

Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday 22 September 2020

Venue: Zoom online meeting

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Sacha Bright (mins)	BJWP Administration
Sarah Abley	Events, Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Geoff Brighty	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Sue Corlett	Hare & Billet Action Group
Philip Craig	Greenwich Society
Cllr Leo Fletcher	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Mariam Lolavar	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Nicholas Pond	London Borough of Lewisham
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Janine Whittaker	Events, Royal Borough of Greenwich

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies from Cllr Amanda De Ryk (London Borough of Lewisham), Cllr Juliet Campbell (London Borough of Lewisham), Vince Buchanan (London Borough of Lewisham), Gemma Marston (Glendale), Meg Dinkeldein (Tidy Blackheath Group),
- 1.2. Nick Pond is Parks and Open Space Contracts and Service Development Manager at LB Lewisham.

2. Minutes and matters arising

- 2.1. Action points from the minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 23 June 2020
- 2.2. 3.9 Drive In Cinema Cllr Kevin Bonavia sent an email to the Greenwich Events Team to explain that the BJWP was opposed to this event.
- 2.3. 3.10 It was acknowledged that better communication between council representatives in each borough would help with co-ordination and timing of planned events.
- 2.4. 5.4 Greenwich Society still to send letter of support for the Tea Hut move to toilet block.
- 2.5. 5.6 Cllr Kevin Bonavia wrote to Greenwich Council and the Crown Estate in support of the Tea Hut move.
- 2.6. 6.2 Damage to trees from fitness trainers – Nick Pond said that Gemma Marsten would have addressed this.
- 2.7. 7.4 Amendments to the BJWP Constitution on this meeting's agenda
- 2.8. 10.2 There should be a page for the BJWP on both councils' websites with better information and minutes updated regularly

3. Events planned for the Heath 2020/2021

- 3.1 Gemma Marsten had circulated a Lewisham events calendar for 20/21. Janine Whittaker said that the Greenwich provisional program was still with the Councillors awaiting approval and therefore had not yet been shared.

3.2 It was agreed to use the meeting on 20th October to review the proposed events for 2021 despite the likelihood that they will change due to Covid 19.

3.3 Kevin asked both events teams to report changes to any of the regular scheduled events such as OnBlackheath and the London Marathon and encouraged the use of the proforma as a guide.

3.4 Blackheath Fireworks cancelled for 2020

3.5 Zippos Circus is planning to take place over October half term. Nick Pond said that the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) were satisfied that the organisers have very good plans to put on a Covid secure event.

3.6 Under 12s fun fair is planned for February 2021 half term this has been provisionally been accepted by SAG with the understanding that Covid guidance may change.

3.7 Janine said that Greenwich did not have any events for the remainder of 2020.

3.8 Kevin stated that during the current Covid 19 pandemic he was not in favour of any mass events of any kind taking place on the Heath and this was agreed by others. Nick Pond will convey to the Chair of SAG that the BJWP is not in favour of any events going ahead in 2020.

3.9 Blackheath Joint Events Policy Review

3.10 Janine said that only change Greenwich Events would propose is that not all events be agreed and set a year in advance and to allow some flexibility for small events with later notice. She said that ESAG and approval processes can happen in a short time for these events to go through due diligence without issue.

3.11 Nick Pond said that it was important for Lewisham and Greenwich to agree a calendar of the large events for the year in advance to avoid miscommunications and overlaps.

3.12 David Walker reminded the meeting that the Blackheath Society saw the Events Policy and annual calendar as a way to monitor over use of the Heath and prevent damage.

3.13 Kevin summarised that both councils and amenity societies should report back their proposal of any changes to be circulated and discussed at the 20th October meeting.

4. Progress on works for Duke Humphrey Road

4.1 Janine read an email update as follows: 'Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Transport for London's revenue, TfL is unable to honour pre-agreed transport funding for London boroughs for 2020/21. As a result, the Blackheath Gate scheme has had to be paused. The Royal Borough of Greenwich is working to secure funding as soon as possible from either TfL or the Department for Transport to complete the scheme. RBG expects to know whether it has been awarded the necessary funding next month.'

5. Tea Hut update

5.1 Kevin had written on behalf of the BJWP to Greenwich Council and the Crown Estate in support of the move to the toilet block.

5.2 Helen said that Adam Furze had an application to Lewisham to operate a van temporarily on the site.

5.3 Mariam Lolavar said she would try to encourage Greenwich Council to progress with the project.

6. Hare & Billet Pub

6.1 Sue Corlett told the meeting that residents were dismayed by the lack of responsibility from the pub management in keeping their customers within the Covid 19 rules.

6.2 Nick Pond said that Glendale would be informed about any health and safety issues around the pond including erosion and would look at solutions, however the pub needs to take ownership of any anti-social behaviour outside their establishment.

6.3 Kevin will speak to licensing and environmental health and report back and also write to Green King Brewery.

7. OnBlackheath Fund

7.1 Nick Pond shared an email from Darren Budden from Glendale with a breakdown of the spending from the OnBlackheath fund. Some underspend from the Bee Bank proposal and a soil survey in 2018 was allocated to Mountsfield Park for lidded bins, a decision that may not have been properly consulted and communicated to the BJWP for which Nick apologised on behalf of the manager at the time. .

7.2 Glendale now hold £5271 of the fund and would like a decision of what should this happen to this.

7.3 Nick Pond thinks there needs to be a new strategy for rubbish and bins on the Heath.

7.4 It was agreed that Parks Management Officers from both boroughs should liaise with the amenity societies with a survey of bins on the Heath and report back. Nick will ask Ground Management for a map of bins on the Heath.

7.5 Allocation of funds will be an agenda item in the new year.

7.6 The remaining £5271 of OnBlackheath funds held by Glendale will be transferred to the Blackheath Society to be held for the BJWP until decisions are made on its allocation.

7.7 Helen Reeves asked for a contingency fund to finish the Wildlife Leaflets and £300 was agreed.

7.8 The meeting thought that there would be little benefit for new signs by the Prince of Wales pond however if the Blackheath Society wanted to bring a proposal and costings it would be considered at a future meeting.

7.9 Tony asked if a community fund for the Heath would be ring fenced in the future. Nick said that it would always be the intention of council to retain these type of funds but this could not be guaranteed. OnBlackheath would not be contributing this year as their event was cancelled.

8 Nature Conservation Group - BJWP Constitution

8.1 The meeting discussed a proposed memorandum written and circulated by Mike Norton, he will make amendments in response to the suggestions. A formal proposal will be submitted at a future meeting.

8.2 Helen asked for the Bye Laws to be added to the BJWP web page when it is amended.

9 AOB

9.1 Helen asked for clarification on the Forries School activities. Nick will follow up with Gemma Marsten and report back at next meeting.

These next suggested meeting dates are as follows and may be either on Zoom, in person or a hybrid:

Tuesday 24 November Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 19 January 2021 Age Exchange Studio

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 Bakehouse Theatre Public Meeting