

Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes

16 July 2019

Venue: Age Exchange, 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Dame Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
Paul Watts	Blackheath Society
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Nick Pond	London Borough of Lewisham
Charlotte Parish (mins)	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Juliet Campbell, Cllr Aidan Smith, Cllr Geoff Brighty, Cllr Mariam Lolavar, Cllr Amanda De Ryk, Margaret Dinkledein, Sue Corlett, David Walker, Rachael Hook, Philip Craig, Vince Buchanan and Janine Whittaker.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1. Corrections were made to the spelling of the names of Cllr Aidan Smith, Vince Buchanan and Gemma Buttell.
- 2.2. A correction was made to the minutes as Gemma Buttell was recorded as in attendance and having sent apologies. It was confirmed that Gemma Buttell did attend the last BJWP meeting.
- 2.3. Dame Helen Reeves noted that one of the options in paragraph 2.6 was omitted. This option was to consider a “no mow” policy on the edge of the heath to prevent people riding onto them.
- 2.4. Councillor Kevin Bonavia asked whether Action 2.2 had been completed and Tony Butler confirmed that the BJWP minutes has been linked to the Friends of Greenwich Park website. Mike Norton confirmed that the link was on the Westcombe Society website too. Dame Helen Reeves noted that the last minutes available on the Lewisham website were from June 2018.

ACTION: BJWP minutes need to be uploaded to the Lewisham for meetings after June 2018 and published through mod.gov as well. Lewisham Officers to inform the BJWP when the latest minutes have been uploaded onto the website.

ACTION: Shirley Broughton to check that Gemma Buttell had sent her the events map and follow up with Gemma if not.

- 2.5. Councillor Kevin Bonavia updated on action 2.4 that Greenwich Council will not be funding the BJWP. Lewisham Council will continue to contribute towards the BJWP in an arrangement with the Blackheath Society which is currently being finalised. Councillor Kevin Bonavia would hope to see this happen at the September or October meeting.

ACTION: Paul Aladenika to update the Blackheath Society on the handover arrangements.

- 2.6. Nick Pond updated the group on behalf of Vince Buchanan who has had discussions with enforcement colleagues at Lewisham Council and Josh Learner, Lewisham's cycling officer, and found that the problem was difficult to resolve. Josh Learner will continue to monitor the situation and generate data on the matter. Josh Learner has also contacted the Lewisham cycling group about promoting considerate cycling campaign in the borough to address issues raised by the BJWP at the last meeting.

ACTION: Nick Pond to circulate Josh Learner's email response to the group.

- 2.7. Tony Butler updated that notices have been put up in the park to encourage cyclists to cycle responsibly.
- 2.8. The Westcombe news included a notice encouraging local charities to be involved with OnBlackheath as of Action 3.7. Mike Norton was not aware of any responses to the notice.

ACTION: Gemma Buttell to speak to Rachael Hook to discuss the enforcement options relating to parking on the heath (standing action from last meeting).

- 2.9. Nick Pond provided Shirley Broughton with a map as requested at the last meeting. Shirley asked that the map be at scale.

ACTION: Vince Buchanan to provide a map to scale.

- 2.10. Dame Helen Reeves and Tony Butler updated that the dispute about the replacement pine tree has been resolved and confirmed that the replacement tree was the same species as the previous tree.
- 2.11. Dame Helen Reeves confirmed that the OnBlackheath community funds was charitable money and has to be spent in a charitable way. This means that Glendales cannot hold the money, only a charity can.
- 2.12. Dame Helen Reeves confirmed that The Blackheath Society sent an invitation for ideas for community projects to spend the OnBlackheath community fund on. Helen has also circulated this to the other two amenity societies. Mike Norton confirmed that a note was included in the Westcombe news asking for ideas but is not aware of any responses.

3. UEFA Euro 2020 proposed fan zone in Greenwich

- 3.1. Councillor Kevin Bonavia introduced a representative from the Greater London Authority (GLA) and two events organisers from Loudsound who gave a presentation on the proposed plans for a fan zone at Greenwich Park for the UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament.

- 3.2. Normally the Euros is hosted by one country, but for the 2020 games, UEFA are hosting the competitions in twelve host cities including London. As part of London's deal with UEFA, the GLA has made a commitment to having fan zone to watch games and promote the sport. The GLA are looking at a number of appropriate locations for the fan zone and Greenwich is one of the options. There will be three fan zones, the proposed site at Greenwich being the biggest with a capacity of approximately 30,000 people.
- 3.3. The GLA and Loudsound have been consulting with a number of stakeholder groups including Transport for London (TfL), Greenwich Council, Lewisham Council, Royal Museums and Royal Parks.
- 3.4. The proposal is to have a fan zone in front of Queen's house in Greenwich Park with the rest of the park used normally. Representatives from Loudsound shared an artist's rendition and explained the purpose of the stage as an entertainment venue to draw people in advance and keep people after game to help manage transport pressures.
- 3.5. The tournament will run for 31 days from 12 June to 12 July 2020. London have been awarded three group stage games hosted at Wembley, the two semi-finals and the final. These games will definitely be screened in fan zones. Only the games with England in the group stages will be screened, any home nation games will be screened if they progress to the knock-out stages.
- 3.6. There will be a number of "rest days" when games are not screened and when the park will be opened and paths accessible for users as normal in amongst infrastructure which will be fenced off. There will also be GLA-programmed community days to ensure local communities benefit from the fan zone. On community days there will be a lower capacity of around 5000 throughout the day. The GLA are open to suggestions for events to be held on community days and they don't have to be sports related.
- 3.7. Nick Pond asked about when OnBlackheath will be held next year and Tony Butler added that there is a recent policy in by the park meaning that there can only be one major event (one day) per month according to the existing premises licence. Jenny from Loudsound replied that they would have to apply for a new premises license and planning application as a one-off event through Greenwich Council and a consultation process would follow.
- 3.8. Jenny added that letters have been sent via Greenwich Council to addresses that would be affected by the event. The letters give details of two drop in sessions on 23 July from 2 - 9pm and Wednesday 31 July from 11am – 4pm at the Forum on Trafalgar Road.
- 3.9. Dame Helen Reeves asked if the Royal Parks have agreed and the GLA representative replied that Royal Parks are happy for them to go ahead with the planning and licensing applications and have been helpful in connecting them with the groups.

<p>ACTION: GLA representatives to send BJWP a pdf version of the letter sent to local residents.</p>

- 3.10. Slide 10 shows the proposed event site layout and usage. The event site would be on Queens's field and there would be a production vehicle processing area and operations hub in Circus Field where transport and security teams would be based in portacabins. The infrastructure in Circus Field would include temporary metal roadways and pads. These will be fenced off and enough space for dog walkers to go around the park.

- 3.11. Loudsound shared provisional key dates with the group. Enabling works would begin on 26 May and the park would be clear by 24 July.
- 3.12. Mike Norton asked whether Circus Field would be occupied for the whole two months and Loudsound confirmed that it would.
- 3.13. Councillor Kevin Bonavia asked when the consultation would be taking place. The planning application will be submitted at the end of August and a 21-day consultation will take place in September. The licensing application will follow the planning application.
- 3.14. Dame Helen Reeves asked what enabling work is. Enabling work is low impact mapping activity to mark out and prepare the area.
- 3.15. Paul Watts asked about the transport and logistics plan given some matches will end at 11pm. The GLA are working closely with TfL and a consultant. There is a joint working group with DLR and heavy rail looking at the whole of London and a specific working group looking at the proposed Greenwich site.
- 3.16. Councillor Kevin Bonavia asked if there is a proposal for a footbridge over A2 like there was during the Olympics. The GLA confirmed that there will not be a footbridge.
- 3.17. Councillor Kevin Bonavia had concerns about antisocial behaviour and safety. The GLA responded that they operated the semi-final World Cup fan zones in Hyde Park last year and they have used their learning from that experience to ensure that plans are in place to make the fan zone as safe as possible. Councillor Kevin Bonavia asked how many arrests there were and Loudsound said that there were very few – single figures out of 30,000 attendees.
- 3.18. Hyde Park could not be used for the fan zone as there are concerts and festivals already in place for those dates.
- 3.19. Dame Helen Reeves asked where visitors were expected to come from. Visitors are expected from all over the UK and there are likely to be some international visitors and tourists who will bring benefits to local businesses.
- 3.20. Councillor Kevin Bonavia asked about measures taken to control noise levels and what time the alcohol license would end. Loudsound is working with a noise consultant to ensure they are keeping within their limits. Bars would close before the match ends, but there is not a set time for this and a decision will be made later on.
- 3.21. Dame Helen Reeves asked about seating. There will be some seating around the food areas but it is mainly a standing event. There will also be an accessible area.
- 3.22. The event organisers are hoping to mobilise local volunteers to help with the event and the community days.

ACTION: GLA/Loudsound to share FAQs and the link to the volunteering page on the website.

4. OnBlackheath

- 4.1. Councillor Kevin Bonavia asked to hear feedback about the recent OnBlackheath concert. Nick Pond told the group that there is a formal debrief with the event organiser scheduled in a few weeks and there is a Community debrief organised for 24 July.
- 4.2. Nick Pond reported that there were issues with food suppliers on the Saturday and Paul Watts thought that it felt more like a concert than a festival and there were fewer food offers.
- 4.3. Blackheath Society had not received any complaints yet and Shirley Broughton and Mike Norton felt that the noise-reduction measures taken this year were successful.
- 4.4. Councillor Kevin Bonavia would like the event organisers to come back to the group at the meeting in October to discuss the date and the potential impact on the park.

5. Allocation of the 2018 OnBlackheath Community Fund

- 5.1. Councillor Kevin Bonavia suggested allowing people to come up with ideas until 10 September so that the group could look at the proposals at the next meeting on 17 September.
- 5.2. Paul Watts asked how this process would be advertised. Councillor Kevin Bonavia said it could be promoted through the ward assemblies and through the amenities societies' communication channels.
- 5.3. Nick Pond updated that Councillor Brighty wanted to propose using the funding for some tree planting on a triangle of land on the A2 in Lewisham. The land is overgrown and providing a barrier to the A2 for residents.

ACTION: Councillor Kevin Bonavia to explore what is happening with the proceeds from the proceeds of the 2019 OnBlackheath in terms of charitable donations.

6. Feedback from London Marathon – Gemma Buttell

- 6.1. Councillor Bonavia shared a note from Rachael with regards to the London Marathon. Rachael Hook shared that the marathon went well with a record 42,750 finishers. Next year, in 2020, it will be the 40th London Marathon. In 2020 there will no cross over between the Circus and Marathon.

7. Race for Life

- 7.1. There was no feedback from the Race for Life event.

8. Royal Parks' consultation on "Movement in the Parks"

- 8.1. Royal Parks attended the Blackheath Society AGM. Tony Butler circulated a note (Appendix A) outlining the latest policy position. Tony updated that there have been delays as there is no replacement project manager. There are plans to recruit before August.
- 8.2. There are one or two issues around the ice cream sellers for example and turning circles. There may need to be another period of consultation if they need to move the ice cream sellers for example. If not, all work would be starting in the autumn.

8.3. Tony will update the group when he hears more.

9. Response to Blackheath Gate: RBG Road Design consultation

9.1. Dame Helen Reeves updated that she had spoken to David Walker about this whose only comment was about coaches coming in from the east having to turn around. David suggested having a one way street for coaches coming from the west. Tony Butler agreed.

10. Nature Conservation Group report

10.1. The Nature Conservation Group report can be found in appendix B.

10.2. Shirley Broughton updated that feedback has been received from a local resident concerned about habitat management activity.

10.3. Nick Pond responded that the area in question is categorised as a glade and should therefore be an open area. The Parks services had asked Glendales to reduce bramble areas along the grove front but this was a fairly limited intervention intended to screen the glade from the road and to protect against anti-social behaviour. Nick said he was happy to go and have a look at the glade.

10.4. Shirley was concerned that the Forest School website was not accurately representing the arrangement previously agreed with the BJWP.

ACTION: Gemma Buttell to report back on discussions and with Forest School and how that compared to what was agreed at the group. Nick Pond to also speak to Forest and request an update and report back with reassurance that the school will stick with the agreement.

11. Update on previously agreed projects

11.1 Replacement of trees

Dame Helen Reeves and Nick Pond confirmed this has been completed.

11.2 Completion of Prince of Wales bund

Nick Pond updated on behalf of Vince Buchanan, but the contractor had proposed using top soil which would not have worked. Nick Pond asked the contractor to use low nutrient soil but this couldn't be sourced until mid-May. This has been parked until autumn because doesn't make sense to seed in May.

11.3 Wildlife Walks

Dame Helen Reeves was promised final draft by last Friday. Blackheath Joint Working Party is concerned and disappointed that it is late.

12. Kidbrooke Grove/South Row Quietways Option

12.1. Councillor Kevin Bonavia updated that a meeting has happened regarding a quietway that would go through Kidbrooke Gardens. The meeting agreed that TfL to take this more seriously and take more traffic calming measure for the benefit of cyclists and to make the road safer.

12.2. Dame Helen Reeves noted that the proposal for a quietway is controversial because many people use that road.

ACTION: Councillor Kevin Bonavia to bring a report about the quietway to the next meeting.

13. Disused toilet block and Crown Estates

13.1 There was nothing to report on the disused toilet block.

14. Options for resourcing Blackheath Joint Working Party

14.1 This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

15. AOB

15.1. The meeting in October clashes with Blackheath assembly. This will need to be changed to Tuesday 5 November.

ACTION: Room booking to be changed for the Tuesday 5 November meeting.

Date of next meetings:

- 7pm - Tuesday 17 September 2019
- **7pm - Tuesday 5 November 2019**
- 7pm - Tuesday 21 January 2020

Appendix A

NOTE FOR THE FILE.

Conversation between Tony Butler and John Lynn, Senior Transport Planner, Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) 020 8921 8904 on Monday 10 June 2019.

Blackheath Gate/Duke Humphrey Road.

There had been 226 replies to the consultation, 85% in favour of the general plans, 14% against. There were several comments attached to the acceptance which need to be considered with The Royal Parks (TRP) and Transport for London (TfL). Proposals relating to the Ice Cream Seller's van also need developing. The original project manager has left RBG, and replacement recruitment is now in progress. This is likely to take a couple of months. Also work would not be started over the summer when other events on the Heath might need road closures or make road works impossible. Delivery might start in "the Autumn".

Greenwich Town Centre/ Hills and Vales.

The project manager, Joel de Mowbray, has also left RBG, and has not yet been fully replaced. John Lynn has a watching brief for now. In the consultation, 76% were in favour of the new layout, but again there were several elements that need to be fine tuned. Further proposals will appear in due course. Responsibility for taking the Hills and Vales project forward has been handed to the Highways section, with Ryan Nibbs project manager.

Royal Parks Movement Strategy.

Both had seen the article on page 12 of the Evening Standard of Friday 7 June 2019 setting out a report of proposals by TRP to ban traffic from the Parks. John asked whether Tony had details of thoughts for Greenwich Park. Tony said he was going to raise the issue at the Friends of Greenwich park meeting that afternoon, and would report back. The strategy is at www.theroyalparks.org.uk/movement where there is a 12 page discussion paper. Comments are invited to be submitted by 14 July 2019. A précis of the study is given below.

Tony Butler
10 June 2019.

The Royal Parks Movement Strategy will protect the park environments and enhance the park visitor experience.

The Royal Parks previously developed The Royal Parks Transport Principles September 2016. This document was designed to establish transport and access policy positions that included prioritising pedestrians and ensuring transport related projects did not negatively affect the parks. It was always the intention to further refine and develop these principles into a comprehensive strategy. With the changing nature of the parks and an aim to become

actively engaged in movement and access, we have developed a set of seven movement principles that will replace the previous principles.

We will protect and conserve our parks' special qualities. Any changes or developments that affect the way visitors move within our parks should be sensitive to the heritage, character, biodiversity, wildlife and listed landscapes of the parks and must result in no net loss of trees or green space.

Our parks are for people Our parks are places that people visit for relaxation and recreation, and to escape the busy city. To make that possible, we will prioritise walking within our parks.

We will encourage the use of more sustainable ways to access our parks. How visitors arrive at our parks plays a significant role in how they use and experience them. We will promote and encourage visitors to use active and sustainable modes of transport for park visits whenever they can.

Our park roads are not intended to be commuter through-routes for motor vehicles, Park roads are primarily for the use of park visitors coming to the parks, not for commuters travelling through the parks. Over time, we will discourage the through-movement of motor vehicles within our parks.

We will achieve more by delivering key projects through partnership and collaboration. The transport and movement decisions of our visitors do not begin and end at our park boundaries. To deliver positive change we will collaborate with key partners on projects, both within and outside of the parks, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the benefit of our visitors.

We will make evidence-based decisions. To make appropriate decisions concerning movement, we will use all available and relevant evidence and data. We will monitor and report outcomes against objectives and embed continuous improvement into our approach.

We will be proactive in our approach to future transport challenges and opportunities. The future of transport is quickly changing, and user-expectations play an ever-increasing role in influencing decisions and solutions.

We will ensure that we are prepared for these changes and opportunities, so that we can anticipate and respond to change in an informed, considered and prompt way that aligns with our charitable objectives.

Appendix B

BJWP. Nature Conservation Group Report. July 2019.

1. The habitat management of Blackheath (SMINC).

a. A new base plan-

Vince Buchanan has organised an impressive new plan, the aim of which is to combine information on the Grassland Survey 2017, the two councils' grounds' maintenance information, (incl. the summer meadows) and the location of rare flora/fauna, in order to optimise the management of the heath for nature conservation.

[We await prints from Vince, so we can progress the project.](#)

b. Invertebrate refuges LBL side-

The current agreement of leaving a third of the total areas (of Summer meadows) is still not being adhered to.

[Please can we discuss/agree a solution?](#)

As above, RBG side- a meeting with Martin Smith has been arranged for later this month.

2. Applications for OnBlackheath funding.

a. Remove and replace dead/dying Broom, Whitfield Mount.

Gorse mite is killing the Broom. The gorse at Vanbrugh Pits looks wonderful, especially in winter, and it would be good to unify the appearance of the Heath by having more areas of gorse, which is also much better for wildlife.

[Cost- TBA from Glendale.](#)

b. Entomological Survey of Blackheath (SMINC).

Lewisham council has undertaken to give strong protection and enhancement to Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMINCs), sites having strategic nature conservation importance and being of the greatest nature conservation value.

This survey is a logical follow-on from the AVC Grassland Survey carried out in 2017 and will provide valuable new data on the Entomology of Blackheath.

[Cost- £4,800](#), allows for 2 days/month, based on 2/3 compartments, May- August, 8 days total.

3. Eliot Pits- habitat management.

Feedback has been received from a local resident and butterfly specialist, who regularly visits this area to view and record its wildlife, in particular the butterflies.

Earlier this year a rotary cutter was driven through the scrub by the road. The grassy area immediately by the campfire area in the woods is now regularly mown, and the patch of bramble has been removed to provide ready access to the damp, grassy area at the bottom of the slopes.

From a nature conservation point of view, this is a huge loss and a retrograde step, as it provided food and shelter for wildlife over the years,, including many butterflies such as the Silver-washed Fritillary, which is believed to be a recent addition to the list in that area. Also, the slope itself is one of the few spots where Brown Argus, Small Heath, and Marbled White are to be found locally.

A second wigwam of wooden poles has been constructed at the bottom of the slope, at a patch where there are important nectar and larval food plants.

Why has this excessive mowing been carried out and for what purpose? Who sanctioned the building of play structures in the pit and the bramble clearance?

This is an extremely valuable refuge for bees and butterflies, a rich wildlife habitat, of the kind which is becoming increasingly rare. [Please can any management changes, beyond the superficial, be discussed with ecologists and the BJWP NC group, rather than unilateral action being taken?](#)