

16 November, 2009 Minutes

Present: Jim, Stephanie, Allen, Emma, Nicole, Jim B, Celia, Jim R, Luke

Event-

Agreed date that suited most is Saturday 5th December 11-1500. This is in Tree Week, and is also the day when BBC Breathing Places are holding the “Tree o Clock” (!) attempt at planting the most trees in an hour nationwide.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock/pledgeform.shtml>

Three planting elements:

a) Hedge: Richard of BTCV supplying plants, and will be planting half of the hedge before the event, and we will finish it on the day (digging, adding improved soil etc)

ACTION: Luke to confirm arrival of plants, whether bare root or potted, and delivery arrangements etc with BTCV, cost of BTCV agreed from 08/9 CGS fund

b) Community Orchard: planting fruiting species (wild pear, crabapple, blackthorn (sloe), hazel and other)

ACTION: Emma to check supplies of non-poisonous fruiting species available, and to ask Jon Best to speak to Marsden Rd to see if we can get them free rather than £1/plant, and confirm delivery arrangements. Jim B also to investigate potential source of trees.

c) Brandon St/corner of Browning estate: planting 50kg bulbs, plus other

ACTION: Jon to install knee rail at corner (note Southwark have OKd, need to check with Browning EMB too), and Jim R to identify other plants/plan for planting

Other parts of the event:

a) Art: all agreed that Christmas theme gave plenty of opportunities for themes – could include decorating the lone conifer in the orchard, or using cones and holly etc to make small decorations.

ACTION: Allen to check with Gary if available, Luke with Cathy. Celia/all to think about how to obtain holly/cones etc.

b) Playbuilder display: presentation of final plans.

ACTION: Luke to ask Julia to provide large scale plans/any interpretation

ACTION: Emma to confirm if marquee / display boards are available

c) Refreshments

Volunteers:

a) Celia for hedge

b) Luke, Jon, Ben, Jim B, Nicole, Jim R for Orchard / Brandon St?

c) Allen for refreshments?

Playbuilder-

Julia to present final designs on MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER (next FoNRP meeting)

Emma confirmed that Southwark have vetoed water pump. Also they will be doing a soil test of the “tunnel” area – though the group noted that this will all be in soil newly placed there in 2007, so FHP and Calabasas should be able to confirm what soil was used/that it is not contaminated (we hope).

Emma to circulate first pass of communication leaflet – ideally we can also combine this with a 5th Dec event flyer. Agreed that the leaflet would mention all of Southwark (as funders of

Playbuilder), Walworth Community Council (as funders of CGS/path bid) and FoNRP.
ACTION: Emma to circulate first draft next week (?) and all to suggest other bits of news / items that we can add to it for a FoNRP angle.

Julia's idea of incorporating some interactive construction (brass rubbings, carving, chainsaw demonstration) very well received. To await costings from Julia. Note that tentative meeting in park arranged for 930am Weds 4th with the carver/designer, all welcome. Ideas included doing brass rubbing plaques with outline of plants, and with letters.
ACTION: Luke/Julia to confirm

Maintenance-

Emma confirmed that Deborah McKenzie is helping liaise with Parks Maintenance wrt the CGS bids (noting that Parks are not happy with installing new CEDEC surfaces as part of our new CGS bid, but that we need to establish a maintenance regime for the existing CEDEC paths anyway.) This meeting to consider wider issues relating to orchard, meadow, hedge, cleanliness etc..
ACTION: Emma to assist in setting up meeting

Emma is also working with Haydn in maintenance and Simon Baxter in market to get litter picking arrangements improved. Noted that the contract states that litter should be picked (and bins emptied) every day before 11am, and also at end of day every day.

ACTION: All to monitor – perhaps “adopt a bin” to check and report back. Jim R has volunteered to adopt the bin at the Brandon St entrance s of Crown. Other volunteers welcome”

Disabled Play Fund-

Emma outlined a new fund for play equipment called “aiming high”. Confirmed that we will bid in 2010/11.
Celia noted that Chaplin Adventure Playground on the Lambeth/Southwark border (Bolton Crescent SE5) has good examples.

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/Environment/ParksGreenSpaces/AdventurePlaygrounds.htm#Charlie>

Interpretation Boards-

Luke (still) to draft text, and put ideas for images. To work with Celia who is researching images / layouts for Victory.
All to identify possible sources of free images / or issues with using (and sourcing) other peoples' photos – Geoff? Jim R?

AOB-

Dates/day/frequency of meetings

Agreed that given lack of progress on planning front we should move to a monthly meeting cycle; to be held on Mondays. Venue generally to remain 67 Balfour St (as previous Monday booking has moved to Tuesday).

Next meeting: 16th November. Playbuilder final plans.

East St Christmas festival-

Jim B noted that WCC had discussed the forthcoming East St Market revitalisation plan including holding stalls etc in the park near the market.

ACTION: Luke to contact Des Waters to find out more. Perhaps to ask for FoNRP stall?

CGS 10/11 fund-

Emma informed us that the next round of bids is likely to be before Christmas, rather than in the new financial year, for some reason.

ACTION: All to suggest ideas for a bid theme. Celia suggested decorative lighting in the Plane Trees (noting that all the uplighters installed in 2007 are now not working!)

Brandon St Ballcourt Trees-

Luke noted that Officers have now recommended that the variation order to remove the condition protecting the trees be removed. This decision is to be heard at a Walworth CC Planning Meeting on 10th November.

<http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=180&MIId=2848&Ver=4>

Venue is Thurlow Lodge Community Hall, Wendover, Corner of Thurlow Street and Albany Road, SE17 2UZ

If interested, it is worth reading the officer's report – here:

<http://planningonline.southwarksites.com/planningonline2/AcolNetCGI.exe?>

ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeDocs&TheSystemkey=9532577

Attendance / speaking at the meeting would be helpful if interested. Line could be that

a) this sort of mature tree removal would not be being contemplated in N or S of borough

b) tree officer reported conclusion is evidently reluctant

c) consultation and design based on retention. And all evidence now being presented is entirely based on visual inspection – which could also clearly have been done (and probably was) at design stage. So

it is a cost-based decision, not about the tree health. But the cost impacts are not quantified.

Stephanie noted that the council website has some policy information.

<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/YourServices/environment/Trees/>

Jim R volunteered to take some pictures of other places where new developments have been built very close to mature trees (two locations on Tower Bridge Rd, Aldwich, Long Lane)