

## **Minutes: Initial Meeting to discuss the forming of Friends of Woolwich Common Group**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 7pm

Location: Ashmore Road, London SE18

### **Attendees:**

Jeremy Ellis (**JE**) – Resident, Royal Military Academy  
Chris Allen (**CA**) – Resident, Royal Military Academy (taking minutes)  
Cllr Anthony Okereke (**AO**) – Councillor, Woolwich Common Ward  
Hayley Fletcher (**HF**) – Resident, Royal Military Academy  
David Gardner (**DG**) – Councillor, Woolwich Common Ward  
Major John Elderidge (**MJE**) - Major, Royal Artillery Barracks, MoD  
Steven Renwick (**SR**) - RQMS, Royal Artillery Barracks, MoD  
Anita Gallone (**AG**) – Resident, Royal Military Academy  
Daniele Fella (**DF**) – Resident, Royal Military Academy  
Cllr Ivis Williams (**IW**) – Councillor, Woolwich Common Ward

### **Discussion:**

#### **Current Responsibility / Duties**

**JE** – Introduction, highlighting issue of littering across the common, especially around the paths adjoining the QE hospital car-park.

**DG** confirmed main area around QE hospital is smoke-free, resulting in smoking/litter around the car-park.

**HF** – Responsibility for the common is between the Council, MoD and Hospital, and these have been failing their responsibilities.

**DG** – Council prefers encouragement rather than force, but it can raise environmental enforcement notices for larger issues, and if not resolved then will resolve/clean themselves and pass on the bill. Confirmed LGT (Lewisham and Greenwich Trust) lease the land for the car-park near the hospital.

**MJE** – The DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) is the effective landlord for the military and has a scheme to keep areas clean, but do not have sufficient funding. Because of lack of infantry on site, the military no longer actively use the common.

**MJE/SR** – The barracks employ an individual for the purpose of keeping areas clean. Limited to 50hr / year, and clearing begins at the Barracks site (eg Barrack Field), so common gets cleaned less.

**HF** – questioned MoD on allowing fairs and use of the common as a car-park for events - preservation of common is an issue

**MJE** - DIO take the money from the events, some filters back to allow a level of tidying up afterwards. Difficult to restrict parking during Eid etc, parking would be pushed to roads.

**DG** – suggested collectively talking to the mosque about this, MJE/SR suggest that disruption/damage from a couple of days a year is small compared to if the military were to use the common for practice.

**MJE** – regarding the recent fly-tipping, the DIO tendered to remove it, but failed – it is reapplying

#### **Creation of the Friends Group / Communications**

**Action – DG to send registration process / draft constitution for Friends Group**

**JE** – Asked if a Friends of Woolwich Common group is created, is there budget for litter pickers / hoop sack holders from the Council for use by groups.

**DG** – There is a discretionary Ward budget, so the potential to make grants for things such as equipment. Process is to create/register a local group first before submitting claims.

**MJE** – Requested the group has a military representative, suggested DIO might not want to be actively involved at this level. *Jocelyn Enfield* suggested as a possible contact, and/or a representative from *Aramark*, the Services Contractors on camp.

**JE** – Requested that even if DIO don't want to be actively involved, that a contact is provided who can attend the first meeting, so a face can be put to the name.

**Action – MJE – to suggest a suitable military representative**

**IW/AO** – confirmed that all 3 councillors would automatically be part of the Friends Group.

**Action – DG – Invite a hospital representative to the group (suggested Director of the Estate / Chief Executive of LGT)**

**HF** – reiterated that once the Group is set up, the priorities and costs should be determined before campaigning for action. The common should be walked and work out the access routes and main issues.

**DG** – other residential areas nearby should be invited to be part of the Group. Suggested leafleting, which the council could help with.

**MJE** – there is a military community group - with a monthly newsletter which could include information about the Group.

**Action – JE/CA – Create a Gmail account for the group**

**Action – JE/CA – Create a Facebook Group**

**Action – ALL – those attendees who would like to be members of the Group, email [friendsofwoolwichcommon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwoolwichcommon@gmail.com)**

### Signage / Bins

**JE** – asked about possibility of signage and/or bins across the common (and who would empty the bins). He further suggested that if bins are by path entrances they could be emptied by the council along with the bus stop bins.

**DG** – signage can cost around £100/sign.

**SR** – confirmed placing of signs on common would not be a problem, but bins would need to be external to the common

**Action - DG – applying for many bins would unlikely to be approved, but could ask about an initial pair of bins near the ends of the cycle path**

### Circular Way

**HF** – could Circular Way be eradicated as a road?

**DG** – there is no purpose to the road, has preference to grass over or convert to footpath. Decision would be the councils, the only issue being the cost.

**MJE** - suggested barriers between Haha Road to Circular Way– allowing access pedestrians, cyclists, emergency vehicles

### **Next meeting**

Meetings agreed to be early evening on weekdays, excluding Fridays, to allow maximum resident / military attendance.

**Next meeting: Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 – 7pm**

**Location: Cricket Hut/Pavillion, Barrack Field / Haha Road**

**Action – ALL – Please email [friendsofwoolwichcommon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwoolwichcommon@gmail.com) suggested agenda items**

**Action - DG – invite a representative of another ‘Friends of’ Group**

**Action – MJE/SR – confirm address / location of cricket hut, and if there are any access requirements**