



26 March, 2012

Attendees: Nicole, Jim, Allan, Thea, Jim R, Jules, Jon, Luke

1. Long term Goals and how do we get there?

SINC Status: It was noted that SINC status for NRP is referred to in the Open Space Strategy. It would be helpful for all to consider writing in support. The consultation runs until Tues 24th April

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/856/planning_policy/2535/open_space_strategy/1

ACTION: Jim Rossiter to draft a couple of paragraphs for all to use if they find useful
Further to Celia's suggestion that evidence of biodiversity will be important in securing SINC status, volunteers needed to spend an hour or so in the park when the meadow is flowering to report species to GIGL's wildlife monitoring site:

<http://www.gigl.org.uk/Submitrecords/Oneoffrecords/tabid/63/Default.aspx>

ACTION: volunteers needed, Luke happy to input data if that is helpful, pls ask.

Dogs & Drinkers

C PT worker

Due to lack of time, no discussion on these two areas, but if you have time to review any of the following links please can you let Laura/Luke/Nicole know?

Some suggestions/ideas for grant funding:

<http://localgiving.com/charity/southparkusersgroup>

<http://www.wakefieldtrust.org.uk/fund-details.php>

<http://tudortrust.org.uk/what-we-do/what-we-fund/>

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index/funding-uk/communities/community_programmes.htm

<http://www.londoncf.org.uk/grants/available-grants/overview.aspx>

<http://phf.org.uk/landing.asp?id=3>

<http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund/funding-selection-criteria/>

ACTION: any volunteers

2. Event planning –date confirmed for 28 april – launch of our new logo

- Brass band confirmed [need 20 chairs] cost £200
- Sports [needs prizes]
- Playrangers confirmed
- Sunflower seed planting
- Grasses planting (supplied by Quadron)
- Won't need big tent
- Jon to contact Spark Pop Up Shop (done, contact discussing with colleagues)

- Need name quickly – any ideas?
- LCC helping us with banner, flyers and posters

OTHER DATES TBC

- July (depending on dog show)
- September (autumn/haystack/surrey docks farm)

3. AOB

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 23th APRIL [NOT last Monday of month as that is just after the event]

4. Thoughts/research drafted up by Laura re: charity status

BECOMING A CHARITY

- All charities must operate within the constraints of charity law.
- It must be for the wider public benefit and does work which is defined as charitable.
- If income is than £5000 / year, it does not have to be registered but will still be regulated by the Charity Commission.
- If registered, charities must report annually to the Commission. A fee is expected for independent audited accounts. (Audited accounts are required for income of £25 000 or more)
- You must have a MINIMUM of 3 Trustees. They have legal responsibility that publicly donated funds are spent in achieving the agreed charitable purpose and are correctly accounted for
- If working with children, all trustees must have a CRB check.

Things to think about:

- Best practices: clear aims, a strong board of trustees, financially sound and prudent, accountable and transparent, a safeguarding child policy

Pros:

- Access to more funding sources (this does not mean once applied, we will be granted the funds)
- Taken more seriously as a group
- There are other organisations that offer free or discounted help and advice to charities
- Tax breaks

Cons:

- more work for the Friends? (eg financial reporting obligations, updating constitution to a model governing document)

****In Southwark, the only Friends group that is a registered charity is the Friends of Dulwich Park.**

For small organisations with an income under £5000

- A small charitable organisation with an income that does not exceed £5,000 can enjoy the benefits of charitable status without having to meet the regulatory requirements of registered charities.
- You can apply directly to HMRC for tax relief. Like a registered charity number, an HMRC charity number should be accepted by banks and grant funders as evidence of your charitable status.

** You should apply to HMRC if you are an organisation that wants to make claims for the Gift Aid scheme or other repayments of tax.

HMRC DETAILS – http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/guidance-notes/chapter2/chapter_2.htm

2.1 What is a charity for tax purposes?

2.1.1 The Taxes Acts set out four conditions for 'a body of persons or trust' to be a charity for tax purposes. These are that the organisation:

- is established for charitable purposes only
- meets the jurisdiction condition
- meets the registration condition
- meets the management condition

A 'body of persons' includes companies, unincorporated associations and other groups.

2.1.2 A 'body of persons or trust' is established for 'charitable purposes only' if it was set up by a governing, or founding, document that restricts its purposes to those detailed in section 2 of the (England and Wales) Charities Act 2006. The organisation must be established in an EU Member State or a country listed as a relevant territory in regulations.

2.1.3 For an organisation to be 'established for charitable purposes only' it must be restricted by its governing document to using all its income and assets for its stated charitable purposes.

2.1.4 To satisfy the jurisdiction condition the organisation must be subject to the control of a court in the exercise of that court's jurisdiction with respect to charities. In the UK this is the High Court, the Court of Session in Scotland or the High Court in Northern Ireland. In a relevant territory outside the UK this means a court with a corresponding jurisdiction.

2.1.5 In order to meet the registration condition, an organisation that is required to register with a charity regulator under the law of the territory in which it is established must be so registered. So, for example, an organisation in England that is required to register with the Charity Commission must be so registered to meet the registration condition.

2.1.6 The management condition is concerned with the propriety of the persons who have control and management of the organisation (the managers). There is more detailed guidance on this available.

Fit and proper persons guidance

2.1.7 Further details on the charitable tax exemptions can be found in Annex I of these Guidance Notes.

2.1.8 For a charity to be able to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme, other giving schemes and the charitable tax exemptions, and to be able to make claims for repayment of tax, it must complete a Charities Application form (ChA1)(PDF 721K) so that HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) Charities can decide whether it satisfies the relevant conditions and set up the appropriate records.

RESOURCES AND INFO FOR SMALL CHARITIES:

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/Specialist_guidance/Small_charities/default.aspx