

FRIENDS OF WINDMILL GARDENS GENERAL MEETING

7PM, 11th NOVEMBER 2015
MARKET HOUSE, 443 COLDHARBOUR LANE, BRIXTON SW9 8LN

MINUTES

Actions

- Launch petition to encourage Lambeth to release funding for education building, in line with its previously indicated intention.
- Formal thank you to Stephen Lawlor, Education Officer, for all his incredible hard work and creativity establishing and developing the education workshops and community programme at the windmill and under difficult circumstances.

1. WELCOME

Thank you to all those attending particularly new and renewed members.

Present -	Annick Alet	Donna Lister	Kim Winter
	Sujata Biswas	Owen Llewellyn	Jeff Thomas
	Glynnis Brooks	Mike Loosley	Meredith Macardle
	Dee Byrne	Phil Dolman	Anthea Masey
	Mark Eley	Liz du Parcq	Chris Patton
	Adrian Garden	Jean Kerrigan	Nick Weedon
	Stephen Lawlor	Carolyn Weniz	Viv Whittingham
	Ann Lee	Marjorie Landells	Shaun Wilson

Visitors - Leland De Cambia
Rosemary Jebo
Colette Thomas, Chair Lambeth Parks Forum
David Whight, Chair Ruskin Park Friends
Caroline Streeks, Lambeth Council officer

Apologies -	Robert Adie	Lara Mifsud-bonici
	William Belcher	Bianca Schmauch
	Anna Frankllin	Peter Skuse
	Lesley Pryde	Devon Thomas
	Toussainte Reba	Magdalen Rubalcava

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM JULY AGM

Minutes from July 2015 AGM agreed as true record.

Following the AGM new member, Bianca Schmauch, joined the Executive Committee.

3. REPORT TO GM – Jean

Since July, Lambeth having found some unspent HLF funding, were able to extend the DEO contract for three months, ending 31st December 2015.

During the four full years the Windmill has been open, close to 2,800 children have enjoyed workshops at the windmill run as part of the education programme. Close links with the windmill cluster of schools have been established, and the windmill has been embedded into their curriculum. Double the number of workshops planned under the HLF agreement have taken place, despite the difficult circumstances (i.e. access to the one'o'clock club only on Mondays and Fridays and limited storage space).

Aim is to have some extra special events for the 2016 bicentenary.

Great visitors numbers on open days – 870 in 2015 on free open days/community events. An increase since 2014. This is in contrast to other heritage sites that record reduced visitors numbers year on year.

This year we launched the monthly Brixton Hill Heritage Walks which draw in a different demographic.

Also this year had 58 mid-week paying visitors.

Over past four years had 925 paying visitors. This demonstrates that with a dedicated building, we could build on this.

Big thanks you to the volunteers for their great support. Our tour guides, stewards, bakers, gardeners and events organisers are an essential part of the overall visitor experience at Brixton Windmill.

Special events always increase attendance i.e. Music event in July (this year with steel band), Hallowe'en event. Final Christmas event this year will be held in conjunction with the BGMO on 19th December.

Big achievement this year has been the introduction of regular flour milling, this has great promotional potential for the future of Brixton Windmill.

Windmill Gardens won a national award for the park for the first time – the Green Flag Community Award.

Recommendation from Council officers is to proceed with only four parks capital projects this year rather than the previously identified nine projects. The remaining 5 projects which include the Windmill education building, will be subject to feasibility studies but with no dates confirmed for when these might take place.

Lack of building for Brixton Windmill could effectively kill the education project.

Without a building, securing funding is made difficult. The process of applying for a grant from the HLF transitional fund has started – this would be used for skills training on strategic management. This will be difficult to progress without a clear time-line for the building in place.

Discussion on likelihood of council officers not having read FoWG material, as it included details of all the points they are now raising as reasons for the need for a further feasibility study, i.e.

- local support
- potential to expand the education projects (secondary school pupils and family)
- potential for social enterprise.

Agreed – FoWG to launch petition to the Lambeth Council asking them to release funding for education building, in line with its previously indicated intention. The £350K has always been available. The intention is to let Council know that if there is any further delay to the project it will totally undermine the successful education project at the windmill.

Cllr Adrian Gardener – fully supports this and will take the petition to the next Council Meeting on Nov 18th.

4. WINDMILL 200TH ANNIVERSARY – Stephen

Brief overview of range of events planned for 2016.

Mark Eley of Design duo Eley Kishimoto will be Creative Ambassador for the Windmill in 2016 – which is very exciting.

Windmill cluster of schools are planning events, such as a poetry slam and a design a flour bag competition.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT - Shaun

Raised £2k within three years. Flour fund (running for two years) raised £5,648 (£1,100 spent on equipment, £638 generated and spent approximately £150 on stock (grain)).

Income generated from merchandise approx. £5,500.

Stock take to be carried out on merchandise by end of current financial year.

Assets include things like gardening tools and the interactive story boards.

Hoping to finally be paid by Lambeth for invoices submitted, by end of financial year.

6. AOB Next General Meeting – Wednesday 24th February 2016.

*Meeting ended at 8.15pm and was followed by a **Thank You Party** for all the support of FoWG members and volunteers over the period of the 5-year HLF grant – Thanks to Market House for their generous support!*