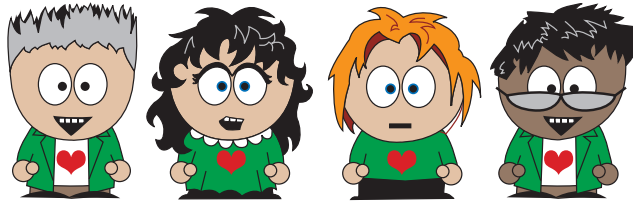


FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

Thursday 22nd February 2018
Scout Hut, Evesham Road

Attendees

Roger Jones (Chair), Pat Mossop (Vice Chair) Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Nicky Brown, Ron Innell, Mary Edmondson, Abdul Sheik, Lyndsay Jones.

Apologies

Helen Mossop, Joel Farrell, Charlotte Cook

Introduction

Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for turning out on such a cold night.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting on 23rd November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Recent Events

Park in the Dark, 8th December 2017

The event was very successful. A small choir from Godwin Junior School gave a truly excellent performance. Lyndsay has the contact details for both schools interested in performing, and will contact them in good time for the 2018 event.

Stargazing, 11th January 2018 and 9th February 2018

January 11th was totally cloudy, one person turned up and Lyndsay gave her a virtual tour of the sky by iPad! February 9th was fairly clear and there was a good turn out.

It was agreed that cancellation details for cloudy or rainy nights would be made clear in all the advertising materials so as to avoid incurring unnecessary Park staff time.

Bird watching 13/14th January

There were very few “non regular” participants, but those who came really enjoyed the event. It was decided that rather than two public walks in March, we would hold a simultaneous survey by all the regular survey team on March 24th, and a public walk on March 25th.

Future Meeting Dates

These were agreed as follows-

- 12 April 2018
- 14th June 2018 - AGM
- 27th September 2018
- 29th November 2018

Park Update

Lucy reported that recruitment is underway for a number of vacancies in all areas.

Nursery Site. Roger and Pat will attend the Nursery Site Option Review Group on 23rd February.

Post Meeting Note: This meeting explored progress with developing the short listed options and how these would be finalised. The preferred option will be subject to public consultation later in the year. More feedback from the meeting will be given at the Friends meeting on April 12th.

Playground. The park management team are working on a range of options for improvement and updating of the playground. A major renovation to reflect options for the Nursery site will be considered. It may be useful to call an extra Friends meeting in May to discuss options.

New CCTV cameras are being installed in all areas of the park, to help control anti-social behaviour and enable better liaison with the Police.

Wildlife Garden. The extension of the Wildlife Garden beside East Lodge has been approved. Some of the work will be carried out by corporate volunteer groups. Lyndsay will consult with Hamish to draw up a task list. We will have a working party after the bird watching on Sunday 25th March, and another on Sunday 13th May.

Programme for 2018

Bird Watching and launch of the Wild East Explorer Map. Sunday 25th March.

Open Gardens Weekend, Botanical Drawing event. 9th and 10th June

As promised in the November minutes, Lyndsay and Mary presented proposals for the event. These were discussed along with the question of obtaining quality prints of historic drawings. It was decided that Mary would look to buy suitable material up to a budget of £100, which would give us some material to work with and consider what else would be needed. Lyndsay will look into the possibility of qualifying for another of Newham Council's "Lets Get the Party Started" grants.

July Fair

"Bringing Communities Together" is confirmed for Saturday and Sunday 14/15th July. Details will be available at the next meeting. We need to decide how we will take part.

Commemoration of the end of the First World War and Votes for Women

It was agreed that everyone would consider ideas for marking these important anniversaries, to be discussed at our next meeting.

Bat Walks

Thursday 23rd August, 8.15pm start

Friday 28th September 7.15pm start

Leaf Pile

Sunday 4th November

Park in the Dark

Friday 7th December

Treasurer's Report

We have had no expenses since the last report.

Forest Schools Projects

Roger reported that TfL and MTR, who are jointly responsible for Crossrail, are prepared to consider displaying artwork by local schools, and through Newham BC adding West Ham Park to their signage. Hamish will liaise with the schools involved, and let Roger have a proposal so that he will take the matter forward with TfL and MTR.

AOB

Ron reported that he is currently taking on the admin work of the Walking for Health project, until a new member of staff is appointed in the Park Office.

Abdul asked about progress towards café facilities in the park, and Lucy replied that the pop up café will be back in May, hours adjusted to reflect the demand they experienced last year.

Roger thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 8.55