

MINUTES OF THE LEE GREEN ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Eva Kestner

ALSO PRESENT: Ade Joseph

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ese Erheriene and Councillor James Rathbone

Record of Meeting

	Items	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Eva Kestner welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda. Apologies was tendered for Cllr James Rathbone and Cllr Ese Erheriene who are both unwell.</p>	
2	Caring for our Parks	
	<p>This update was provided by Paul Lowndes, chair of Friends of Manor House Garden, Pauline Mallory from Friends of Manor Park and Jim Mallory on behalf of Edith Nisbet Gardens.</p> <p>Jim provided a brief background information on the 3 Parks as follows: Lee Green has 3 Parks within its ward. The large one being Manor House Garden, medium sized Manor Park and a pocket park known as Edith Nisbet Garden located behind the Leybridge Estate Flats. Manor House Garden benefitted from a revamp about 30 years ago when the newly formed Friends group made a successful funding application to the Heritage Fund for a complete overhaul of the park. The funding enabled works on the improvements to landscaping, children play area upgrade and renovation of the listed currently building housing the cafe etc. The Friends Group continues to manage and delivers the annual Manor House Garden Festival.</p> <p>Friends of Manor House Gardens Update Paul Lowndes updates the meeting on some of their successes and ongoing issues as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Glendale Services contract with Lewisham Council is up for tender. It is a requirement for the council to consult and go through due process as part of the renewal process. As part of the process all the Parks Users' Group across the borough have been invited to meet the council on Thursday 21 September to give their feedback on what's been	

working and what has not been working with the current contract.

- The feedback request is not just limited to the Parks Group alone, but park users can also submit their views via their user's group. Paul therefore asked people to send him their feedback on what they feel is going well, what's and the key things they would like to see included in the new parks management contract. All the feedback collected will be fed back to the council at the meeting on 21st September.

Some of the successes of the Users group were highlighted as follows:

- successful delivery of the annual Manor House Garden Festival, the last being in June where over £3000 was raised for the park through charges from stall holders, raffles tickets and money taken from the license bar.
- The outside Cinema held last week generated a contribution of £500 for the Users' Group. All monies realised goes toward Parks improvement including planting and funding other smaller projects.
- The numbers of volunteers continue to grow through the monthly meetings which is held on the first Saturday of each month.
- Members of the group recently refurbished the flower beds by the café. Litter picking takes place on the first Saturday of each month and this gets people's attention. This aspect of work featured in an article in the News Shopper around 6 weeks ago.
- Several outstanding repairs issues has been flagged up with Glendale. The fountain is temporarily fixed, with plans of a replacement in the future. A new air raiser has been fitted. Holes in the ground in the dog area has been filled and fencing around the area fixed. A broken slide in the children playground has also been fixed.
- Plans to replace the bins around the park with fox proof bins continues. A few of the bins has been replaced with plans for the replacement of the remaining whenever funding can be sourced.

Repairs

- In terms of ongoing issues, bins overflowing and people leaving their rubbish bags behind following children parties held in the park remains a problem.
- The council have put forward some suggested planting plans for the beautification of the Old Road entrance.
- A proposal has been received from Trinity School on their plans for the refurbishment of the football area. They hope to replace the current surface with a soft 4G surface. Further details are expected from the school.
- The group is working on a signage design to welcome people to the park and reminding them of the park rules.
- The group has recently received an offer for the installation of a book stall in the park beside the notice board, where people can donate and take books. This is primarily aimed at children. The stall will be installed free of charge by a

	<p>Charity based in Blackheath.</p> <p>A call-out for more people to get involved. The Group operate a Wassap chat with a contact number on 07725 623510.</p> <p>Manor Park</p> <p>The update on Manor Park was given by Pauline Mallory. She explained the various improvements that has been implemented to improve access to the park through the ward Assembly funding. A Users Group formed around 2002 successfully secured £20,000 from the Assembly and managed to get the Council to match the fund for the construction of a foot bridge to Longhurst Road. The improvement increased the footfall in the park. The park also benefitted from an additional £5,000 which was used to renovate the building in the park now housing the café. Recent Improvements featured the installation of a drinking water fountain, interactive murals displayed along the walls of the park, new benches and fox proof bins. Several events have been organised by the Parks group for children and families.</p> <p>The café in the park is now open by a new operator in a section of the park building, open to the public as a kiosk. Further works are needed to upgrade the inside space. The group plans to seek permission from the Council to extend the use of the inside community space to the café to use over the winter months from 16th October, to ensure its the opening all year round.</p> <p>Funding secured from the Greening Fund has also enabled the installation of a trim trail and nature signs. There was a call out for more volunteers to support the work of the group.</p> <p>Edith Nisbet Garden</p> <p>Jim Mallory provided the update on this pocket park as it has no user's group. The park was re-landscaped around 15 years ago by the Council and a children's play area was installed. A comment from a resident which highlights the council's neglect of this park in comparison to the other 2 parks. One of the issues attributed to this was said to be the lack of a user's Group. There was a call out for volunteers to help set up a Users' Group for this park. A question n was raised about whether a section of the park can be secured as dog exercise area? Jim responding said he will raise the request with the council.</p>	
3	Feedback from NCIL funded Projects	
	<p>Lee Manor Society</p> <p>Charles Batchelor provided the update on the funding award of £3000 from the ward NCIL to LMS for tree planting programme on Burnt Ash Road. The plan is to purchase and install up to 5 trees on the Road. The group has always regarded Burnt Ash Road avenues of trees as an important aspect of the conservation area. They have also managed to persuade the social housing organisation with responsibility for the flats off Eltham Road to plant trees along the road which will make a lot of difference to their</p>	

residents.

The 5 new trees will be planted by Street Trees for Living who have been working in partnership with the council to deliver tree planting programme across the borough. Sites to benefit from the new trees scheme include the grass area in front of the flats on the corner of Effingham Road with Burnt Ash Road, areas around the east of Burnt Ash Road in front of the Maisonettes, outside the parade of shops and the United Reformed Church. The aim is to fill out the avenue of trees that run down Burnt Ash Road and secure its future. This is a rolling programme with plans of extension to other roads in the area. Residents can contact the group should they wish to have trees planted on their streets.

Due to recent illness amongst its members and some members moving out of the area, Lee Manor Society is seeking new members for their management committee. Anyone interested in joining the committee is asked to contact Charles Batchelor.

Lee Forum

Lee Forum also received funding from the ward NCIL funding for the installation of 2 street trees on Burnt Ash Hill area. The group worked in collaboration with Street Trees for living who conducts inspections of locations for verification on their suitability. Both trees were planted outside the parade of shops on Burnt Ash Hill. Retailers and residents have adopted these trees ensuring their regular maintenance.

FUSS

Representative from FUSS were unable to attend the meeting and gave their apology. The group provided a written update on their NCIL project which was read out by the chair as follows:

FUSS was awarded £5000 for the upgrade of damaged planters along Staplehurst Road. Progress seemed to be slow at first. A small working party was set up to research and order the replacement planters. An order was placed through a local firm and delivery was accomplished on Thursday 14th September to the Station Hotel's yard for storage. The group employed a team called "Nemus" whom they have used before and have helped them for free on occasions to install the new planters. The new planters should be in place by Wednesday 20th September.

Lee Green Consortium

Jim Mallory updated the meeting on how the Consortium have distributed the funding it secured from ward NCIL. The Consortium submitted a separate bid called "All in it together" to ensure that any residual money left over from the Lee Green NCIL (eventually £8,549) could be spent according to ward priorities. The Consortium met several times in the second half of 2022, and on 28 November and agreed to fund the following projects:

- FUSS (Christmas Festival 2022 tree) – £1000
- Friends of Manor House Gardens (Festival 2023 Community Corner) – £1000
- Lee Fair Share (Keep Fit & Well) – £1440
- Manor House Library V22 (250 years' celebration) – £850

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manor Park Friends (Spring – now “Harvest” – Festival event & park improvements) – £660 • <u>Friends of MHG (Bulb planting)</u> – £250 <p>TOTAL £5200</p> <p>Members present at the meeting also agreed a deduction of £400 “management fee” to Lochaber Hall Association (the accountable body). The remaining £3074 was distributed in the second tranche.</p> <p>Invitations went out to local groups in the Consortium in May 2023, inviting bids to be submitted for early July. At its 26 July meeting, the Consortium agreed to recommend the following projects for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FUSS (Christmas Festival 2023 tree) – £1000 • Friends of MHG (Festival 2024 Community Corner) – £1000 • <u>Lee Fair Share (Seaside trip & Christmas party)</u> - £611 <p>TOTAL £2611</p> <p>The remaining balance of £463, was recommend for distribution as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium Groups – particularly those which have yet to receive funds from “All in it together” be invited to bid for small amounts (£50-£100) to help pay for a celebration event within the next nine months. • Any funds left over after that could be allocated to V22 and Friends of MHG to go towards modest improvements to Manor House Library and Manor House Gardens. <p>The deadline for the £50-£100 bids to support local groups’ celebratory events is by 22 September 2023.</p>	
4	Leegate Application Approval Update	
	<p>This update was given by Jim Mallory. He informed the meeting about planning approval for the redevelopment of the Leegate Centre granted by the Council’s Strategic Planning Committee at their meeting on 19th July 2023 despite several concerns raised by local people and the Assembly working group about the height of the tower block and the massing of the blocks. It had been established that this project will be delivered over a number of years in two phases. The developers are currently in discussion with the council over the planning gains (Borough-wide Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 and community gains around the development.</p> <p>There is also ongoing discussion with leaseholders to reach a settlement with them. If the developers failed to negotiate a settlement with the leaseholders, they could ask the Council to implement a compulsory purchase order. In the meantime, Galliards are still awaiting second stage of approval from Local</p>	

	<p>Government Authority (LGA).</p> <p>It is proposed that work will commence on the site in around 18 months with completion taking up to 7 years.</p> <p>Members of the Leegate Assembly working group are meeting with Galliard on 4th of October with the aim of getting more sense of the timeline and progress they are making. Attendees were asked to pass any concerns they have around implementation to Jim. A session of question and answer session followed this update.</p>	
5	Consultation - Lewisham 2030 Conversation	
	<p>The council's wider Strategic Partnership group is conducting a big conversation process to get people's views on their hopes for Lewisham in 2030. The council is therefore asking all its residents to give their feedback on what they would like Lewisham to be in 2030. The aim is to find out about people's priorities, hopes, ambitions and aspirations for the future and how they can work with the council and its partners towards a better future for everyone in Lewisham in 2030.</p> <p>To do this, they are asking three key questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What do people like about Lewisham now? 2) What are their hopes for 2030? What a good future will look like 3) What they think needs to change to make these hopes happen? <p>Cllr Kestner invited people to get involve in the conversation by providing their answers to the 3 key questions on the post it notes provided, pasting their answers on the flip chart paper displayed around the room.</p>	
6	Community updates and any other business	
	<p>No were no items under community updates and any other business.</p>	
7	Declaration of interest	
	<p>There was no interest declared at this meeting.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone in attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	