



Friends of Firs Farm

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13th July 2017 @ Winchmore School Laburnum Grove N21

Committee Attendees: - Toni Guiver, Gail Nielen, John Prior, Helen Osman. David Miller, Paul Guiver, Ana Ribeiro Olga and Keith Hepburn

Apologies: Caroline Wilmer, Eileen Herlihy,

1. Welcome by the Chair

2. Agreed Previous Minutes

AGM 20/4/17 – published and available on the Friends website <http://www.firsfarmn21.org/category/meeting-supporting-documentation/>

3. Table Tennis - Outdoors - Tesco bags of Help –Update

Waiting for outcome of the votes – locally looked well but you never can tell. End of July we should know. David Miller was happy to help source the tables if required. Toni will also check with council on their preference.

4. Firs Farm Transformation - Wetlands update (ongoing works)

• Picnic Benches / Benches

The council have no project budget left over for this now. TG taken this up with Parks today and we are now looking at available funds that we can tap into and agreeing the locations for these. All must be anchored securely.

All agreed - Friends will ALSO provide one under the legacy from the 2016 Festival. Order going in this month once location finally agreed with LBE.

- **East path** work should be finished on this now. **Other paths** e.g. from spinney to car park etc. proposed to help with wheelchair access are still WIP. TG will email Cllr D Anderson, Cabinet member for Environment for follow up on these.

• Orchard / Woodland Walk

The fence has now been removed from the edge of the Spinney and public can now access the field area between the spinney main path edge and the car park. The wildflower meadow and young fruit trees planted in this area earlier this year are doing well. These were visited by the council tree team last month. A further visit is planned for September to review.

• Grass Cutting

Raised with the Council last month - waiting response from (LH) PRDO to this and to the management / maintenance plan for Firs Farm. There is a warning about possibility of ticks in parks and this information is also on the website.

• Pond Dipping Platform

Outstanding still – TG to follow this up -Training will be provided by local ecologist and FoFF.

Equipment provided by the Friends is being used by schools (in/out of borough) and others.

Tool safe for storage of pond equipment, was stolen from compound area and was reported to the police.

Promotion of this activity – Helen to help promote the use of the Wetlands over the summer and suggest minimum fee to help with raising funds for the café. Ana also said she would help to promote but need a pdf and in addition a monkey survey for feedback

Action:- Ana & Helen.

- **Finger Post** moved from tennis courts.

Finger post moved from the North East corner (by the holly tree at the inner tennis courts entrance) to the inlet. Details to follow on this as the Monoliths were meant to go in this week also but they have not yet materialised..

• Water Quality in Firs Farm - August 2017

Live water quality testing is planned to take place in Firs Farm wetlands for a period of approximately 3-6 months. Once the system is in place, the data captured will be available to the public in real time. More information will be available along with the go live date on the Friends Website www.firsfarmn21.org or on Thames 21 website

Action:- TG will follow up with the council on outstanding items from the April walkabout with the council and Cllrs. and the Wetlands consultation document with Environment Cabinet Member.

Recent Accolades :

Living Waterways. FF through to the Finals - End of September the winner will be announced at an awards dinner.

Wetlands Consultation – 2015

The consultation clearly indicated that the local community were keen to have picnic and play features in the park. In the interim the public have continued to use the stretch of flat grassy area in the middle of the field next to the wetlands (14th May used as a picnic Field for the 300 visitors at this year's first Annual National Children's Day UK with FoFF and TW)

We believe that as Enfield's, Flagship Wetlands project, Firs Farm should be completed to continue to meet the high standards that have earned it the award finalists it has gained to date.

All agreed email to be sent in by the Friends: - : "It is really disappointing that a number of items that were included in the public consultation are either not completed or are not being delivered. For example Picnic Benches, Play Sculptures, the outlet at the North / East End, interpretation, monoliths and mosaics, paths to complete the circuit around, the inlet to the south branch.

Action TG will invite the new MP to the Wetlands in the autumn to develop this relationship but it was agreed to focus on trim trail and play area.

5. Friends of Firs Farm Charity Status

As a result of Enfield volunteer action group event, it was obvious that the FOFF group needs to be a charity.

- Makes it easier for businesses to support financially e.g Spurs
- Trustees bring other strengths and business know-how to the table

The charity status was put to a vote and 8 agreed and 1 abstained.

Action Helen to give TG the details of David Taylor who has recently set up a charity organisation

6. Community Café / Hub

- Current spacehive figures tonight (not showing correct backers numbers which are in excess of 300 people now (19 on the site) £1179 😊
- Cake raffle attracted £100 in additional funding thanks to local resident, Loretta Morgado.
- TG has raised the issue of LBE not supporting the spacehive fund raising yet

Yes we need volunteers for this and so much more... Please get in touch if you want to help.

5 AOB**Last minute agenda items to share:-**

Agreed to send this out to LBE on the Tennis courts

Tennis courts relocation

I am contacting you as the Chair of the Friends of Firs Farm group on a matter raised at tonight's public meeting. It has been noticed that works have commenced on the tennis courts by the A10 roadside of Firs Farm and we understand that this is as a result of an extension to the cemetery. Concerns have been raised in the past: playing tennis next to a now busy dual carriageway, is probably not the healthiest environment in which to improve fitness. This was probably not the case when they were built some 70 plus years ago but we may now be in a position to change this today.

Firs Farm was once home to a number of tennis courts and pavilions but sadly no more. Once the courts along the A10 are gone the community lose yet another local opportunity to encourage our children and others to take up this sport and deal with some of the Child / Adult Obesity issues that appear to be on the increase in our society. Enfield will lose the opportunity of inspiring yet another young person to take up tennis and you never know they could go on to become the next Andy Murray of the future.

Lets bring tennis back to Firs Farm and ensure that the courts are well maintained, well used, and have the capacity to offer specific times for free tennis for those less fortunate and or able.

Future dates for the diary

All are advertised in FF. 3x Notice boards.

Corporate volunteer days need to be organised and run by the Friends so your help is needed here.

Come and join us & have some fun and help make a difference in your local park.

- **Saturday 15th July - tea and cake by the wetlands - David Miller was happy to promote cake and coffee this Saturday in the end of term newsletter if a pdf was sent**

Wednesday 19th July –sees Filming , a corporate day and a cheque will be presented for £600 by Kier Foundation

Regular dates with the Friends in Firs Farm

Monday Mornings @ 10 am (Excluding Public Holidays)

Saturday Mornings The 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month @ 10am (Rain or Shine)

Meet in the Compound in the car park from 9:45. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear as will be tackling gardening tasks or making the tea to keep us going.

The Friends meet up to Volunteer every Monday in Firs Farm at 9:45 for 10am.

Next Public Meeting Date:- 12th October 2017 (Winchmore School)