

Lewisham Biodiversity Group

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 14 July 2021, 16:00-18:00

Location: MS Teams

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

ATTENDEES			
AS	Alona Sheridan - F/O Mayow Park	GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery (BLC)
AED	Annette Elliott-Dunn	JK	Jessica Kyle – LBL Conservation Officer
AS	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows	JW	Judith Watling – Glendale Conservation Officer
CD	Carole Destre – Horniman Museum	LS	Lucy Shuker – Thames21
DD	Donna Davis – F/O River Pool	MK	Mike Keogh – QWAG
DF	David Ford - Lee Forum, London National Park City Rangers	MM	Monika Mitchell - F/O Sydenham Wells Park
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL Ecological Regeneration Manager	PM	Peter Maynard – LBL Parks Contracts and Allotments Officer
FR	Frances Rowe – Albion Millennium Green (AMG)	SB	Steve Bolton – Butterfly Conservation

ACTIONS:

1. EWD to share SB's email and the presentation with the Partnership. - Done
2. ALL to contact SB about getting involved with the project. Please also let EWD/JK know.
3. ALL to remember to send stats and sightings to us so we can have an accurate record on what is happening in the Borough! Thank you!
4. Projects that received funding from KW award in 2020 to send photos/update of project.
5. CD to ask CAL to send stats to JK so she can include in quarterly records
6. ALL who would like to attend the first aid training to email JK to book a place.
7. PM to check if street trees would be eligible for funding and let EWD know so she can update the Partnership. - Done
8. ALL to email EWD/JK with brief details of their skill/expertise that their willing to share in a training for Partnership members and/or ideas for future training that would be useful.
9. EWD to email Lewisham Homes about hedge and wildflower mowing. – Done
10. AED to send JK/EWD photos of the installed swift boxes.

Discussion:

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

- a. Apologies: Oli Back – Thames21, Maggi Leharne – Chinbrook Community Orchard, Emily Elkington, Alison Murphy – CTKSF, Marie-Claire Denyer – LBL,

Lucy Mitchell – LBL, Caroline/Bella – Friends of Home Park, Andrew Wright – London Wildlife Trust

2. **Big City Butterflies project presentation** by Steve Bolton (Butterfly Conservation) 4 year project by Butterfly Conservation to focus on butterflies and moths in London, 17 inner London Boroughs including Lewisham, South East area covered by Kent branch. Flagship site in Lewisham is Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries and there are other, satellite sites where activities will take place.

Project activities:

- Environmental education in schools
- Butterfly talks and walks
- Moth and butterfly surveys
- Habitat management advice and training, site advice visits
- Larger public events
- Butterfly identification and recording events and help with setting up monitoring schemes
- Support with seeding/plug planting and/or planting trees, hedges and shrubs

Please find further details in the attached presentation and contact Steve (sbolton@butterfly-conservation.org) directly if you would like to be involved in any activities within the Big City Butterfly Project.

Q&A:

- a. Q: Do you work with Buglife?
A: yes, BC works with Buglife on wider objectives but not within this project.
- b. Q: It would be a priority to work with Glendale on making more meadow areas and manage these areas properly.
A: We discussed to organise training for Glendale and grounds management staff.
- c. Q: Pinnacle and other Housing providers could benefit from the training offered.
Explore training for housing land managers.

Action: EWD to share Steve's email and the presentation with the Partnership.

Action: All to contact Steve about getting involved with the project. Please also let us know.

3. **Minutes and matters arising** – All actions completed or ongoing from last meeting, updates provided below

4. **Kenneth White Legacy Award applications and decision**

- a. Total amount available (for all applications): £2,500
- b. Received 13 applications and shortlisted nine based on 14 votes by members of the partnership considering benefits to biodiversity and/or education, and value for money
- c. The Partnership agreed to fund the shortlisted 9 applications.
- d. Congratulations to the **successful projects**:

Organisation	Project	Amount	Votes
Christ the King Sixth Forms	Hedgehog house and wildlife camera to monitor biodiversity and involve students in the school	£270.00	10
Friends of Brookmill Park	Planting native hawthorn hedgerow in Brookmill park	£270.00	9

Friends of Home Park	Install sparrow nesting boxes on to buildings and on trees in Home Park	£325.00	7
Buckthorne Road (Fourth Reserve)	Install wildlife cameras to monitor the wildlife using the habitats created in the reserve	£415.00	6
Albion Millennium Green	Install bird and bat boxes and conduct biodiversity survey involving local schools and the local community	£220.00	5
Dacres Wood Group	Planting native plants with local schools as part of the improvement of the Silverdale Enclosure	£270.00	5
Oldstead Road Allotments	Creation of a wildlife pond (part funded)	£300.00	5
Grove Park Community Group	Sourcing tools to manage the woodland area in the Ringway Centre by local volunteers	£401.48	5
Chinbrook Community Orchard	Replant some of the original tree varieties, plant wildlife friendly plants and install bird boxes	£169.85	4
Total		£2,641.33	

- e. Applications that were not successful this year are encouraged to take a look at the Greening Fund and/or apply again next year.

5. Biodiversity Partnership Summary Report and Highlights (JK)

- a. Partnership is back in full swing again and organised 222 events engaging 1711 adults and 2065 children. Please see full records in the attached excel.
b. Lots of surveys (38) were conducted in the quarter

Action: All to remember to send stats and sightings to us so we can have an accurate record on what is happening in the Borough! Thank you!

- c. Kenneth White Award items were provided to successful applicants and they are being installed. We were asking for project updates and only received from some projects.

The Partnership agreed that if no report and/or photos are provided by successful projects those applicants will not be able to apply for funding in the future.

Action: Projects that received funding from KW award in 2020 to send photos/update of project.

- d. Wildlife sightings:
- i. Peregrine falcon spotted in St. Pauls Churchyard, Deptford.
 - ii. Tawny owl in Grove Park LNR.
 - iii. Red kite spotted over Beckenham Place Park
 - iv. Slow worms and stag beetles at Buckthorne Road
 - v. Lots of sightings of Peacock butterflies.
 - vi. Hedgehog spotted near Grove Park LNR
 - vii. Buzzards in Beckenham Place Park

6. Lewisham updates

a. **JK updates:**

- i. Nature's Gym is back to full strength since July
- ii. Forest school and education policy works very well
- iii. 3 Rivers Clean Up (3RCU) took place in May and June, not advertised widely but there were many sessions organised by partnership members involving 167 people, collecting 191 bags of litter and pulling over 5000 Himalayan Balsams
DD: there are many GH upstream which were also treated as part of 3RCU
MK: LBC, MK and others had pesticide training and treating invasive plants along rivers
CD: Climate Action Lewisham (CAL) also organises litter picking sessions

Action: CD to ask CAL to send stats to JK so she can include in quarterly records

- iv. Outdoor first aid training: 23-24th August in Dacres Wood, delivered by React First Aid

Action: All who is interested in the training to email JK to book a place.

b. **JW updates:**

- i. Rivers and People and NG volunteering restarted and had sessions as part of 3RCU. Himalayan Balsam was not as bad as past years.
- ii. Cornmill Gardens: Boardwalks are done and clearing vegetation to provide views to the river
- iii. Bird surveys are ongoing in Hilly Fields: Nuthatches were seen with 5 chicks, the bird boxes that were put up in previous years are used by blue and great tits
- iv. Mandarin ducks and their chicks were seen in Ladywell Fields
- v. Butterflies are also abundant in Hilly Fields this year

c. **LM updates (BPP):**

- i. [BPP Flower show](#) is back this year – please enter the competition and see further details on the event's website.
- ii. Spotted 2 Buzzards in the Park

d. **PM updates:**

- i. Mayor's [New Greening Fund](#):
 - S106 moneys to improve Lewisham owned parks and open spaces, user groups apply and parks team implements the projects
 - key themes: Access, Young People and Play, and Biodiversity and Sustainability
 - eligibility: constituted groups and resident, improvements on Lewisham owned land – please read the guidance carefully for eligibility
 - both large and small applications are welcome, maximum project grant amount is £40,000
 - deadline for applications is 24th September
- ii. Q&A:
 - Q: street areas/trees are eligible? street trees should be included in Greening Fund and Street Trees for Living could apply for grants.
A: they might be eligible, need to check
Update: planting street trees cannot be funded by the Greening Fund

Action: PM to check if street trees would be eligible for funding and let EWD know so she can update the Partnership.

- Q: Are paths repair in parks eligible?

A: yes

- iii. NCIL deadline is 25th July, Grow Back Greener deadline is 13th September
- iv. [Covid Community Champions](#): The Public Health Department at Lewisham are looking for Covid Community Champions. If you want to help fight coronavirus by sharing the latest trustworthy information around your community please visit the link above for more information
- v. **Call to share your skills/expertise**: we are aware that many Partnership members have great skills and knowledge that could be shared with other members at future training events. If you are a gifted bid writer, have knowledge of orchard management, social media skills or any other expertise/knowledge you would be willing to share with other members then please do let us know with a brief description of the skill/training. Also let us know if you have an idea for a training that might be interesting for other Partners as well.

Action: All to email EWD/JK with brief details of skill/expertise to share in a training or ideas for future training that would be useful.

- vi. Lewisham BAP – thank you all who provided comments which were very useful!
 - Still work in progress
 - Woodlands will be added

7. Partner updates

- a. **DF (Lee Forum, London National Park city rangers)**
 - i. Tree walks in Manor House Gardens and Northbrook Park
 - ii. Litter picking in Manor House Gardens
- b. **MM (Sydenham Wells Park)**
 - i. Plant sale was very successful, record income
 - ii. Planted a wildlife area
 - iii. Concentrating on greening fund
- c. **GT (F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery):**
 - i. Open day on Sunday was very successful with about 150 people, Tom Moulton ran a nature walk
 - ii. Lots of marbled whites this year
 - iii. Butterfly surveys stopped now as the person who did the surveys moved away
 - iv. 15 August next volunteer day
- d. **FR (AMG):**
- e. Wildflowers are very diverse this year in Albion Millennium Green which many butterflies enjoy (e.g. ringlets)
- f. Teatro Vivo had a successful play about the history of Sydenham Enclosure
- g. **LS (Thames21):**
 - i. Beckenham Place Park proposal was sadly not successful but application is being changed to focus on wider area and build on other activities in the Borough to be submitted to NCIL fund
 - ii. If anyone is interested in participating in river projects please contact LS (lucy.shuker@thames21.org.uk)
- h. **CD (Horniman Museum, sent in writing):**
 - i. Museum is planting a mini woodland in September

- ii. new meadow is beautifully in full flower (artificial meadow)
 - iii. Will create a hedgehog box as an education tool to use for the Environment Champions Club
 - i. **AS (Mayow Park, Sydenham Garden)**
 - i. Mayow Park: Many invertebrate sightings (e.g. rose chafer beetle), it was also a good year for bumblebees
 - ii. 25th July: bug safari with Iain Boulton
 - iii. Sydenham Garden green roof: plant species change each year, last year kidney vetch dominance while this year it is not abundant and some new species appeared (e.g. poppy, corncockle)
 - j. **DD (F/O River Pool)**
 - i. Installed a new kingfisher box, hopefully will be used next year
 - ii. finished berm and improvements of the river bank
 - iii. Number of volunteers increased
 - iv. Lots of stag beetle and kingfisher sightings
 - v. People are swimming in the river where it became deep enough
 - k. **MK (QWAG)**
 - i. Visited Sydenham Cottages and treated Japanese Knotweed there and elsewhere in the Borough
 - ii. working on Quaggy Links project
 - iii. Litter clean up at confluence at Lewisham centre, which is not publicly available anymore
 - iv. Signal crayfish appeared in Sutcliffe Park
 - l. **AED (F/O Hillcrest Wood)**
 - i. Owl numbers are up, and there are lots of finches, chaffinches (fledged twice) and two pairs of nuthatches
 - ii. Less song thrushes and swifts seen this year
 - iii. Hedges planted by LWT were removed by Lewisham Homes, they also mowed wildflowers
- Action: EWD to email Lewisham Homes about hedge and wildflower mowing.**
- iv. Laurel was removed which had a very positive impact
 - v. KW swift boxes went up in school last year but not occupied yet despite speakers also being installed

Action: AED to send JK/EWD photos of the installed swift boxes.

8. AOB

- a. EWD: Christ the King Sixth Form call for speakers – circulated info about conference on 27th August, please contact Alison directly if you are interested in presenting

9. Next meeting: 13th October 4pm (location TBC)