



# Friends of Brook Green

## **Friends of Brook Green (FBG): Annual Friends Meeting 2021 Minutes**

**Date: Monday 10th January 2022 6.30 pm via Microsoft Teams**

**In attendance:** FBG Directors: Jackie Duff (chair), Charlie Boyd, Adrienne Clarke, Sam Cohen, Jason Collins, Livia Higgins, Irene Rozassa. Jacob Brouwer. Cllr David Morton. FBG Friends: Jo Busvine, Isabel Taylor, Lucy Le Fanu (+1), Rebecca Fitzgerald, Ann Brown, Wouter de Klerk, David Blackett.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

**Apologies for absence:** Stefan Czeladzinski (London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) parks officer), Nick London (Director FBG), Charles Sanderson (Director FBG), Robert Jennings, Audrey Gale.

### **2. Approval of the 2019 Annual Friends Meeting minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved. The only issue outstanding was the suggestion that Tesco should be asked if they would put the FBG newsletter on their notice board.

### **3. Resignations from the board.**

The Directors retire by rotation. This year Jackie Duff, Nick London and Charlie Boyd resigned. All were re-elected.

It was noted that Donatella Goretti had resigned from the board in March 2021 but that she would continue to support Irene with Horticulture. She was thanked for her work on the FBG Board.

Jacco Brouwer, who was standing for election to the board, gave a brief introduction to himself and was duly elected to the Board. It was noted that Jacco had been co-opted to the Board in September 2021.

### **4. Working group updates**

#### **4.1 Finance**

Jackie thanked Jacco for joining the board and for his support in relation to financial activities.

Jackie explained, due to Covid, that both the Annual Quiz and Brook Green Day had been cancelled in 2021. As a result, the only revenue during the period was from the tennis courts. However, the courts, apart from periods of lockdown, were well used during this period. It was noted that Brook Green tennis courts are amongst the busiest in West London. A longer-term plan is being developed to ensure that FBG will have robust resources to ensure that the tennis facilities remain in the best possible condition.

## **4.2 Tennis**

Jason explained that along with Charlie Boyd, and others, he is responsible for the day to day running of the courts.

A key issue is the high demand for the three adult courts. This is being addressed, to a limited extent, through a planning application for the floodlights to come on at 7am during the winter months. This will enable additional playing time. Formal confirmation is pending.

It is felt that the balance between coaching and playing, whilst difficult to optimise, has been achieved. It has also been necessary to maintain the balance between keeping the courts open, and the need to close for limited periods to manage the maintenance of the courts (*idverde* has the contract for this).

Courtfit are developing an outreach programme working with local primary schools. The aim is to encourage children from all parts of our community to play tennis.

Matthew Stradling, who has now stepped down, was thanked for his work on the group. Alina Menocal, who has recently joined the group, was also thanked.

## **4.3 Pavilion/kiosk**

Bears, who currently operate the kiosk, have asked to renew their lease for a longer period. This is currently being finalized. Bears team has been a great addition to the community during the last 2 years.

## **4.4 Playground**

Agreement has been reached with LBHF for refurbishment of the playground. The work will focus on three areas - the high-level planter area, the sandpit and the mounds. It was reported that the mounds, which are the central feature of the playground, have been particularly problematic as the covering needs to be repaired on a regular basis. The Parks Officer has recommended the use of a wet pour substance. In addition, two new pieces of equipment will replace equipment that had to be removed between the entrance gate and the first mound.

The aim is for the work to be undertaken in the first quarter of 2022. Funding will come from LBHF, Friends of Brook Green and sponsors including The Mercers' Company École Française Jacques Prévert. Stefan Czeladzinski (LBHF) was thanked for the time he has spent on this project and Cllr Morton was also thanked for his support in achieving this outcome.

#### **4.5 The Green/ trees on Brook Green.**

It was noted that the reseeded of the entire kick about area, which necessitated the closure of the area for a long period of time, had resulted in complaints particularly during school holidays. LBHF has agreed that in future the reseeded will be undertaken in stages. This will ensure that 50% of the area will be available for use at any point in time.

In relation to the trees, the importance of an annual rolling programme of tree thinning has been communicated to LBHF.

Stefan Czeladzinski (LBHF) was thanked for his help and support in looking after the Green.

#### **4.6 Horticulture**

The planters for the road side of the Pavilion have been ordered. Jo Busvine, Queens Mansions, enquired about the detail of the planters and schedule for their arrival. It was agreed that Irene should follow up with Lesley Hall who is representing Queens Mansions.

The project for improving the Quiet Area (the gated area near the Pavilion) is underway.

It was announced that the wildflower meadow, which was planted on the roundabout at Hammersmith Broadway, and which received lots of praise, will be replicated. The area on the Western Lawn side of the tennis courts might be partially re-planted. Planting sessions will take place in the Spring. Timings will be publicised in the newsletter.

The volunteers from St Paul's Girls' School were thanked for their help.

#### **4.7 Outreach**

Outreach activities focused on grants to schools to support students who had been affected by interrupted schooling during the pandemic. A total of £12,000 was awarded to three local schools.

An outreach plan is being developed. This will determine the scope and geographical area of activities.

#### **4.7 Events**

In the absence of Nick, who leads on events, Jackie gave an update on the annual inter-street quiz and Brook Green Day. The quiz is currently scheduled for February 10th. The COVID situation will be monitored over the next couple of weeks and a decision will then be made whether or not to delay the quiz.

A decision regarding Brook Green Day will be made in the forthcoming months.

## **7. AOB/Questions**

Isabel Taylor thanked everyone who had been involved in making the Living Advent Calendar such a success, in particular Irene. Over 40 homes, shops and businesses participated and over £500 was raised for West London Action for Children. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Isabel, Emma and Irene were thanked for this initiative.

Cllr Morton praised the work of FBG and said that it had been a pleasure working with FBG since 2017. He asked if there were any plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. Jackie confirmed that she and Sam were looking into possibilities. Cllr Morton agreed to keep Jackie updated about plans being developed by the Council.

Sam Cohen mentioned that Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> is the designated day for nationwide street parties.

Cllr Morton then announced that as Avonmore and Brook Green would be splitting into two separate wards (Avonmore ward and Brook Green ward) ahead of the May local council elections, that he may not be representing Brook Green after May.

Cllr Morton was thanked for his support of FBG.

The meeting thanked the board and volunteers who tirelessly support the working groups. The chair, Jackie, was thanked in particular.

There being no further business, Jackie thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 7.15 pm.