



Friends of Brook Green AGM 2018

Date: Monday November 26th 2018 (6.30pm)

Venue: Dunnhumby, Shepherds Bush Road

In attendance: Directors Friends of Brook Green: Jackie Duff; Robert Jennings; Donatella Goretti; Frances Ryan; Charles Sanderson; Adrienne Clarke.

Cllr David Morton; Cllr Fiona Smith; 24 friends.

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from the following Directors: Jason Eker (co-chair); Harriet Hewitson, Charlie Boyd, Nick London; Simon Bullivant.

1. Welcome

Jackie Duff (co-chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Re-election and resignation of Directors

Re-elections: The following Directors were up for re-election Simon Bullivant; Jason Eker; Robert Jennings. All 3 were re-elected by the meeting:

Resignations. Kate Hilsley resigned from the board and was thanked for her input to the board and the tennis committee. Jason Eker resigned from the tennis committee. He was thanked for the significant amount of time he had given, and the leading role he had played, in transforming the tennis courts and for making them such a fantastic resource for the community.

3. Reports

3.1 Brook Green Day

2018 saw another successful Brook Green Day and once again the weather was favourable. The many sponsors and helpers were thanked. It was highlighted that the distribution of free tickets for the rides to a number of local schools ensured the event attracted the wider community.

3.2 Community Sports Fund

Over the last year FBG have made 3 donations of £1000 from the FBG Sports Fund for Children. These have gone to Lena Gardens Primary School, the Masbro Centre and Thames Valley Harriers Athletic Club. Going forward, we hope to match fund future donations.

3.3 The Western Lawn and surrounds

2018 saw a big step forward in the makeover of the Western Lawn primarily with the installation of flexipave paths across the lawn as well as along a much narrower strip

on the southern side. The area under the trees has now been grassed thus creating a significant area of attractive additional green space. The majority of the cost was covered by LBHF's Sustainable Urban Drainage Fund with FBG contributing £20,000 to the project. A number of other areas have been improved or enhanced.

Cllr Morton was able to confirm that approval had been given for using some of the s106 funds that have been awarded for the improvement of the Western Lawn and tennis court surrounds to provide level access on to the Green.

3.4 Tennis

Brook Green is now seen as a benchmark venue for other park courts. Further investments have been made in 2018 including providing new nets for the mini courts and the purchase of a cordless leaf blower. Coaching is now offered for all abilities and outreach activities are opening up the courts across the community. The floodlights have increased the usage of the courts and thus the income derived from them.

A question was asked about the income from the courts. It was clarified that this was shared between FBG and LBHF.

3.5 Horticulture

A number of gardening activities have taken place this year including the planting of 4,000 bulbs. Unfortunately, the meadow planting was not that successful this year due to the exceptionally hot weather. The activities are undertaken by volunteers including local school students. FBG is supporting the Mayor's ambition to make London a National Park City and has been awarded 100 saplings from the Mayor's Greener City Fund. Future activities will be advertised through the newsletter and on the Pavilion noticeboard.

3.6 Trees

It was highlighted that some of trees on Brook Green need lightening but, as this is not seen as urgent, there are currently no funds forthcoming from LBHF. FBG is looking into the possibility of covering the cost of this work over a number of years.

A suggestion was made that FBG should contact the Tree Surgeon College to see if students could undertake the work. The question of Public Liability Insurance was raised as an issue. Cllr Smith, who has contacts with the College, volunteered to investigate this further.

4. FBG Accounts

Following considerable expenditure on the upgrade of the tennis courts and the building of the Pavilion in recent years, the aim in 2018 has been to build up the reserves. This has been achieved as a result of direct oversight of the tennis courts and the financial success of Brook Green Day and the inter-street Quiz. This means that funds are available for the on-going maintenance of the Green and for supporting local charities that meet the Board's criteria.

5. The Pavilion kiosk

David from the Tangerine Café, who has taken over the management of the Pavilion kiosk, with his partner Limpet, was introduced and everyone was reminded of the Mulled Wine evening to be held at the kiosk on Monday December 3rd.

6. Other issues

6.1 Olympia

A question was asked about impact of the proposed developments at Olympia. Cllr Morton gave an overview of the development. This has generally been well received by Avonmore Residents' Association although there is concern about potential traffic problems and opposition to the closure of Olympia Way. He reminded everyone that there was still time to comment on the proposals.

6.2 Community engagement

A question was asked about FBG and community engagement. It was highlighted that one of the working groups was engaged in reaching out to the community through, for example, the community sports fund.

6.3 Personal Trainers

A question was asked about personal trainers use of the Green. It was highlighted that there are no issues with personal trainers using the Green but they are not allowed on the tennis courts and should not use the playground. It is, however, difficult to 'police' the playground particularly early in the morning. The parks police are aware of the issue.

6.4 Air Pollution

FBG were asked if they were addressing the issue of Air Pollution and, in particular, car idling. Cllr Morton mentioned that LBHF takes this seriously and that fines can be imposed on anyone caught car idling. Whilst this was seen as a positive move, it was suggested that some offenders wouldn't be aware that it's a problem or, given that there probably aren't enough officials to hand out fines, be caught. It was therefore suggested that LBHF put up signs warning drivers that car idling can lead to a fine, and the problems that arise from this behaviour. It was also suggested that local schools should write to parents explaining the issues to them.

6.5 The Playground

It was pointed out that the playground is suffering from wear and tear and that funds would need to be spent on it. FBG agreed this was necessary and would be looked into.

7. Supporting FBG

Everyone was reminded that FBG is run by volunteers and that help is always needed. Anyone interested was asked to email hello@friendsofbrookgreen.org

There being no further business everyone was thanked for coming and the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.