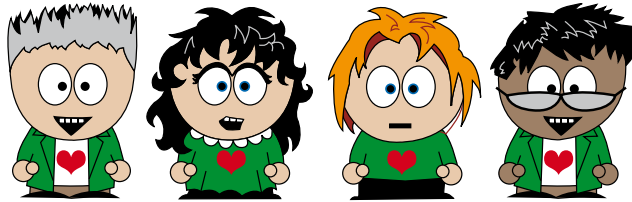


# FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Thursday 26th November**  
**Park Office, West Ham Park**

## **Attendees**

Ron Innell (Chairman), Roger Jones (Vice Chairman), Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Abdul Sheik, Pat Mossop, Helen Mossop, Dini Patel, Dan Piner, Laura Prout, Lyndsay Jones.

## **Apologies**

Nicky Brown.

## **Introduction**

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members Dan and Laura.

## **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes from the meeting on 16th February 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

## **Recent Events**

**Stargazing** As discussed at the last meeting, we made this event open to all without booking. 32 people attended and the night was clear. Everyone seemed interested and there were lots of questions. We will do the event like this in future.

## **Bird Watching and Surveys**

The annual report will be available soon on the website and Facebook.

The guided bird watching walk on Sunday 20th March was well attended. Further bird watching walks were discussed, probably not during the summer when it is harder to see the birds with all the leaves, and also the birds become a bit more secretive when they are moulting after the nesting season.

It was suggested that we could hold an "Open Survey" in October to encourage people to go out with the regular survey team and see how it is done. This might also generate more team members.

## **Park Update**

Lucy reported that work has started on the renovation of the rose garden. Volunteer helping day will be May 24th.

Work on the resurfacing of the tennis courts is almost complete. New outdoor gym equipment will be installed between the tennis courts and the office building.

Tree condition surveys are being carried out, and the condition of the large Tulip Tree in the Rock Garden is causing concern.

The lodges on Upton Lane are now ready to be rented out, generating some income for the park.

A new Learning Officer has been appointed to work with school groups, and Sean Dylan, whom we met at our AGM, will be the "Guerilla Interpretation" officer doing the pop-up information service.

Pat asked whether the Friends had made suggestions regarding changes and improvements to

the natural habitats within the park, and whether more could be made of the woodland areas. Dini suggested that everyone look at the changes that have been made to Plashet Park recently. Lucy explained that there will be new planting in the cleared strip behind the tennis courts, which will be on a woodland theme.

### **Preparing a Plan for 2016, and future role of the Friends**

Roger presented a draft document for discussion, considering how we should deal with our administration, mailing list etc now that office staff time is much less available – there is only Stella left in the office to do all the administrative work for the park. We need to set up our own email address and transfer all the information from the park's site. Dini offered to deal with circulating our information to our members.

Roger also gave out a proposed constitution document, modelled on that of the Friends of City Gardens, for people to read through and discuss at the next meeting. In particular we need to decide how our "organising group" would be structured.

### **Forthcoming Events**

We will hold a summer event on the weekend of 9/10th July. This will be led by Park staff, with a "Give It A Go" sports theme aimed at families. The Friends need to decide what our contribution will be, maybe crafts to involve the less sporty. Everyone was asked to think of suggestions, preferably using some of our existing materials.

Bat Walks will be 25th August and 22nd September

Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile will be on Sunday 6th November

Park in the Dark will be Friday 2nd December

### **Dates of future meetings**

Tuesday 21 June 2016

Thursday 22 September 2106

Tuesday 22 November 2016

### **AOB**

Lyndsay was asked to talk to Mary and Jack and find out whether it is possible to make any progress with the Fothergill drawings project.

Ron thanked everyone for their input, and closed the meeting at 8.55pm