



Friends of Brook Green

Friends of Brook Green AGM minutes

The meeting was held on Monday 6th November from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm at Dunnhumby, Shepherds Bush Road.

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

36 Friends attended the meeting. Harriet Hewitson and Nick London (FBG Directors) sent their apologies

2. Welcome and agenda

Jason Eker (co-chair) welcomed friends to the AGM and thanked Dunnhumby for hosting the meeting and Dominique Evans for making the arrangements.

3. Board of Directors

3.1 Resignations and re-elections

John Higgins, Nick London and Robert Jennings resigned by rotation. As John was not standing for re-election, he was thanked for his considerable contribution to FBG. Nick London and Robert Jennings, who were standing again, were re-elected unanimously. Robert resigned as co-chair but was elected as Treasurer. Jackie Duff will replace Robert as co-chair.

Melanie Honor, who resigned in April 2017, was thanked for her time as a director.

3.2 Elections

Kate Hilsley, Charles Sanderson and Donatella Goretti stood for election and after a brief presentation outlining their background and interest in Brook Green were all elected to the Board unanimously.

4. FBG accounts

Robert Jennings presented the 2016/17 accounts. The accounts are on the FBG website and copies were made available at the meeting. The key issue outlined was that a sizable proportion of the reserves had been invested in completing the pavilion and that the aim for 2017/18 was to build up the reserves.

5. FBG activities (working group updates).

5.1 Tennis working group

- FBG lease the courts from LBHF and have managed the courts since April 2017.
- Revenue has increased since FBG took over the courts.
- Profits are shared 50/50 with LBHF.

- Revenue from the tennis courts is the largest source of income for FBG.
- A positive working relationship has been established with the parties involved in the running of the courts and the coaching activities.
- The recent extension of the use of floodlights until 9pm is already making a difference in terms of court usage in the evening.

5.2 The playground and the Pavilion working group

5.2.1 The playground

- It was suggested that a charge be made for using the playground perhaps via a voluntary collection box. It was agreed, after a brief discussion, that this would not be taken forward.

5.2.2 The Pavilion

- This has been open for a year and the only real problem has been toilet blockages. Remedies are being looked at to deal with these.
- The Corner House Café have a 2-year agreement to run the Pavilion Kiosk and have welcomed the survey that is being undertaken by FBG. This is aimed at identifying what works well and what needs to be improved. Copies of the survey were circulated at the meeting and anyone wanting to fill this in after the meeting were advised to return it to 14, Brook Green. The survey will also be made available via the November newsletter.

5.3 Brook Green and Little Brook Green

5.3.1 Brook Green (BG)

- The perimeter of the grassed area on the south side of the western lawn will be extended and SUD compliant porous bonded chip (from recycled tyres) and resin will be used for pathways in line with the recent community consultation process.
- A decision on our section 106 bid to improve the lawn's drainage and soil and to implement improvements on the north and south sides of the tennis courts is still awaited. Robert has been chasing officials diligently for some time but has not yet heard if we are to be allowed to use any of the s106 funding held for Brook Green. The Councillors present suggested that they should be copied into emails to local officials.
- Following a question about fencing, Robert explained that the eventual aim was for the whole of the Western Lawn to be fenced using the type of fencing recently installed on LBG. The rest of the fencing around BG would be patched and mended in the short term. Some of the broken fencing on the South side of St Paul's walkway may be removed as this is a fire assembly point for St Pauls and having no fencing improves the ability of girls and staff to access the area.
- A question was asked about the hedge near Shepherds Bush Road which seems to have died. It was agreed that this would be looked at but, due to lack of water, the hedge isn't likely to survive.
- Ainslie Johnston asked about the drop along parts of the path. It was agreed that Ainslie and Robert would meet on the Green to look at the areas concerned. Creating a proper crossing that is level with the pathway on Brook Green and with the pavement on the non green side is one of the items covered in our s106 funding application mentioned above and on which we are waiting for a decision from LBHF.

- A question was asked about the use that groups and personal trainers make of BG and, given the wear and tear they inflicted, if they could be charged. The chair explained that personal trainers have a right to use BG and cannot be prevented from doing so. Groups such as 'Little Foxes' do, however, pay to use BG. There remained some concern about personal trainers using the playground and the potential damage they might cause.

5.3.2 Little Brook Green (LBG)

- The improvements to LBG were welcomed and thanks will be passed to Sarah Brion, project manager at LBHF, who oversaw the improvements.
- A meeting will be held with Hew from Shoots and Leaves ahead of the installation of the Christmas tree outlet on LBG to discuss this year's layout given the new path and the re-seeding that has taken place.

5.4 Horticulture

- Donatella Goretti explained how the wild flower meadow had been developed and that replanting would take place in early Spring. She thanked everyone involved in developing the meadow including the volunteers from Dunnhumby.
- Donatella also thanked everyone who joined her bulb planting day on Sunday 5th November when daffodil, crocus, snowdrop and bluebells bulbs were planted. There will be a second bulb planting day on Sunday November 26th.
- Finally, Donatella is looking at schemes to fund future developments.

5.5 Trees

- The tree warden scheme is being rejuvenated and information about this will be included in a future newsletter.
- It was highlighted that there was a lack of funding for pruning trees and a question was asked if the Council should make an allowance available to FBG for the upkeep of BG. The chair responded by stating that LBHF did make a significant contribution but stressed the importance of community support given the squeeze on parks spending.
- A question was asked if professional support had been sought in relation to the trees particularly as there was concern about the health of some trees. The response was that the Arboricultural Officer from LBHF did indeed provide support.

5.6 Social events

5.6.1 Brook Green Day

- This was another successful day and the weather was kind although rain did threaten.
- Over 100 people helped both before and during the day and they were thanked for making sure everything went to plan.
- Local sponsors as always were supportive and do cover initial costs. This means that if the weather is unkind and the day has to be cancelled that FBG don't make a loss.
- The aim next year is to broaden the sponsorship base and FBG are always looking for more local businesses to support and sponsor BGD and other initiatives.

- It was suggested that it would be good to invite a local journalist to take official pictures and also to hold a children's competition to enhance awareness of the day.
- Asked about reaching out to all parts of the community it was mentioned that an anonymous donor had made it possible to give free tickets to those less able to afford the pay for tickets for the rides.

5.6.2 The Quiz

- The quiz was another successful event and brought the community together in a friendly although competitive environments. The joint winners this year were Poplar Grove (who won in 2016) and Milson Grove.
- Details of the 2018 quiz, which is planned for early February, will be circulated via the newsletter.

6. Closing remarks from the chair

- The chair, using current examples, highlighted the importance of developers involving FBG and the local community in the early stages of planning.
- The chair informed the meeting that Martin Pryce, our local Police Officer, was moving to Addison. Through the chair FBG thanked Martin for his commitment to the community. The chair went on to stress the importance of local intelligence to the police and that we should report issues to them.

7. AOB

- Evangeline Karn, who has led the tree warden scheme for many years, stressed the importance of the role of the tree warden and that more would be sought in the coming months.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8pm.