be arranged** |  |