

Patron: Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes M.P. www.friendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/ ourpark@live.co.uk

**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)

General Meeting Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 6.00pm at the Park Office

Agenda

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Notes of General Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> November and Matters Arising (attached)
- 3. Southwark Park Old Nursery Rebecca Towers, Head of Parks
- 4. Cycling in the Park Update- Jak Purcell
- 5. Park Manager's Report Andy Chatterton
- 6. Friends of Southwark Park Activities Programme 2015 Pat Kingwell
- 7. Bowling Club Update
- 8. West Lane War Memorial Issues
- 9. King's Stairs Gardens Issues
- **10. Planning Matters Update**
- 11. Key Projects Update (attached)

# 12. Any Other Business13. Dates of Future Meetings

Pat Kingwell Secretary 5 January 2015

#### Notes of General Meeting of 19th November 2014

**Present:** Clare Armstrong; Andy Chatterton (London Borough of Southwark); Alison Clayburn; Tim Clee (London Borough of Southwark); Cllr. Stephanie Cryan; Jean Cunliffe; Judith Deschamps; Dave Fisher; Gary Glover; Marjorie Hill; Simon Kenward; Pat Kingwell; Gary Magold; Jean Mulholland; Jim Saunders; Tracy Scales; Sue Sexton; Colin Smith; Amanda Squires; George Witsey and James Wood (Blue Cross)

#### 1. Apologies

Cllr. Anood Al-Samerai; William Cameron; Ann Clayton; Cllr. Neil Coyle; Barry Duckett; Angela Glassgow (Blue Cross);Simon Hughes, M.P.; Jill Jerram; Andrea Pita (London Borough of Southwark); Daniela Raimes; Cllr. Lisa Rajan; Nicky Rathbone; John Reid; Jackie Rose; Louise Sheridan; Cllr Kath Whittam and Cllr. Bill Williams

Item

# 2. Notes of General Meeting of 19th November 2014

The notes were agreed as a true record.

#### 2.1 Matters Arising

#### 2.1.1 Southwark Park – Cancer Research Shine Night Walk

It was agreed to write to Graham Gordon of Southwark Council's Chief Executive's department to request the 10k received by the Council for the event is spent on the provision of outdoor table tennis tables.

#### 2.1.2 Improving Southwark Park's south-western boundary

Gary Magold reported he had attended the Maydew House public consultation session and it seems there are no plans for a new park entrance to the park or changes to the boundary. It was agreed we write to Winston McLeod asking the developers to provide boundary railings as elsewhere in the park.

Kate Nottidge of Grosvenor Estates spoke about an offer to resource trees and/or other environmental improvements for the park. It was agreed to seek support for about 30 new trees (rather than relocated ones) and for help with the beehives. The meeting thanked Grosvenor for their kind contribution.

#### 3. Southwark Park Sports Centre Update

Tim Clee updated on progress on the scheme. Blakedown contractors have been appointed and will commence works before Christmas. The works will be done in two phases with summer 2015 as target completion date. The meeting asked that:

- <sup>35</sup> Quadron take over the grounds maintenance of the refurbished centre
- <sup>35</sup> the management of car parking during the works phase be carefully considered
- the upcoming Car Parking Review take account of the longer-term needs of centre and other park users
- $^{35}_{17}$  the provision of cricket nets be investigated

#### 4. Old Nursery Plan Update

Gary Glover reported that he had been advised that progress on this scheme is being impacted upon by the Council's Communications Plan and the Canada Water Action Plan. It was agreed to write to both Rebecca Towers and Robin Campbell to seek clarification.

Cllr. Cryan said she would also speak to Cllr. Mark Williams the Cabinet member for Regeneration, Planning and Transport.

#### 5. Cycling in Southwark Park

Andy Chatterton reported that Jack, the Park Liaison Officer had conducted a number of cyclist counts over the past 2/3 weeks on the shared footpath between

## <mark>Pat</mark> Kingwell

#### <mark>Pat</mark> Kingwell

Kate Nottidge Sharon Bassey Andy Chatterton Tim Clee Andy Chatterton

#### Pat Kingwell

#### <mark>Cllr. Cryan</mark>

<mark>Andy</mark> Chatterton

#### Action

China Hall Gate and the children's playground, as it has been highlighted as a problem area and is the most popular route through the park.

The majority of cyclists cutting through the park head north towards Jamaica Road. Each count covered a 75 minute period at what we believe to be the peak time 8-00am - 9-15am. During this time there was an average of 131 cyclists.

On the whole the Jack has been very impressed with how safe and responsible the majority of cyclists have been. There has however been a few occasions (4/5 at most) were he has had to ask cyclists to slow down or cover their brakes, requests that have been complied with on all occasions.

We consulted with Sustrans, the British <u>charity</u> which promotes <u>sustainable</u> <u>transport</u>, and they put forward proposals on how we could improve the shared footpaths in our park We have adapted a 'Cycle Responsibly' sign which will be placed on all of the gates. In addition, we intend to focus on an area between the café gallery and the entrance that leads north towards Jamaica Road on a trial basis, where cyclists dismount/dual usage signs will be installed on 3 lamp columns. A fixed penalty notice which incurs a £30 fine can only be issued if a cyclist riding on a footpath is causing harassment, alarm or distress.

#### 6. Park Manager's Report

Andy Chatterton reported:

#### 6.1 Southwark Park – Former Swedish Church Boundary Wall

The ground works in front of the boundary wall have been completed. Following advice from Lynne Olding three different shrub types have been planted.

#### 6..2 Southwark Park – '150' Gates

The Workshops & Street Furniture Contract Manager is awaiting confirmation on whether to paint the letters/numbers on the gates silver or gold, he believes that silver would be more appropriate as gold is normally more applicable to cemetery gates. The earliest date that the gates can be installed is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. **Silver agreed.** 

#### 6..3 Southwark Park - Unauthorised Access

A colleague in Legal Services has provided a plan which indicates properties 34 36 40 Frankland Close are privately owned and 35 37 42 involve Housing, as they are still Council owned.

Letters and supporting photographs to the latter were sent to a colleague in Housing and hand delivered to the former, both on 17/11. Andy to update next meeting.

#### 6.4 Southwark Park – Carriageway Drive

FM Conway have advised that the surface dressing will be applied as soon as possible, but there needs to be a dry period for this to be undertaken.

#### 6.5 Southwark Park - 5 mph Speed Limits in Parks

QSL Senior Management presented all staff with a memorandum on 17<sup>th</sup> October, following concern raised by the Friends of Southwark Park on 15/10.

# 6.6 Southwark Park - Jabez West Memorial Taps

A contractor is currently attempting to source similar taps and they will be replaced as soon as possible.

## 6.7 Southwark Park – Bandstand Oil

Southwark Cleaning have been invited to provide quotations to undertake remedial works.

# 6.8 Southwark Park – Tree Damage

QSL have placed some bamboo around the dog damaged trees, following concern raised at the previous meeting.

<mark>Andy</mark> Chatterton

#### <mark>Andy</mark> Chatterton

<mark>Andy</mark> Chatterton



#### 6.9 Southwark Park – Quadron Depot Building

Southwark Cleaning have been invited to provide quotations to undertake remedial works.

#### 7. Fireworks Night Feedback

Positive comments about the quality of the display. Special thanks received from 1<sup>st</sup> Southwark Park Brownies for the arrangements made for the group on the night. The key points for the organisers to consider in future are increasing popularity of the event and consequent crowd management. Andy Chatterton said there would be a debriefing meeting soon and Cllr. Cryan asked if he could inform her when as she would like to attend. Andy confirmed the damaged grass areas will be reinstated as soon as the ground conditions permit and the cost will be covered by the Events Section.

#### 8. Friends of Southwark Park Activities Programme 2015 A draft list of potential activities was discussed and approved. An update on

progress to be given at the January meeting.

#### 9. Cleaner Greener Safer Programme 2015

Pat Kingwell reported he had submitted a Southwark Park Improvements package amounting to £52,500 consisting of bandstand works; an outdoor gym in the northern sector; two outdoor table tennis tables and a bee observation hive. Amanda Squires confirmed she had re-submitted the previously agreed Cathay/Fulford Thames Path scheme for about £11,000. Decisions by February.

#### 10. Bowling Club Update

Colin Smith reported on a successful playing season. The club finished second in their league and also won the Hands Cup.

#### 11. West Lane War Memorial Issues

The Remembrance Day ceremonies went well and the gardens looked in good condition. Thanks again to Southwark Cleaning and Lynn Olding.

#### 12. King's Stairs Gardens Issues

Simon Kenward reported that the lighting works have led to a big improvement. Amanda Squires raised the issue of the long-standing and continuing problem of cyclists on the path near The Angel pub. Andy Chatterton agreed to look at the provision of signage as in Southwark Park. Cllr. Cryan said she would look at funding for possible solutions.

### 13. Planning Matters Update

Cllr. Cryan said the Scout House scheme was ready for planning approval.

#### 14. Any Other Business

#### 14.1 Max Bygraves' Flowers

Members expressed concerns about the way the Council's Communication Team had seemingly agreed to a memorial without consultation with Parks or FOSP. Andy confirmed that some bulbs have been planted nearby the Stanley Arms pub but there is no intention to have a formal memorial.

#### 14.2 Blue Cross

James Wood asked for feedback on the mobile sessions. It was agreed there is a need for more marketing of the opportunity available to animal owners.

#### 14.3 Scandinavian Christmas Market

The market will be held in Albion Street from 21-23 November.

#### 14.4 Foxes

Gary Glover reported the increase of foxes on estates adjoining Southwark Park. Andy was asked to investigate if there is a den and to seek Jon Best's advice.

## 14.5 Bermondsey Care for the Elderly Night 12th December

Gary Glover reminded of the evening event in the Stanley Arms which is organised by one of our members, Phil Burkett. All welcome.

#### 14.6 'It's Our Park' DVD Copies were given out – some more available but stocks running out fast!

14.7 August Bandstand Concert – Poppy Appeal

# **Chatterton**

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<mark>Andy</mark> Chatterton

Pat <mark>Kingwell</mark>

#### Andy Chatterton Cllr. Cryan

Blue Cross



Gary Magold reported that £185.93p was raised from the sale of the 1914/2014 lapel pins for the local Poppy Appeal.

# 15. Dates of Future Meetings 2015 - All 6.00pm at The Park Office unless otherwise notified Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Wednesday 20th May 2015 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

#### Key Projects Update – December 2014

#### **Project Description**

- 1 Southwark Park Sports Centre Refurbishment After a decade of decline the centre is undergoing a major refurbishment. Works include a new athletics track and improved changing facilities.
- 2 Southwark Park Old Nursery Master Plan 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.
- 3 Southwark Park Unauthorised Access For many years FOSP has called for enforcement action over unauthorised access from properties on the boundaries of the park, in particular from Frankland Close.

#### 4 Southwark Park Relocation of 'Family of Dolphins' Sculpture

David Backhouse's sculpture was gifted to the Council by Tesco, Surrey Quays Shopping Centre and a new home was sought. In January 2014 FOSP was consulted on the option of relocation to Southwark Park lake, which we supported, subject to adequate budget, security, mechanical services and maintenance. Following a feasibility study the Council agreed Southwark Park lake as the relocation site.

# 5 Southwark Park south-western boundary improvements

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 resource trees and/or other environmental improvements for the park It was agreed to seek support from Grosvenor for about 30 new trees and to also contact Winston McLeod of Southwark Council about the Maydew House options.

6 Southwark Park New Tennis Courts There is a high demand for tennis facilities so 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 and in July 2014 we were advised that works would commence in December 2014 and be completed by March 2015.

#### **Current Position**

The scheme has received planning approval. Blakedown Group have been appointed as contractors. Works are due to commence in December 2014 and are scheduled to complete in summer 2015.

The delivery of the Master Plan is about one year behind the original target date. The Head of Parks is due to attend our January 2015 meeting to provide an update.

Parks are working in conjunction with the Council's Legal Services to address the problem. Enforcement letters with supporting photographs were delivered to the relevant properties in Frankland Close on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014. **Andy Chatterton will update our January 2015** meeting.

In October 2014 we were advised that an engineering solution was being sought and that discussions were taking place with FM Conway contractors. **We require a project update.** 

A meeting with the Maydew House project team is to be arranged in January. We require an update on progress with Grosvenor Estates.

Although a planning application was submitted in August 2014 approval has yet to be obtained. The application is out for consultation between 26 December 2014 and 15 January 2015. As a result works have yet to start. We require an update on the new programme.