



Friends of Firs Farm

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 19th Jan 2017 @ Winchmore School Laburnum Grove N21

Attendees:

Olga and Keith Hepburn, Gail Nielen (Secretary), Eileen Herlihy, John Prior, Toni (Chair) and Paul Guiver

Apologies: Carl Redondo (Treasurer), David Miller, Mary Wilson, Greta O’Kane, , Alison Sutherland, Jo & Derek Attree.

1. Welcome

Happy New Year to everyone! 2017 - An exciting year for Firs Farm and the local community

2. Agree Previous Minutes

Reviewed and agreed

3. Parks / Police

Parks / Safer neighbourhood police - No longer attend these meetings.

Police resources are allocated by crime reports so it is important to report everything in the correct manner so that “hot Spots” for crime are correctly identified.

We should continue to dial 101 for non-urgent crime and ASB (anti-social behaviour – including alcohol/drug activity even if it is the morning after as this will identify any emerging patterns for this), Or email asbu@enfield.gov.uk where it will also be captured and included on the reporting systems.

Dial 999 for emergency – threat to property or life

ALL instances of crime must also be reported to the council via their online reporting system.

If we don’t report these events we lose the support we may need for these to be captured and accurately reported on. This will then mean that resources can be directed to FF if deemed necessary or a “hot spot”

LBE PRDO - Public Realm Development Officer (Previously PRIO - Public Realm Improvement Officer)

Julie Bland the PRIO left in December 2016. The previous role has been replaced with a new post which has been filled by Loretta Hoy.

Encouraging news is that the role will focus on Funding streams / income generation - grants, Volunteers, strategy, long term plans.

Anything coming out from these meetings will be shared with PRDO and / or progressed at the future ACM meetings. The next which is to be held in March 2017.

Council Friends agreement / fund – Friends sent an application to replenish tools and equipment; late application as the Friends Agreement was under review till late 2016 but this has now been agreed and signed up to in December 2016.

Events Strategy Consultation due to be completed this month.

4. Firs Farm Wetlands Transformation Update

- **Litter picking** – Thumbs up for LBE. Seen regularly carried out on Monday - by LBE
Very much appreciated – Long may this continue? Friends have set up a Watercourse litter clean up in March as there has been concerns over the plastic in the ponds e.g 4th march
- **East path** Work commenced. Path will bridge the north & south “Access for All” paths (5-6 weeks duration)
- **Entrances**
North and South East entrances- improvements to come.

Issue:- Brought to the attention of the FoFF “A resident with a child in a wheelchair – cannot get in at the north entrance” This will change once the entrances here have been completed.

Action for council – The Friends will ask LBE for notice to communicate that works are being done

- **Southern end watercourse** – works to connect this to the culvert beneath Clowes sports ground has begun.

(5-6 weeks duration).Concerns that the path from Firs Farm entrance near the zebra crossing will not be progressed. The Friends will ask LBE an update on this and the picnic tables that were mentioned last summer.

- **Tree planting** 250 saplings to extend the woodland will be planted February 1st by the Friends and a team of

corporate volunteers. Some larger trees are also due to be planted around the “wetlands” and surrounding bunds, education / outdoor classroom areas starting mid-March. This will include the orchard / woodland walk from the spinney to the car park.)

- **Stumpery** Firs Farm first stumpery will be progressed on the 6th Feb to support wildlife diversity.

- **Interpretation** throughout the wetlands / watercourse area, the north south and north east entrances will be progressed with the council in the next few weeks.

- **Shrub / Marginal wetland planting** –When the weather improves and its warmer LBE / the Friends and volunteers will plant shrubs along the watercourse and the new woodland watercourse banks. Some plants will be transplanted from the already established plants further along the wetlands .

- **Notice Boards x3 and welcome board** – Map still to be designed for this. Waiting for LBE. The Friends will chase this up once the wetlands work has been finished.

- **Grass Cutting**

Cost cutting exercise? Pilot being carried out at present by LBE.

Long grass - cut in autumn every 3 years targeting invasive species. Swathes / grass paths to be cut more frequently for access.

- **Pond Dipping Platform**

Some of the Friends interested in running / supporting Pond Dipping sessions will be Trained so that we can periodically provide sessions for the public / schools community groups. Training will be provided by local ecologist and FoFF.

Equipments is on order for this but we won't take delivery until the storage unit is in place for this.

Likely to be March 2017 when weather will be warmer and animals are about in the pond.

The tool safe to hold equipment still needs to be painted, locks fixed and put into place by the pond. Toni is working with corporate volunteers to ensure that this task is completed by the end of March.

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

5. AGM 20th April

Don't forget to nominate committee members – by 30th March 2017. Email the Friends please.

Constitution –will be reviewed by existing committee in preparation for AGM.

5 AOB

Last minute agenda items to share:-

Funding Tesco bags of Help - not applied for in January Committee All agreed we would apply for the next available Tesco Bags of Help. – Suggestions for improvements were agreed as outdoor Table tennis for this next round.

Changing rooms/ compound area - Friends arranged meeting with the council to discuss future plans for this part of FF. 141 – the Oaks – planning consent for medical centre gone ahead. What are the timescales for this and what is happening about the clearing of the derelict building as we don't want fires throughout the summer as in 2016..

Quiz – April dates to be confirmed John to get dates for venue and Olga the quiz masters. FoFF committee members agreed to donate prizes any others would be most gratefully received.

Funfair - Had been in touch with the Friends this week asking to be included with our summer events if any. Committee agreed FoFF would consider a mini event to promote FF and recruit more volunteers alongside perhaps the funfair / other yet to be discussed and agreed.

Recent Accolades :

- Enfield in Bloom – Gold award received by FF.
- Highly commended as “Community Initiative of the Year” – at the prestigious “Utility Week Awards”

Ward Forum: Winchmore Hill 7:30 – 9.30pm 17 Jan at the Orange Tree.

All agreed representative from the Friends of Firs Farm to attend and provide update on FF, share information on the upcoming GM and opportunities to get involved with the committee / volunteering in FF. John Prior volunteered to attend this.

Pollution risk:

Bread tipping into the water has been seen as a risk to the wildlife. The person, if approached, is abusive. Agreed the Friends would ask LBE to provide notices highlighting the foods that can be given to birds e.g. Frozen peas – NOT bread.

Dates for your diaries: - 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.

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

The next Public meeting is in April - AGM Thursday 20th April at Winchmore School Laburnum Grove N21.

<u>January 17</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue / Location</u>
Sat 21 Jan 17	FoFF Regular Volunteers Clean Up / Community Youth Group	Friends Meeting Point*
<u>February 17</u>	(Enfield Schools 1/2 term Mon 13th - Fri 17th)	
Wed 01/02/17	Corporate Volunteer Day - Tree planting	Friends Meeting Point*
Sat 04 Feb 17	FoFF Regular Volunteers Clean Up / Community Youth Group	Friends Meeting Point*
Mon 6 th Feb 17	Corporate Volunteer Day - Creating a Stumpery	Friends Meeting Point*
Thu 9 th Feb 17	Friends Committee Meeting	By invitation only
Sat 18 Feb 17	FoFF Regular Volunteers Clean Up / Community Youth Group	Friends Meeting Point*
<u>March 17</u>		
Fri 03/03/17	Friends Team Social night	By invitation only
Sat 04 Mar 17	FoFF Wetlands Clean-up day	Friends Meeting Point*
Mon 6 Mar 17	Come and Volunteer in Firs Farm	Friends Meeting Point*
Wed 15 Mar 17	Friends Committee Meeting	By invitation only

Sat 18 Mar 17	FoFF Regular Volunteers Clean Up / Community Youth Group	Friends Meeting Point*
Wed 29 Mar 17	Corporate Volunteer Day	
April 17	Enfield School holidays Mon 3rd Apr - Mon 17th Apr	
Wed 5 th April	Corporate Volunteer Day	Friends Meeting Point*
tba	Community Volunteer Day	Friends Meeting Point*
Sat 01 Apr 17	FoFF Regular Volunteers Clean Up / Community Youth Group	Friends Meeting Point*
Wed 12 Apr 17	Friends Committee Meeting	By invitation only
Sat 15 Apr 17	FoFF Regular Volunteers Clean Up / Community Youth Group	Friends Meeting Point*
Thu 20 Apr 17	AGM - Public Meeting - Everyone Welcome	Winchmore School

*Friends meeting point -behind the large gates in the Firs Farm Car Park, Firs Lane, N21 2PJ

All dates subject to change - weather and support dependent.

Office posts & Committee members:-

Office (12)	Current	Nomination	Proposer / Seconder
Chair (v)	Toni Guiver*		
Vice Chair (v)	Vacant		
Treasurer (v)	Carl Redondo		
Treasurer 2 nd (v)	Eileen Herlihy		
Secretary- Joint (v)	Gail Nielen		
Secretary – Joint (v)	Vacant		
PR Secretary	Ana Ribeiro		
Membership- Volunteers	John Prior		
History	Vacant		
School(WS)	David Miller		
Webmaster	Vacant		
Young People	Paul Nastri*		
Committee Members (8)	Derek Attree		
	Geraldine Cosh*		
	Olga Hepburn		
	Annette Nastri		
	Jo Attree		
	Vacant	Greta O’Kane	
	Vacant	Mary Wilson	
	Vacant		
Independent Examiner	Vacant		

* First Aiders