

Lewisham Biodiversity Group

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 23 September 2020, 16:00-17:30

Location: Zoom

Purpose: Strategically plan, share, support, monitor and promote biodiversity protection/enhancement and nature conservation volunteering in Lewisham

ATTENDEES			
AS	Alona Sheridan - F/O Mayow Pk & Sydenham Gdn	JH2	Janet Hurst – F/O Downham Woodland Walk (DWW)
AO	Andrew Orford – Albion Millennium Green (AMG)	JK	Jessica Kyle – LBL Conservation Officer
AW	Andrew Wright – London Wildlife Trust (LWT)	JW	Judith Watling – Glendale Conservation Officer
AS2	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows	LBC	Lawrence Beale Collins – Qwaggy Waterways Action Group (QWAG)
CD	Carole Destre – Horniman Museum	LM	Lucy Mitchell – BPP Project Officer
CH	Coralie Hopwood – Sydenham Garden	LS	Lucy Shuker – Thames21
DD	Donna Davis – F/O River Pool	MK	Mike Keogh – QWAG
ET	Ernest Thomason – F/O Garthorne Rd NR (GRNR)	NL	Nick Lee – F/O Garthorne Road NR
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL Ecological Regeneration Manager	NP	Nick Pond – LBL Parks and Open Space Contracts & Service Development Manager
GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery (BLC)	RE	Rosalind Epton – F/O Chinbrook Community Orchard
HF	Hannah Fox – F/O Garthorne Road NR	SBT	Sam Bentley-Toon – LWT
JH	Jo Hatton – Horniman Museum	SA	Sue Austin – F/O Garthorne Road NR

ACTIONS:

1. EWD and JK to reach out to successful Kenneth White Award projects to discuss next steps
2. All: Fill out and circulate consultations on
 - a. Beckenham Place Park East:
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks/beckenham-place-park/consultation-on-changes-to-the-eastern-side-of-beckenham-place-park>
 - b. Team Catford: <https://www.teamcatford.com/have-your-say>
3. All: Please let EWD and JK know if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Lewisham BAP, biodiversity report or Kenneth White application process.

Discussion:

1. **Welcome/Introductions/Apologies**
2. **Minutes and matters arising** – None
3. **Kenneth White Legacy Award**
 - a. Remembrance of **Ken White** (1923 – 2011) by LBC
 - i. Local author, historian, geographer and environmentalist

- ii. He grew up in Camberwell then moved to Forest Hill and spent a lot of time cycling around Lewisham
 - iii. He wrote many books e.g. on the Croydon Canal, a collection of the local cemeteries and walking guides
 - iv. He also wrote and illustrated '[The Quaggy River and its Catchment Area](#)' hand-written book which is still used by many for guided walks or as reference
 - v. He was also interested in architecture and visited pubs of South East London to note down architectural features
 - vi. LBC conducted an interview with him which can be seen here: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xs5snc>
 - vii. GT: He also catalogued the graves in Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, with his own unique cataloguing system
- b. Legacy Award decision 2020
- i. Different process from previous years which we will review for next year – please send us feedback
 - ii. Total amount available (for all applications): £2,500
 - iii. Received 16 applications, shortlisted 9 based on benefits to biodiversity and/or education, and value for money
 - iv. Congratulations to the **successful projects**:

Organisation	Project	Amount
Blackhorse Road Allotm.	Wildlife area improvement (bird boxes, insect hotels, wildflowers)	£200.35
F/O Dacres Wood	Pond dipping equipment	£322.35
Exford Road Allotments	Create a pond (liner, plants)	£150
F/O Forster Memorial Park	Bird and bat boxes	£400.79
Knapmill Way Allotments	Pond improvement, bird and bat box, wildflower area	£250
Quaggy Waterways Action Group	Healthy Rivers Project (equipment to run river events)	£387.10
Sydenham Garden	Setting up a Wildlife Club (part fund)	£400
Thames21	Weekly conservation sessions at River Pool Linear Park (match fund)	£373
Total		£2,483.59

- v. MK: offered a pond liner to Exford Road Allotments

4. Lewisham updates

- a. Lewisham's '[Parks and open spaces strategy 2020–2025](#)' has been approved in June and now the team started implementing it.
- b. Mayor and Cabinet approved the **declaration of Grove Park** Nature Reserve as a statutory **Local Nature Reserve** on 16th September.
- c. **Grow Back Greener** Fund
 - i. Deadline for applications 5th October!
 - ii. Projects between £5,000 and £50,000, 20% match funding can be in kind
 - iii. LBC: reminder that projects need to be finished by June 2021
 - iv. LS: Thames21 will submit proposal for Chinbrook meadows project, max 2 applications per organisation, LS will be in touch with relevant people

- d. **Lewisham Biodiversity Action Plan:** EWD started looking at it as it needs updating next year. If any ideas or suggestions please let me know. EWD will circulate draft for feedback.
- e. **Biodiversity sightings:** Started recording sightings differently to align better with GiGL format. Considering changes to Biodiversity Outputs Report as well, ideas welcome.
- f. **JK updates:**
 - i. Nature's Gym: started again in August, only 5 people + leader, adhering to Covid policy for volunteering approved by Lewisham's Gold Command
 - 1. LBC: also using the policy approved by Gold Command with the groups he is supporting
 - ii. JK worked on drafting a **Forest School Policy** including code of conduct which needs approving. Reached out to other boroughs, very positive feedback.
 - 1. LM: will the policy apply across the borough? JK: at the moment this is for nature reserves but would be good to standardise across the borough. JK and LM to meet and discuss further.
 - 2. AS: Is there a list of forest school providers? NP: there is a formal registration for accredited providers
 - iii. Updated all [educational materials](#)
 - iv. Forest schools started back at reserves
- g. **JW updates:**
 - i. Parks use increased during lockdown and Glendale works hard to manage parks and especially litter
 - ii. Rivers and people volunteers also back on Tuesdays
 - iii. Folkestone Gardens pond project is completed (relined the pond, trimmed trees and vegetation), moorhens and coots are already back
 - iv. Bird boxes decorated by local children were installed on Woodpecker Road
 - v. Bird and butterfly surveys are back on Hilly Fields and Ladywell Fields
- h. **LM updates (BPP):**
 - i. Volunteers are back since August, starting woodland management from end of September
 - ii. massive increase in visitor numbers which is great but presents challenges (litter etc.), need to remind people to take litter home
 - iii. Green Flag judging this week, result in October
 - iv. **Consultation** on the Eastern side of the park ends next week. Please fill out and circulate the consultation especially to young people and minority groups: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks/beckenham-place-park/consultation-on-changes-to-the-eastern-side-of-beckenham-place-park>

5. Biodiversity Partnership Summary Report and Highlights

- a. JK: many raptors seen, whitethroat in BLC, eels in Ravensbourne
- b. Wildlife sightings:
 - i. LBC: 2 Peregrines (fledglings) were seen over Hilly Fields
 - ii. CD: slow worm at Brockley Common
 - iii. ET: Peregrine on Christchurch, Church rise in Forest hill, hobby over BLC

- iv. DD: Lizard at Chinbrook orchard
- v. MK: Hedgehogs heard in Ladywell
- vi. JW: little egrets, song thrush, greater and juvenile green woodpecker nuthatches, kingfisher, swifts; common blues, gatekeepers, meadow browns
- c. DD: Ravensbourne Wickes carpark 8 birds beheaded and thrown in the river, social media, one looked like bird of prey, DD will keep an eye out

6. Partner updates

- a. **LBC (QWAG):** There is no flow of the River Qwaggy North of Chinbrook Meadows, also overgrown and loads of rubbish, LBC will investigate
- b. **AS (Sydenham Garden, F/O Mayow Park):**
 - i. started new project at Sydenham Garden – Nature Walks, 6 sessions planned observing nature to learn about biodiversity, going very well, 7 people attended today (education exempt from rule of 6)
 - ii. Two plants dominating the rubble roof at Sydenham Garden (kidney vetch and ribwort plantain), agreed to pull out some to allow other species to colonise
- c. **GT (F/O BLC):**
 - i. one volunteer session to cut back sycamore, next one planned for November
 - ii. green woodpeckers, not so many butterflies (common whites and marbled whites and meadow browns)
 - iii. Open House last weekend - 3 guided walks.
- d. **ET (F/O GRNR):**
 - i. Open days were very successful and very positive feedback, 60 people/session in total, new volunteers,
 - ii. volunteer sessions are back as well (e.g. created loggery, dead hedge)
 - iii. Bake-off event last weekend,
JK: big thanks for Friends of GRNR for their hard work with the open days, only group that opened after lockdown following all the protocols
- e. **AS2 (F/O Chinbrook Meadows):**
 - i. had one volunteering session, sadly someone took all the apples
 - ii. AS2 and LS to talk to about SUDS project and discuss opening up the main pond as it is dry and silted up
- f. **DD (F/O River Pool):**
 - i. there is an enthusiastic volunteer who is working hard to make the Wickes area better, permission from National Rail to have a mural there
Some suggestions for mural artists: Lionel Stanhope, Patricio Forrester of Artmongers
 - ii. Wednesday volunteering is back at the River Pool, new bins and benches will be installed soon
 - iii. Wetland area and pond is dried up, need to investigate
- g. **CH (Sydenham Garden):**
 - i. Covid measures are in place and sessions are back since August
 - ii. Lots of fox babies this year

- iii. Very positive feedback from beneficiaries during Covid that the Garden provided a lifeline for people, working hard to keep the outdoor sessions running as much as possible
- h. **MK (QWAG):**
 - i. Himalayan balsam eradication sessions with small groups
 - ii. keeping an eye on planning applications, good news that some contentious applications got rejected recently
 - iii. Catford consultation: urge everyone to respond and suggest to bring river out to daylight, <https://www.teamcatford.com/have-your-say>
 - iv. QWAG had an AGM, Dusty Gedge gave a presentation, Lewisham is the best borough or living roofs
 - v. thanks to Nick for all his years in the job and all he did and good luck with the new post and putting Biodiversity high up in priority in Lewisham open spaces and planning applications
- i. **AW (LWT):**
 - i. During lockdown online sessions, education and online materials prepared
 - ii. Volunteering started again in august
 - iii. restarting group and school sessions soon
 - iv. Heather Burrell to design new gates and fenceline to New cross gate cutting, completed by Feb next year
- j. **LS (Thames21):**
 - i. EA funding secured for a feasibility study for the 'Qwaggy links' project to look at options between Sutcliffe Park and Chinbrook Meadows
 - ii. Walkover with the QWAG group for the project – if anyone interested in joining the walkover let LS know
- k. **JH (Horniman Museum):**
 - i. gardens and nature trail were open while the museum was closed, well used and valued resource
 - ii. activities were suspended, so created digital resources for people
 - iii. gardening group and school group sessions started again
 - iv. CD is the new Climate and Ecology Coordinator moving forward the climate manifesto, incl. organising environmental Champion's club for families

7. AOB

- a. Everyone agreed that it is OK to send emails with everybody's email address visible. If you prefer your email address to not be shared please email EWD and JK.
- b. CD:
 - i. Wickes at Catford car park is a flytip, they need to do something with this.
DD: Wickes has done some work on this, trying to keep on top of litter
 - ii. trees planted on Blythe hill as part of Climate Action but no water point
JW: will look into getting a water butts in the park, elsewhere Friends group arranges water
AS2: could also ask Deptford Folk

8. Next meeting: 12th January 4pm