



# Friends of Firs Farm

## General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 @ Winchmore School Laburnum Grove N21

### Committee Attendees:-

Toni Guiver, Gail Nielen, John Prior, Eileen Herlighy, Paul Guiver,

### Apologies:

David Miller, Caroline Wilmer, Ana Ribeiro Olga and Keith Hepburn, Katy Fox, Arjan Sunner, Elisha Brett

### 1. Welcome- Meeting started at 7:30pm prompt

### 2. Agreed Previous Minutes

13<sup>th</sup> July GM – published and available on the Friends website <http://www.firsfarm21.org/category/meeting-supporting-documentation/>

### 3. Firs Farm Inclusive Café

- 3.1. Funding - plea to re-pledge donation as Space hive lost sponsors – reminder - as it is the number of sponsors not necessarily the amount of money seen by the investors that seems to attract extra funding.
- 3.2. Café plans were reviewed and structure of the building discussed e.g. SFS (light weight steel frame structure) and timber frame
- 3.3. Changing places toilet – this will be the first in Enfield which will make a huge difference to persons with disabilities and parents with a number of children. FoFF to progress through the steps for AVIVA funding. The deadline is the 23<sup>rd</sup> October to then proceed to a voting scenario and getting public votes again from the 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.
- 3.4. Overall discussion around security – being on a site by the car park is visible from the road and thus helps security
- 3.5. Café running discussed and this needs further detail – what space can be rented out to whom to generate revenue? What items can be sold e.g. dog related items and wildlife appropriate food
- 3.6. Are there any further volunteers that wish to be part of the café working group which currently consists of Toni Guiver (project lead), Helen Osman (Comms manager), David Rendall (Project Manager), Chris Thomas (Designer), Soulla Thomas (Project Support), Paul Guiver (Project Support), Jo Attree (Autism Lead)
- 3.7. Chair Meeting with LBE at start of next week to progress plans
- 3.8. Jo Attree to support the planning and development of the area to help with persons with disabilities e.g. autism
- 3.9. Discussion around waste water and utilities supply – suggestion is to consider separate to the older LBE changing rooms.
- 3.10. Chair has contacted a number of trades and businesses who have supported LBE with the Wetlands and paths in Firs Farm
- 3.11. FoFF are looking into applying for other funding pots from other sources for the café
- 3.12. Aim is for the café to be ready for the festival

### 4. Firs Farm Transformation

#### • Picnic Benches / Benches

Location has been agreed by the council for one of the picnic benches. FoFF to purchase and arrange installation of the bench

- **Improved security** – changing rooms have been extensively vandalised over the past quarter. Spikes, fencing and security cameras have been added to the building in the last two weeks. Security guard with dogs have also been used at times. Policed have agreed to keep an eye on the space as part of their normal rounds.

- **£200 donated by MPGA to cover the bulbs and grasses – to be planted nearer the picnic benches**

#### • Table tennis table

Provider agreed and TG to see if other parks are also going to buy to get economies of scale on delivery

- Tennis Courts

LBE still to feed back on when these are to be installed in Firs Farm. Believed to be 4 tennis courts sited near the car park area. More details to follow in January

- **Water Quality in Firs Farm - August 2017**

Live water quality testing is occurring now in Firs Farm wetlands for a period of approximately 3-6 months. 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](http://www.firsfarmn21.org) or on Thames 21 website

- **Travellers**

A 3 year injunction is being set in motion by LBE as the last injunction stops later this month

- **River clean-up**

Reduction in vegetation growth to support the river flow – post summer with the Thames Flood group on the 19<sup>th</sup> October

Volunteers are welcome on this day and also on the first weekend in November- day TBC but likely to be the 4<sup>th</sup> November for a Wetlands clean up

- **Skate park**

Nothing officially heard but whispers heard that there is a possibility that this will be moved from the A10 and this was raised at this meeting. This was discussed at length and general consensus was for it not to be in Firs Farm.

Initial thoughts canvassed at the meeting as to views and opinions on including the skate park in Firs farm park. However were this to go ahead, considerations to note were:

- Location away from wildlife
- Security
- Noise and busyness away from the café so as not disturb the peaceful café
- People encouraged to view Clissoll Park in Stoke Newington, Lloyd Park in Walthamstow and Lordship recreation ground in Lordship lane to understand how the skate park might work

**Recent Accolades :**

Living Waterways Award 2017 for the Natural environment (Canals River Trust) - This prestigious award was won Firs Farm was a winner

## 5. Festival 2018

- Volunteers needed for the day but also in the planning – please see TG and GN
- Stallholders to be invited to join in the next few weeks

## 6. Accounts

£9,000 currently in the account, which consists of a number of donations for specific purposes to aid the friends with the conservation work and recreation in Firs Farm

For example; from Tesco BOH £2000 is for the table tennis table, KIER £600 for equipment 2016 festival monies for picnic table. The Friends sadly have to buy a new trolley to replace the existing one which was vandalised by youths who broke into the compound.

## 7. AOB

- There have been a number of complaints about dogs chasing wildlife, lack of bins and completion of paths for a circuit around Firs Farm. These will be followed by the Chair and LBE. Update will be provided in January.
- Traveller injunction expires 21<sup>st</sup> October LBE are looking into this.

**Future dates for the diary** All are advertised in Firs Farm. 3x Notice boards.

31<sup>st</sup> October Halloween in the Woods- Don't miss the first of these events in Firs Farm! See flyer attached for more details.

**Regular dates with the Friends in Firs Farm**

**Monday Mornings @ 10 am** (Excluding Public Holidays)

**Saturday Mornings** The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month @ 10am (Rain or Shine)

We 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.

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

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

**Next Public Meeting Date:- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (Winchmore School)**

# Halloween in the Woods



Fun Fundraising event  
for the Firs Farm Inclusive  
Community Cafe

**Free Entry**

**31st October 4pm to 8pm**



Ghoulish Games



Meet the real creepy crawlies in the bloodcurdling bug hotel



Bewitching Bakes



Supernatural Science



Petrifying Prizes



Nightmarish Nature Trail



Firs Farm Wetlands, Firs Lane, Winchmore Hill, London N21 2PJ