



Forum Partnership Meeting No. 33

Thursday 21ST March 2024, 10am – Video Conferencing

Larry Herbert (LH)
Richard Gibbons (RG)
Ralph Ambrose (RA)
Keith Rodwell (KR)

Hugh Chapman (HC)
Hannah Jackson (HJ)
Mollie Lyon (ML)

Martyn Bradley (MB)
Mark Garthwaite (MG)
Sue Holland (SH)
Angela Wood (AW)
Jess Dalton (JD) (Minutes)

AGENDA

1. Welcome & introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last meeting / Action tracker
4. Council update
5. idverde update
6. Forum update
7. Any other business
8. Date of next meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions

LH welcomed all participants and began introductions.

2. Apologies for Absence

Friends Forum: Vivien Smith (VS), Barbara Arora (BA), Tony Allen (TA)

LBB: Cllr Will Rowlands (WR), Jane Askew (JA), David Braybrook (DB)

3. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising (Action Tracker Update)

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting.

The action tracker was reviewed, amended, and updated including new due dates for actions outstanding, this can be found attached to the minutes. A summary of changes to the action tracker is as follows:

Action 24: Park signage updates – **Continued to be reviewed.** LH been in contact with Forum members to use the jotform process to take a further audit of the main entrance signs across Bromley's parks and green spaces.

HJ added funding is very tight, aware signage could be improved, had an understanding to what will be done when budget is available to replace the signs. Key priority are the entrance signs. LH asked if there

were plans to have another meeting with the signage working party. HJ commented would be fine but want some progress on the audit.

RG requested for an updated list on responses that have been received to date, has any work been done on intermediate solutions e.g. at Church House Gardens. AW advised community managers can support in some way, but is limited. Need to prioritise which parks need covering. HJ advised part of the audit was to assess scale of the problem so the interims or temporary solutions could be costed. Where there are specific issues, temporary signage has been put in place. MG agreed with HJ comments, can move quickly to address any immediate concerns.

MB added in terms of the resident's survey, the signage received a low response rate. There is an appetite to understand where we are in the process. Suggested AW to circulate list of parks which identifies where we have got feedback and where there are Friends Groups that are active, and for them to undertake the local survey. Happy that *idverde* will commission the community managers to pick up the difference. Will review again in 3 months and if no significant update on the Friends Group engagement, it can't be a serious issue to resolve.

HC added do we have a generic main park sign like a PDF format which could be developed. LH advised no, part of this when action initiated was thoughts on a new design and what a sign should look like. HJ advised this is what the meetings were about having the essential information on them.

Action 25: Water fountains – Ongoing. HJ has chased up, contractors have been out on site looking at existing fountains and locations for potential new fountains. Didn't have important costing information. Progress has been made, not quite where would like to be, update due for next meeting.

Action 30: Website information- Continued to be reviewed. MG did not understand full background for website, aware there's two parts to it, desire to re-design the entire Bromley Parks website and then wish to upgrade the current pictures/photos and flow of the website. Has a proposal for re-doing the entirety. It isn't cost friendly, would like to know if this is still an ambition or to re-align Bromley Parks website with the open spaces strategy in terms of defining what park fits in with the strategy. LH added simpler than that, wanted to link between the three websites, plan was the Forum website has individual details about Friends Groups, the LBB website has a link to the Forum site & *idverde* website provides info that *idverde* offers. Doesn't need to repeat the info that the Forum offers. MG agrees with LH, re-design isn't required just a brush up of the page as a whole.

HJ added had specific feedback from KR, being able to categorise parks, having recent photos and something around filtering out which had Friends Groups, which then linked to the Forum website for more info. On LBB website there has been changes to the Friends Groups and where more information can be found. MG is meeting with web host again and photos are now needed. LH suggested photos are not needed, HJ added this was a specific request from KR. KR commented the Forum has a lot of info on the Friends Groups, the intention was not to duplicate info on both websites. KR has never been asked for the updates by LBB & *idverde* about what should be included. KR added it is about ensuring the linkage is correct, relaying to LH mentioning duplicate info is not needed. MG agrees and understands concerns, it is just LBB & *idverde* website which requires upgrading. MB commented after the follow-up meeting with web host provider to pick up with KR separately before any changes are started. HJ added some feedback given some things are now not needed, to discuss with AW, will pick up with LH & KR separately.

Action 37: Communications processes – HJ has a draft, needs completing. Aim to send to LH, when feedback received can hopefully close action.

Action 38: Friends Group donations from events – MB advised already engaged with commercial dialogue with the authority, don't think it's appropriate to share at the Forum at this stage, discussions are ongoing to LH point raised.

4. Council Update

HJ showed presentation which gave an update on behalf of the Council including:

- Jubilee parks fund - project funding now reached £620K. Playground upgrades to be started in May for Queensmead Rec, Goddington Park, Palace Square and McAndrews Rec along with the projecting phase 1 at Coney Hall. 2 projects due for delivery in June.
- Events - Bromley in Bloom / the Big Lunch
- Infrastructure - ML working hard on tender documents for Kelsey Park bridge
- Sports - tennis court renovations / non turf cricket pitches
- Waterbodies including Kelsey Lakes
- Biodiversity Trials (Sustainable Planting and Nature Friendly Verges)
- Woodland Establishment including tiny forest at Cator Park
- Arboriculture - tremendous project on track, app now available on both IOS and Android
- Parks Buildings Lease Process

RG raised queries on:

- Bromley brush up, can LBB liaise with Veolia who are already organising unity events and encouraging groups to organise litter-picking events. HJ added this is already coming from Veolia and LBB are working with them on this.
- Trees that were planted last year have since been dug up, wonders if this is happening across the Borough and what was the situation on this. HC advised difficult without the understanding of each case by case. There is no programme as such to take them, there are specific examples trees were put in wrong location by contractor or inappropriate location. Would need to review case by case, RG to send info to HC so this can be reviewed.

RA raised a query on Hoblingwell perimeter rail - understand due to start next week, not had an update. Has concerns could affect Hoblingwell Park Run, wants to find out who he can talk to about co-ordinating so can maintain the event. Has a particular point on the course where the rail is installed, if course needs to be changed then needs to be made aware in advance. ML added recently received programme for works, has liaised with contractor and asked if can start on Leasons Way as preferred route to then have less impact on the course. ML continuing to chase, will provide RA with an update.

LH raised query on behalf of Friends of Whitehall Rec for defibrillators installation, has taken a while to progress. AW advised the hold-up was due to ascertain with Facilities Management about who was installing and their contractors had to install, they advised they are willing to do as a good will gesture for the Friends Group. They may have installed it since the meeting was held, but all is going ahead.

LH has had comments on the waterbody notices, not clear what is supposed to happen. Dog licencing notices being put in areas where no dogs are allowed at all. What thought has been put in to where they go and what they say. HJ asked if this is linked to PSPO, LH advised it is, not clear whether the

waterbody relates to specifics. HJ advised not her initial impression when reading it, ask for a review with colleagues. MG added when installing signs, they seemed clear, feedback MG has had is with Cemeteries, dogs are not allowed at all but on the signs it says they are allowed on leads. RA added there are four different notices within 5 metres, two are new, and every gate has a different notice. MG advised *idverde* & LBB were following from request of neighbourhoods. HJ added main purpose was they get renewed on a cycle. The signage needs to be specific enough to the PSPO, so a generic at the entrance for an overview then there will be a PSPO for each specific e.g. for a waterbody there will be one stating your dog must not swim in this water. Understands RA concerns of previous iterations of signage being displayed still and pass onto enforcement colleagues. MG added when inspections are being done, if there are signs that are not needed, we can take them down. If they are corex, whether they need to be upgraded.

5. idverde Update

AW started presentation by giving an update on Community Management on behalf of the Parks Development Team including:

- Community Highlights
- Fundraising Highlights
- Future events taking place.

SH continued presentation by giving an update on behalf of the Countryside and Education Team including:

- Countryside Highlights
- Educational Highlights
- Team updates
- Friend's Forum courses planned to happen.

RG raised query on litter pick due to happen on 05/04/24 at Green St. Green, there was one organised for 06/04/24. There is very little litter at the site as it is litter picked regularly. The issue is the lack of emptying the bins. AW advised Jade Veronie (JV) has been liaising for the 5th April as it came as a community litter pick as it is a hot spot area from reports on FMS and we are trying to support those areas particularly. May need to communicate with JV.

RA raised queries on:

- Forum courses, want to confirm the dates and if the tool maintenance & hedge laying is one course or two. SH confirmed dates are not yet finalised, they will be uploaded onto the booking page, the courses are two separate.
- General maintenance & cutting plans had a team at Hoblingwell and they tried to avoid sections they know we care about, mapping may need to be updated. MG advised to liaise with Paul Meek on any issues.
- Bin replacement programme not sure where we are at, if there is an update on this. AW advised if a H&S concern or if they are becoming aged, there is a priority list. Aim is to replace the bins across the Borough through the course of the contract, there are a set amount each year.

LH raised query with MG, after attending members meeting, would like to know progress on actions. MG advised has relayed info to RG for butterfly beds and nature friendly verges, expecting some

communications from parties on direct questions. MG unsure what report was for, thought it was a specific request from RG. LH to get back to MG on it.

LH raised query with AW on training course for running events. Have been unsuccessful with Lollipop events as it was too expensive, can idverde provide a cut down, simplified version which Forum would be happy to pay for. MB added may be worth for Lily to liaise with Elaine on generating an e-learning course. AW added Lily did provide links for different websites and options which was sent to LH previously. MB added consideration needed internally within idverde and will feedback at the next meeting if can or can't support.

6. Friends Forum Update

LH gave an update on the Friends Group which included:

Updated the Forum website to ensure information on Friends Groups is up-to-date and correct. A lot of time in last few months has been spent reacting to documents which have been provided. They are being reviewed and will get back with comments. Trying to arrange the events training course. Held meeting with members' few weeks ago which MG kindly attended, lots of information exchanged. Have also discussed with AW about hi-vis jackets and where we stand.

HJ asked LH what the plans are to spend the grant. LH advised has increased policy for small grants from max limit £300 to £500, and rate of grant from 50% to 75%, whichever is lower. Will monitor demand from Groups. Hopefully will sensitise people to apply, if doesn't work will look to offer £150 support payments to Groups. Also looking at purchase of hi-vis jackets to donate to Groups. Grant will also go towards other essential costs, such as licensing, insurance consumables and expenses. HJ asked has there been much engagement since rules have changed on potential projects. LH advised not so far, has only been decided in the last month.

7. AOB

RG advised H&S video has been circulated to Forum, if it goes the same way as others then volunteers will be asked to re-register and declare they have watched the training video. How will this fit in with the Friends Parks version. HJ added understanding is things are different for Friends Groups due to organisation, the H&S video was to be a supportive resource for Groups who want to do self-lead activities rather than replacing the existing way idverde manage the H&S of current friends of parks. AW added SH has been working on a training video for leading a self-lead work session which would need certification of attendance. LH added that not every volunteer will watch this training video but it is for those Groups that want to run self-lead activities. MB commented idverde & LBB do not want volunteers to injure themselves, sounds like the process is still evolving and idverde is more than happy to support. Value what the volunteers do for the parks, if there's more inputting support to encourage safe activities in the parks, we will investigate what further guidance may be needed.

Post Meeting Note: LH asked MB if idverde would like to review the insurance arrangements and consider a new supplier for the policies which fall due on 24th June. MB to discuss with team.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting date has been arranged for: Thursday 20th June 2024 starting at 10am (Online). The subsequent meeting will be Thursday 26th September 2024.

[Meeting ended]