

Friends of Windmill Gardens

General Meeting

7pm, Wednesday 11th March 2015
Lambeth Town Hall, Room 101

Minutes

Action:

- Leaflet for distribution at Open Days to be devised encouraging a response to consultation. Also detailed blog spot to encourage response.

1. Welcome

Present: Jean Kerrigan (Chair), Shaun Wilson (Treasurer), Nick Weedon (Co-Chair), Sujata Biswas (Secretary), Chris Patton, Viv Whittingham, Adrian Garden (Lambeth Councillor), Liz du Parcq, Jackie Grant, Kim Winter, Owen Llewellyn, Penny Steele, Annick Alet, M Loosely, Beth Langham, Carolyn Weniz, June Stillman.

Apologies: Stephen Lawlor, Magdalen Rubalcava, Laura Zauli, Sandra Watts, Donna Lister, Jill Reyes, Ellie Suggate, Sandra Sparrow, Robert Aidie, Emily Haston, Lesley Pryde.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last GM – October 2014

Agreed as a correct record

3. Progress of Lambeth Cooperative Parks Programme – Jean Kerrigan

Have written to Council indicating interest in the co-operative model of management (Option 2– partnership) for Windmill Gardens.

All groups interested in this management model to be invited by Lambeth to training sessions, delivered via Tree Shepard. Members of FoWG executive will attend.

Current Lambeth public consultation covering parks spending ends 24th April. There are four Open Days before that date.

Leaflet for distribution at Open Days to be devised encouraging a response to consultation. Also detailed blog spot to encourage response.

GM agreed with this approach.

4. Future of Brixton Windmill

Report from sustainability sub-group - Chris

Group looking at building options.

Approx £170/180k to build then kit out top-of-the-range building. Relatively quick to build (approx. 12 weeks).

Portakabin option would be approx £100k

Next sustainability group meeting: 6.30pm, 23rd March

Milling

12 volunteered successfully trained by Jon Cook in November 2014. Advised to run mill regularly, suggested necessary materials (weighing scales etc.) to buy.

Next step is to start the H&S application process, with the FoWG as the producer and packager. Logistically difficult to co-ordinate attendance with inspection.

Intention is for first May Open Day to be devoted to milling.

Paul Selwood (millwright) - 'fantastic achievement'

200th anniversary of Brixton Windmill

GM agreed to the proposal to set-up a sub-group to organize this.

5. Windmill in 2015

Open Days and community events programme

Open days leaflet will be available in next few days. This year's will be starting earlier. On-line booking is open.

Brixton Windmill Walks – Liz

Liz du Parc is registered Blue Badge Tourist Guide and volunteered to develop and lead a Brixton Windmill Walk. She has devised a 1 hour walk and leaflet – this was shown to the meeting, and was very well received.

The first walk will be on Sunday 5th April and run on Sunday each month when the Windmill is open. Charge will be £5 pp, concession at £3pp, accompanied children free. All money to go to Windmill.

Windmill volunteers – tour training (introduction and refresher) will take place Saturday 21st March

Update on improvements at Brixton Windmill

Improvements: ladder into cap, plans to create new vents in windows, cap lighting, storage cupboard and seat benches on ground floor.

Mill Archive – Ann/Carmen

Written report provided.

6. Treasurer's Report – Shaun Wilson

Balance £6,927.51.

Approx. £3k outstanding from Lambeth Council - Adrian to pursue.

7. Report from Sub-Groups:

Comms

New history 32 page history booklet plus cover being produced

Film (1) short 2/3 minutes for website (2) longer 'year in the life' feature.

New merchandise, exploring costs: greeting cards, tea towels, t-shirts.

History of Brixton Windmill in 12/16 objects – for examples, mill stones, wheat, sail cloths, bricks.

Events – festival theme to be 'manual trades'. To take place Sunday 28th June.

Fund-raising

See comments from Sustainability sub-group.

Secured funding for free tai-chi session in the park on Saturdays. These started in November.

Parks

Received £500 grant for plants. Looking to purchase bird food producing berries (native British species), plus soft fruit bushes with goal of running a preserve making workshop in the summer.

Working towards Green Pennant award for park.

8. AOB.

FoWG now a BBC 'Get Creative' Champion – meaning events can be publicised using this logo and on BBC website.