

Minutes: AGM / Friends of Woolwich Common Group

Date: 5th February 2020

Location: Old Observatory, Repository Road, SE18

Attendees:

Carolyn Roberts (CR)	- Co-Chair
Jeremy Ellis (JE)	- Co-Chair
Gaye Rose (GR)	- Treasurer
Chris Allen (CA)	- Secretary
John Braybrook (JB)	- Major, Station Quartermaster, RA Barracks, MoD
David Gardner (DG)	- Councillor, Woolwich Common Ward
Jenny Sherrell (JS)	- Local Resident
Vikki Coombes (VC)	- Local Resident
Gareth Tuppenney (GT)	- Local Resident
Judith Stephens (JST)	- Local Resident
Gareth Stephens (GS)	- Local Resident
Joseph Swift (JSW)	- Local Resident
David Larkin (DL)	- Local Resident

1 & 2: (Re-)election of Executive Committee

Carried by simple majority:

Secretary – re-elected -	Chris Allen
Treasurer – re-elected -	Gaye Rose
Co-Chair – re-elected -	Jeremy Ellis
Co-Chair – newly-elected –	Vikki Coombes
Co-Chair – newly-elected -	Jenny Sherrell

The following Committee members have had to resign their posts as Co-Chairs due to moving away:

Carolyn Roberts

Alexis Bailey

Huge thanks was expressed especially to Carolyn for her remarkable work for FoWC over the past year and to wish her the best for the future.

3, 4 & 5: Lewisham and Greenwich Health Trust – no L> representative made available

Updates on signage, bins, staff communication as per minutes of meeting 6th November 2019:

Installing a smoking shelter was previously suggested – to be pushed at next meeting with the hospital.

Bus drivers to use hospital toilet facilities – requests for their own toilets to be dropped.

Baker/Stadium Road widening: The current planning application from L> has elapsed, however when a new one is submitted DG said that any road widening to impact the common would be opposed, any impact of a new cycle path should be on hospital side (whilst removing the fencing).

Confirmation that the hospital car park is leased from the MoD and the Trust does not have the power to remove the fencing.

Action: JB - DIO to be asked if they will remove the wire fencing & posts around hospital car parks

6: Update on bunds

The request has been approved by Army command. Currently there is a difficulty getting a Royal Engineer unit assigned to it.

Action: JB will update FoWC when unit is able to be assigned

7. Fun fairs

Billy Davis, the owner of the fun fair company has had his licence re-approved for a single annual visit (September). He has requested the date to be moved to July and has met with MoD and agreed to come to the next meeting with FoWC. Majority agreed that he should be invited (via JB) to next meeting.

Action: JB to invite Billy Davis once next meeting date is arranged

Question raised as to how Billy Davis can be committed to not polluting and tidying up – plastic ties, signage/fly-posting, oil and chlorinated water on the Common. How can this be enforced in a contract with the DIO?

Action: DG to produce an RBG document covering obligations to be sent as an addendum to DIO contract.

General feeling that public car-parking on the Common should not be permitted for the fun fairs.

8. Closing Circular Way

Circular Way is currently closed as a trial.

JB – confirmed that fly-tipping has increased around married quarters.

Assuming the closure is made permanent:

JB may be able to provide man-power to break up tarmac.

Action: FoWC committee to investigate where the necessary new top-soil could come from.

9. Japanese Knotweed

Contractors have walked the affected areas with CR. JB's groundsmen will be tackling/injecting all identified locations in Spring 2020.

10. Tree planting

DG - All council trees already allocated elsewhere.

JB contacted by a school representative with over 2000 trees to plant for a school project. Woolwich Common was identified as a possible location.

JB raised that Woolwich Common & Barracks are Conservation Area -

Action: DG to check if permission from RBG is needed to plant trees on the Common.

JS raised that it was preferable to have ecological report done prior to any planting. School unlikely to plant before Spring.

DG – suggested planting alongside cycle path – general feeling within the group that it would be best to avoid planting at this location due to the nature of the Common here.

DL – suggested that Woodland Trust trees are fairly small and can be healed in, in a temporary location on the Common and later moved.

Action: JS to book ecological audit for May.

JS to see if some pre-advice is possible on final location and where to heal in.

11. Cycle path

Suggestion that the tightly compacted tarmac for cycling makes the path dangerous in cold weather or in the early morning.

Action: DG to find out who is responsible for maintenance of the cycle path.

12. Motorcycles

If motorbikes are spotted on the Common report to JB by placing a post on the FoWC Facebook Group (along with any photographs)– he will then alert his guard who will respond if they have capacity.

GR & JS went to MPS SNT meeting – the police do not have capacity to look in to the motorbikes unless harder evidence is available such as licence plates for vans off-loading bikes.

Bikes are a problem around the married quarters (and costing JB money to deter).

AOB:

13. Grant for benches, ecological audit and informational signs:

The grant process will result in a shortlisting, which will be put to the general public for a vote.

If the FoWC application makes that shortlist suggestions on how to publicise:

Action: FoWC Committee to make a poster suggesting benefits and method to vote - for JB – who will circulate amongst his staff (and Wive's clubs if completed in time).

Also

- Use our own social media networks

- Ask the hospital to publicise

14. Great British Spring Clean:

Agreement to participate on 29th March.

Action: GR to apply for this

Action: CA - brand the litter pick as GBSC on the website/social media.

15. Pickers, bags & hoops

JS – to help store any equipment that Carolyn is no longer.

JB – to kindly purchase clear bags - to leave at Guard room at Napier Lines for us to collect.

CA/JE – to provide black bags

16. MoD sign knocked out of ground at east end of cycle lane –

Action: JB to get contractors to be repaired / re-seated (with more concrete).

17. Suggestion to repair the path around the south loop

Action: JS/JE/CA to provide JB with a map/photos of the path – to see if it can be repaired with like-for-like.

18. Path cut through the Common (& brambles) by machine

No-one knew what could be the cause of this – JB to ask, but thought unlikely it was any of his staff.

19. General updates:

1. Barracks will be quiet with less soldiers for foreseeable future.
2. Strategic Defence Review announced, pressure being placed to keep Woolwich Barracks open.