

# Friends of Windmill Gardens Annual General Meeting

7pm July 4<sup>th</sup> 2013  
St Paul's Church House,  
24 Blenheim Gardens SW2 5BZ

## Draft Minutes

### Actions

New Exec committee elect a vice-chair  
FOWG discuss management model for park – and invite Iain to committee meeting  
Apply for Green Flag Community Award

### 1. Welcome

Present: Sandra Watts, Chris Patton, Lord Dutton, Alex Gaffikin (Secretary), Jordan Hughes, Jean Kerrigan (Chair), Tamara Russell, Liam Cohen, Stephen Lawlor (Lambeth Officer) Magdalene Rubalcava, Kim Winter, Richard Santhiri, Owen Llewellyn, Annick Alet, June Stillman, Laura Zauli, Penny Steele

Apologies: Adrian Worrall, Dawn Edwards, Andrew Forbes, Anthea Masey, Shaun Wilson, Viv Whittingham, Nick Weedon, Dee Byrne, Sujata Biswas, Lesley Pryde

### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last AGM (12/07/12)

AG –Shaun's name is spelt incorrectly

Agreed: Correct record

Point 8: Sub-committee never formed - it is unlikely and extraordinarily expensive to use wind power to grind mill. More likely is to use the electric powered motor driven 'provender' or 'modular' mill. Agreed.

The Windmill musical? MR – they tried but it won't happen.

Are we doing an App? KW – you have to pay so decided against it.

### 3. Chair's Annual Report – Jean Kerrigan

JK presented the FoWG Annual Report 2013. This report covers 12 months from July 2012 – another busy and successful year for Friends of Windmill Gardens (FoWG). Full report will be online – some highlights below.

#### Visitors:

- Open summer of 2012 closed in October and re-opened at Easter 2013.
- 1208 visitors – we are on target
- Three illustrated information boards installed.

#### Building:

- Mills Weekend our millwright got the sails turning
- The patent sails have had to be repaired and further work will be done August.
- We await outstanding snagging works and training using the electric modular mill



#### Future:

- At the end of 2012 we launched the Flour Fund Appeal for £20,000.
- The first £5k raised will be spent on a feasibility study into whether or not the structure of the windmill can withstand regularly producing flour using the modular (provender) mill



### Mill Memories

- We were awarded a grant of £9.5k by the All Our Stories Lottery Fund
- [www.brixtonwindmill.org/memories](http://www.brixtonwindmill.org/memories)

### Windmill Artworks

- September 2012 - a very successful sound art work by artist Rosanna Greaves.
- Camila Cardeñosa completed a 31 metre long mural on the park wall. Created in collaboration with school children, local residents and Friends.



### The Park

- A wooden seat was donated, railings been removed, bushes tidied
- Soon the green storage box will be moved and the gravel path re-positioned
- The old OOC building is now eased to 'Holmewood at the Windmill' stay & play
- The council proposes friends of parks groups to consider taking a bigger role in management of their local spaces.
- We have supported proposals for a "pop up farm" in the park

### The Friends

- This year we introduced membership cards.
- We attend Lambeth Parks and Green Spaces and Lambeth's Local History Forums.
- FoWG were shortlisted for the English Heritage Angel Award
- Sub-groups of the Friends: Comms, Events, and Parks. We need to develop Fund-raising group - we will hold a meeting in September. If you would like to join any of our sub-groups email [info@brixtonwindmill.org.uk](mailto:info@brixtonwindmill.org.uk)

### Volunteers and Guides

- FoWG continues to train new guides.
- **Next training sessions are on Thursday July 11 at 6.30pm.**
- Thank Veolia for supplying us with a volunteer First Aider

JK – someone suggested an online booking system for volunteers

### Community events in the park

- 5-A-Side Football tournament for children and youth (July), Art in the Park (August) were followed by a successful, Harvest festival held on Open House weekend (September), the Big Draw, Spooky Halloween, Easter egg hunt, Annual Parade and Festival in June, organised by Magdalen and the Events group.
- Our first new event is Big Gig in the park on July 14.

JS – what a wonderful parade and festival, a jolly band



### Outreach and Publicity

- The Friends' communication group (Comms) have continued to provide brilliant publicity for FoWG and Brixton Windmill. Nancy Platts retired and Dee Byrne is new Press Officer.
- Our chair and vice chair have given several talks to local groups. We have set up stalls at the Lambeth Country Show, Real Bread Campaign on the Southbank, Lambeth Archive Day, Brockwell Christmas Fair, and in Brixton Market where we tell everyone about Brixton Windmill.

- The Comms group also regularly update the Windmill Website at [www.brixtonwindmill.org](http://www.brixtonwindmill.org) with Friends' news via our blog.

## Merchandising

- We have extended our range of windmill products. These are now on sale at Diverse Gifts in Brixton as well as at all our own events and open days.
- The Parks Group regularly provide seasonal plants and fresh produce for our stalls. All these sales help boost the funds of FoWG to allow us to organise community events in Windmill Gardens

## Education Programme

- New Development and Education Officer Stephen Lawlor - begun to extend the schools programme to secondary pupils particularly those studying science and mechanics.

SL – a total of 18 school visits and we have exceeded HLF target. In Sept we will start again.



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## Executive Committee

- Thank all the members of FoWG
- One of our longest-serving Executive members Penny Steele has told us she wants to stand down from the committee. We want to thank Penny.

JK - Long standing member, and vice-chair Richard Santhiri is also standing down from Exec, though will continue to help us and we are sorry to lose him from the committee.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer can't make it today but sent in the report – summary below

- Opening balance 3,949.14
- Income 18,578.69
- Expenditure 7,536.41
- Balance at 31st March 14,998.75

SWa – why aren't we audited?

AG – we submit an annual return to charity commission but we don't have a high enough income (£25k) to warrant being audited / independently examined

LR – refreshments raise a lot – thanks to our lovely bakers!

JK – Parks have raised quite a lot selling jam / plants & veg

CP – we are selling Windmill merchandise in Diverse Gifts, Brixton

MR – we have our own 'windmill loaf' on sale at the Old Post Office Bakery

## 5. Election of officers and Executive Committee for 2013-14

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Jean Kerrigan	Alex Gaffikin	Lord Dutton
Vice Chair			
Secretary	Alex Gaffikin	Magdalen Rubalcava	Sandra Watts
Exec Member	Adrian Worrall - Brixton City Farm	Magdalen Rubalcava	Richard Santhiri
Treasurer	Shaun Wilson	Alex Gaffikin	Jean Kerrigan
Exec Member	Sandra Watts	Magdalen Rubalcava	Laura Zauli
Exec Member	Laura Zauli	Magdalen Rubalcava	Sandra Watts
Exec Member	Magdalen Rubalcava	Laura Zauli	Owen Llewellyn
Exec Member	Chris Patton	Alex Gaffikin	Lord Dutton
Exec Member	Owen Llewellyn	Alex Gaffikin	Kim Winter
Exec Member	Kim Winter	Alex Gaffikin	Laura Zauli
Exec Member	Nick Weedon	Alex Gaffikin	Owen Llewellyn

+ BGRMO rep – Annie Jones?

Agreed – exec choose vice chair

Agreed – new exec committee

## **6. Members proposals (non-received)**

## **7. Future of Lambeth's Parks and Open Spaces – Dr Iain Boulton, Lambeth Parks Project Officer**

### **Park management**

Despite financial pressures on local authorities Lambeth hasn't lost any parks and has a policy not to lose green spaces (Bristol has to lose 20%). Lambeth haven't lost any staff but budgets to be cut again next year saving £200,000.

There are three models of Park management proposed by cooperative council;

- Status Quo – Council run parks
- Shared / co-operative model – management board of council and community
- Go it alone - Community run parks

Iain is encouraging a shared/co-operative model where we formalise relationship between Council and community groups. Many groups are doing this already. Eg saying this is what money we have – how to we spend it and how do we make up the shortfall

An example of 'Go it alone' is Milton Keynes where all green spaces are owned and run by community groups

A briefing pack is coming out soon about the 'Shared / Community model'

FOWG need to discuss what our priorities are

### **'Local Plan' and 'Open Space Strategy'**

Councils have to produce a Local Plan for 2015 for development. It is an overarching planning document for the borough – identifying things to change and protect. Iain is involved in parks and biodiversity. Section 06 states that money from development has to go to improve green spaces. Iain is doing an Open Space Strategy for Lambeth – which can be used as evidence for the Local Plan. It is useful for showing what money should be used for. Iain looks at what we have eg; playgrounds, security, access, heritage, biodiversity, signage etc – for guiding and informing the Local Plan.

It is a long process and consultation is starting now. We can read the Open Space Strategy – it will change all the time.

Currently Windmill Gardens scores about 60%

### **Q&A**

OL – Does a lack of neighbouring green spaces make ours more important? It is the greenest space between Acre Lane and South Circular

IB – yes there is an 'access deficiency' score where there is a lack of green spaces and you can use it to say 'we are in a deficient area we need more money to make it score higher'

LZ – Is the fact that we don't score highly is in our favour because it helps us get more money?

IB – Yes but you may never get 100% because there are things you can't change

RS – Why 60% - can we have a breakdown?

IB – yes I can send it to you. We can do the scoring together.

RS – Are you our contact in meetings with HLF for getting an education centre?

IB – I am happy to contribute to HLF bids – I’m not an expert on design and construction but yes happy to help with Stephen (DEO) and Lara (central area parks officer) . And there are other funders out there. You just have to coach it in the right way.

MR – Iain should do Mill Memories!

AG – which models are other groups using?

IB - all groups want the 'Shared Model' but different progressions along the line

JK – Bigger parks have management committees. Smaller parks may find it harder because they have less money spent on them and less opportunities for making money. I asked how much money is spent on Windmill Gardens. They cut grass but not much horticulture. The Management Committee should also include Holmewood at the Windmill stay & play group based in park

MR - ....and BGRMO (Blenheim Gardens estate).

SWa – does having the Windmill make a difference?

IB – heritage funding hasn't disappeared and it's a way of maximising strength

JK – and Lambeth are thinking of getting a Heritage Officer

RS – We want to try and move on this and getting your help and support

IB – you can invite me to an Exec

AA – The Windmill sometimes overshadows the Park – the windmill gets a lot of funding which appears on documents but it's going to the windmill building and not the gardens (park).

Also there was an example of a bush being removed when it shouldn't...

IB – That's where Management Boards will help

MR – Veolia support us a lot and we need to be careful

OL – The communication lines need to be clarified

JK – we need to thank Lambeth for looking after parks which it doesn't have to legally. But one problem is that resources go to Green Flag parks so as a small park we need to fight our corner.

IB - We can go for Green Flag Community Award. It is free and we will support you.

## **8. AOB:**

**Proposed date for next AGM: 3 July 2014**