

8 July, 2009 Annual General Meeting

1. Attendees

Garry Malloy (Rodney T&RA), Peter Wright (E Walworth Green Links), Stephanie and Jim Lodge (Southwark FoE), David Curtis, Laura Kim, Ben and Theo Gill, Jim and Nicole Beedell, Jim Rossiter, Allen Gillespie, Jon Dennison, Celia Cronin, Luke Miller

2. Apologies for Absence

Gill Manock, Emma Longman (Southwark), Cllrs Martin Seaton, Kirsty McNeill & Jane Salmon, Eloise Touni, Geoff Milner, Chris Wollen.

3. Chair's Report

Key issues discussed:

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Getting Borough Open Land status for NRP: after discussion agreed that it is a positive step that Core Strategy currently indicates that NRP is going to be given enhanced protection, but that this is a time consuming process and that we must continue to monitor the situation.

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Planting: need to identify more funding sources, but also critical that we manage what we have effectively. Agreed that we should try to increase the size of the orchard substantially. Post meeting note: Luke met Rowena Ganguli of London Orchard project on Sunday 12th July and signs seem positive for our orchard to be included within their scheme, although they are also looking for matching funding if possible, and are heavily over-subscribed.

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Vandalism: noted that most of the more mature new fruit trees planted in orchard have been vandalised over time. Suggested that planting lots of small whips (and moving some of those planted in early '08), plus providing protection/disguise in the form of netting and other climbing plants has been successful in Salisbury Row. Noted that park wardens often start at 08:30 or later; much antisocial behaviour is before this time.

4. Treasurer's Report

FoNRP bank account with Co-op shows balance of receipts over the year at £720, with no outgoings to date.

5. Committee Nominations/Elections

Stephanie Lodge requested nominations for committee members (in line with constitution). Following voting, the existing chair, treasurer and secretary were confirmed for the coming year unopposed.

6. AOB

The summer music event 8th August was discussed. Laura raised idea of sports day/relays etc. and all agreed this should be incorporated into the event.

All contributed ideas for the coming year under headings of activities for the Friends, planting ideas and play ideas. These are summarised here.

Friends activity ideas

Counting/identifying Heygate trees plus transplanting plan for valuable shrubs/plants.

Address dogs and damage from them to trees.

Get more cleaning and bins.

Push for more seating.

Push for more cleaning of East St market entrances.

Try for a tool shed.

Collect rubbish for a period of time before event and show how much is left.

Website.

Greener catering at events: reusable cups etc.

Compost bin.

Support other local groups (inc. Brandon St).

Dog days.

Review long term plan re girders.

Increase diversity of group.

Close roads.

7. Next Meeting

Note that next meeting will be Weds 5th August [NOT 22nd JULY], and will focus on the event and Playbuilder consultation planning.

It is suggested that following the August event, we could have a site visit to Playbuilder play areas in Camden, Tower Hamlets and/or Hackney during a weekend morning instead of an evening meeting, for discussion.

Play ideas

Football area (even just two sets of two posts).

Closing Orb st sth of Deans Buildings for play area.

Basketball net.

Big fallen trees for climbing.

A treasure trail that links the different areas of the park (at either end, perhaps link this to a bigger borough-wide trail).

Nervous about where to put equipment.

More adventurous:

treehouse, ropes from trees, basketball net.

Invite scouts to do some survival sessions.

Kickabout area.

Planting ideas

Meet Hayden at Southwark to discuss maintenance and particularly meadow re-planting activity plus bulbs.

More planting on Crown Terrace and along wall to Browning Estate.

Encourage people to give/look after flowering plants.

Planting along wall, bulbs to start.

Apple trees in the bare bit of the orchard.

Blackcurrant and redcurrant trees in the orchard.

Real entrance to park from East St (not gated!)

More upkeep of grassy area under mature Plane trees.

Knee rail around Brandon St entrances.

Extend hedge completely along.
Increase size of orchard.
Wet area for frogs etc..
Restock broken trees in hedge and orchard.
More (and good) tools.
Get maintenance plan together.
Something else with BTCV.
Scrape.
Agapanthus, hollyhocks.
Share/borrow tools.