



Friends of Firs Farm

General Meeting : 20th October, 2016

Attendees:

David Miller, Gail Nielen, Julie Bland, Mary and Greta O’Kane, Alison Sutherland, Jo Attree

Apologies: Toni Guiver, Eileen Hearly, Carl Redondo, Olga and Keith Hepburn.

1. Agree Previous Minutes

30/6 meeting was the festival planning meeting and hence no minutes were generated.

2. Firs Farm Wetlands Transformation Update

Council update received from Ian Russell (IR) and Martin Jones (MJ):

- The footpath around wetlands has now been surfaced
- Outdoor classroom is almost finished, works due to be complete in next few weeks, there may be an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in planting (please contact the friends if interested)
- Works to construct the 'South Branch Diversion' from Clowes Sportsground over to Firs Farm are currently out to tender, start date expected to be early December
- Enfield/Thames21 have been monitoring water quality for 9 months now and the report is with the friends on water quality improvements achieved by the wetlands.
- The dipping platform and new footbridge is scheduled to begin the week commencing October 31st, so this will be completed before Christmas.

There is now confirmation for funding to improve the north east entrance into Firs Farm from Harrington Terrace. Also to connect the footpaths with a new path along the top of the flood bund.

Planting – There will be a call to organise some planting with volunteers. Bulb planting and possibly some small tree planting in the area around the outdoor classroom wildlife window and seating area. (please contact friends if interested)

The woodland walk tree planting will be arranged with tree contractors once the earth mounds are formed from the spoil from the 'South Branch Diversion'

Further planting around the dipping platform may be best arranged for Spring given how late in the year it will be.

ACTION - Discussion around when the plants can be delivered in order to follow up on the planting – JB to ask MJ. JA can be available on the 26th Nov and into Dec but we need to be aware of possible dates to give volunteers time to organise this.

3. Wetlands Launch festival

Considered a huge success and really put Firs Farm on the map and improved awareness of what is local.

The festival attracted 2/3K visitors

There were no major incidents. The only minor incident was the drone upsetting the ponies

The only negatives to come back were the food was expensive and the festival maybe was too spread out

Headline finances gone through but full account to be ready at the AGM in 2017.

Overall the festival raised approximately £4,000 for the friends group

Major items of income include crowdfunding, takings from the fairground and donation from 'On Broadway'
The 'takings on the day' included horse riding, mini golf, raffle and brochure sales

4. Quiz evening update

This has been re-scheduled for Spring 2017.

5. AOB

Firs farm Wetlands won the Enfield in Bloom Gold Award – 17th November is the awards day at Royal Chace. FOFF representation to be sorted

Utilities week awards – 12th Dec – GN and IR from the council will represent the park

Friends of parks groups – next meeting 6pm at Civic centre on Wed 26th October - FOFF representation to be sorted

FOFFers reporting huge littering by footballers and tyres dumped in the Spinney – all to be reported via the Enfield website

ACTION – JB to send idiots guide on 'how to report' but this is fundamental to the evidence needed by the Council from Friends.

GN sent video from Greta to council on metal detecting in the park and metal barriers near the weir down. Reported nasty smells as well from the water to IR last week. All water pollution incidents need to be reported and flagged with the council for action.

Future Meeting dates for your 2015 diary:

Next General meeting is Thursday 19th January 2017

AGM is Thursday 20th April, 2017

Please join us in Winchmore School at 7.30PM