



# The Friends of Cator Park & Alexandra Recreation Ground

Holy Trinity Church Lennard Rd SE20 7LX

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7.30pm to 9pm

### Minutes

#### **Attendance:-**

**Committee:-** Millie Knights (Chair), Lou Thompson.(Secretary) , Debs Lader (Treasurer), Helen Parker, Colin Naphthine, Siobian Caswell,

Invited guests: Penny Read ID Verde. Dr Judith John, Bromley Biodiversity. Partnership Species and Habitats group

**Members:-** Mathew Knights , Jon Caswell, Chris Richardson,

**Apologies:- Committee:-** Claudia Rios, Gareth Parker,

**Members** Ian Jerome, Lucy Smith. Anita Bignell Jessica Farrand.

Millie welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Judy John, guest speaker on Hedgehogs and Penny Read – Community Parks Manager with idverde

**Minutes of last AGM** via zoom 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2020.

Agreed, approved by Millie Knights and seconded by Helen Parker.

#### **Chair's Annual Report**

Millie presented her slide presentation (attached) showing all the work that had been achieved in the park over this past 12 months, and future projects.

Millie thanked all the committee members and volunteers for their hard work over a difficult year. We have undertaken approximately 364 volunteer hours in or for the parks/ Friends group. This is the equivalent. of 9.8 weeks of full-time work.

Activity highlights include. Increase in biodiversity activities in both parks: Long grass meadows with signage now in place. idverde have approved a greater area of grass to be left uncut around the saplings in both parks to help protect them from the mower. We received a donation of bulbs from the Metropolitan Public

Gardens Association. The Friends also spent over £100 which led to approx. 3000 bulbs being planted in November 2021.

Fund raising was successful via our community park events, Music and Paws in the Park, an online quiz – all despite the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Thanks to local artist Helen Cristofoli we installed two beautiful wooden plaque nature trails. - <http://www.Friendsofcatorandalexandra.com/nature-trail>

The Friends also stripped and provided wood stain to two park benches and a metal bin in Cator Park over one summer weekend, The Friends were delighted to have achieved this task and have received many compliments, both on how professionally we undertook the task and how smart the benches look. We plan to do more in the coming year.

- Our bench crowdfund continues. We have ordered a new bench for Cator Park and have raised funds in conjunction with friends and family of the late John Parker for two memorial benches for Alexandra RG. She also thanked Penny Read, idverde Community Manager and the Good Gym who have assisted in several evening and weekend gardening sessions.

### **Membership Report**

Millie presented the report showing an increase in membership since 2017 N.24 members to 2021 and 91 paid members. She thanked all the members for their continuing support to the parks.

### **Treasurers Annual Report**

Debs presented the accounts. The accounts had been audited by 2 independent members in accordance with our constitution. Key spends in 2020-21 include £900 for our Cator park container, £1100 on tools, bulbs and plants, £1500 on a bench in Cator park and £343 on our website

No queries arose with the accounts and were passed. The Friends carried forward at 30/9/2021 £7,438.85, much of the funds are allocated for future projects inc the Willow arch.

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

Proposed amendments to the Constitution had been circulated prior to the meeting. Millie went through the main changes. No objection to the changes were raised.

Approved- Louise Thompson, seconded Debs Lader

## **Election of the Committee**

Committee members are now re-elected each year onto the committee. All stated they are happy to stand again in roles. Louise will continue as Secretary for the time being.

- Millie – Chair- Nominated Louise Seconded Helen
- Louise – Secretary - Nominated Helen- Seconded Millie
- Debs- Treasurer- Nominated Helen- Seconded Louise
- Committee Members: - Gareth, Helen, Siobian, Colin, Claudia
- Chris Richardson wished to stand down. Millie thanked him for all his years on the committee.
- Gill Cawdron would like to stand for the committee. Nominated Millie, Seconded by Louise.
- 

## **Hedgehogs are under threat**

We received an interesting presentation on hedgehog preservation by Dr Judith John from the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership Species & Habitats Group –

We have all been asked to do more to help protect the endangered hedgehogs . More information can be found on the following pages. <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>  
<https://www.bromleyFriendsforum.org/uploads/1/0/7/2/10726735/hedgehog-poster.pdf>

If you see a hedgehog within the Bromley area please email the following, indicating the place either with post code or grid reference and the number of hedgehogs seen to the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership at [bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:bromleybiodiversity@gmail.com)

## **Future Projects Plans:**

### **Paddling Pool**

Millie gave the background to the project.

The paddling pool in Alexandra Recreation Ground was last filled in 2019. It had been deemed no longer viable to repair the paddling pool in its current form by LBB/ idVerde. The Friends put in a proposal for a splash play area, which would be accessible for children, of varying age ranges and with disabilities in February 2020. In December 2020, we were asked to repeat a survey to members and residents, which showed local support continued for the paddling pool to be present. We continued to campaign for support for our project proposal to be considered. To date it has not been approved by the London Borough of Bromley. The

Friends have written to Counsellor Huntington Thresher and James Hilsdon, Parks and Green spaces brough Manager, LBB. Several meetings have taken place to discuss an interim proposal including repairing the fencing and gates to keep it a dog free space, and paint the surface of the pool floor so it can be used as a scooter park by younger children and maintain the grass / hedgerow. We continue to campaign for this to take place. We are aware that an LBB open Space Strategy meeting is being held in November where the paddling pool site is to be discussed and we await the outcome of this meeting.

Penny Read thanked the Friends group for all the work they have done in the parks over the year. And had nothing further to add re the paddling pool at this time. There were no other comments from the floor.

### **Willow Arch in Cator**

Funding has now been raised and approval given for the build of a living willow arch, to be sited in two new raised beds. Up to date costs will be obtained and we aim for construction in March 2022.

### **AOB / Questions & Answers**

Darren asked: Has there been any consideration to lighting along the path in Alexandra Rec, along the path where the paddling pool is- Westbourne Rd to Studland Rd / Tannsfield Rd as this path is a regular cut through used by cyclist and pedestrians. Millie advised this had not been considered as far as her time on the committee. Penny advised that Bromley council are generally not keen to light park paths due to the issue of biodiversity. Dr Judith John advised it can have a negative effect on wildlife. Millie invited Daren to raise this formerly to bring to the committee.

Water fountains were raised as an issue – are there any thoughts on getting the original fountain back working again as there is no fresh water being available. MK agreed to take this forward via the Friends Forum.

A member suggested an increase in the membership as its very cheap. A discussion was held that some parks don't charge, others do a similar amount to us. It was also pointed out that families have enough expense, and we should consider not increasing it on this basis. It was voted to increase the charges. However, a post meeting discussion, the Friends decided there was not enough time for a proper discussion, the membership has been left the same, to be considered at the next core committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm