



DeptfordFolk Autumn Meeting - 12 November 2019

Attendees: Trina Lynskey (Chair), Georgia Smith (Secretary), Scott Barkwith (Treasurer & Vice Chair), Lucy Marriott (Arts), Judith Watling (Glendale), Winston Castello (LBL Officer), Cllr Caroline Kalu (Evelyn Ward) + 15 others

Due to GDPR the details of those who are not on the DeptfordFolk Committee/LBL Officers are not published.

Agenda:

1. Folkestone Gardens pond
2. Cycling
3. DPLN
4. Rotherhithe Movement Plan
5. NCIL

No	Notes	Actions
1. Folkestone Gardens Pond	<p>£75,000 has been raised from Veolia towards restoring the FG pond . The recent cut back of the shrubbery on the island looks severe but it has to be done during the autumn-winter season. Restoring the pond is requiring a great deal more work than anticipated when we initially looked at this project.</p> <p>Judith (Glendale) - tree work has commenced. The willows look severely cut back but they will re-shoot and grow again. Pond works are expected to start soon either in Dec or Jan. Glendale are currently awaiting drainage consents. The plan is to dig and drain the whole pond, remove the silt and reline the pond. The current liner is damaged and leaking.</p> <p>The island in the pond will be made slightly smaller. Material from the island will be used to create bund for a wetland area which will be very good for wildlife. There will be a greater water surface area - the island is considered to be disproportionately large at the moment for a pond this size. The water level will be approx 1.5-2 metres deep at the end of this process. Pond works will take 6-8 weeks, the work will be messy with lots of diggers.</p> <p>The numbers of ducks on the pond had greatly reduced because of the rats on the island; ducks have already started returning to the island following the first phase of tree work. Doing this in the winter minimises the impact on wildlife. Glendale are hopeful that two willow trees on the pond will reshoot.</p>	

	<p>The are plans to consider bulb planting with progressive seasonal planting. Volunteer opportunities will come later - currently all the work is contractor-led.</p> <p>DeptfordFolk and Glendale are meeting with the person who renovated the pond 25 years ago.</p> <p>Also: DeptfordFolk has successfully applied for Lewisham Greening Fund grants. This will be used to fund water fountains in Folkestone Gardens and Deptford Park, and the installation of new bins and benches in Sayes Court Park.</p>	
<p>Cycle</p>	<p>Second Sunday Cycle Repairs has been running for the last three years. £10k of funding has supported us to run every month without fail, to pay our Lewisham Cyclists mechanics and to train up one of our volunteer mechanics. We've run several guided cycles to Beckenham Place Park and some basic repair workshops.</p> <p>It has been a great success but funding is due to finish at the end of March 2020. We are looking at new sources of funding to continue this popular workshop.</p> <p>Cycleway 4 which will run from Tower Bridge to Greenwich has broken ground on Jamaica Road. This will create a new segregated cycle route all the way along Evelyn Street and link into Quiet Way 1.</p> <p>We're hoping to hold a Second Sunday jumble sale soon, thanks to generous donations of cycle gear from a Woolwich-based cycling journalist.</p> <p>Lewisham Council will be installing new secure cycle storage in Evelyn in February and March. Residents can express an interest in this here: https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/d7402e3-2a2fbb2</p>	
<p>Deptford Park Liveable Neighbourhood (DPLN)</p>	<p>DPLN is a £2.9m project funded by TfL and Mayor of London. Full details are on the DeptfordFolk website.</p> <p>DeptfordFolk, Lewisham Council and Sustrans have undertaken ongoing community engagement activities to gather local input on this project over the last 18 months. This work has been led by Sustrans, the sustainable walking and cycling charity. Recent engagement has focussed on gathering ideas from people living in the vicinity of Woodpecker Walk, parents and children at Sir Francis Drake primary school and users of the parks adjacent to Canal Approach/Grinstead Road and Rolt Street.</p> <p>The formal Lewisham Council-led consultation is online now and open for comment. The winter DeptfordFolk meeting will be at the final Second Sunday Cycles of the year on 9 December, and will be a drop in session focussing on DPLN</p> <p>A meeting is scheduled at Festa with Sustrans 26 November (note: this was rescheduled for 14 January)</p>	

	<p>Lewisham Council are planning to remove the railings from the park side of Trundleys Road. These currently prevent pedestrians from accessing the whole of the east side of the park if walking along the pavement.</p> <p>The closure of Prince Street has been a tremendous success. This is a temporary closure for 6 months but we are hopeful that this will be made permanent by Lewisham Council. The closure has the full support of the Dog and Bell pub. A similar closure is planned for happen on Gonson Street next to The Duke pub in Greenwich. This will reduce rat-running on the residential side roads between Evelyn and Greenwich.</p> <p>Trina said that there is £1m available from Lewisham Council for addressing parking issues in Evelyn. £250k of this money is available now and £750k will be available in the future. Trina tasked Cllr Kalu with raising this at LBL.</p>	
<p>Rotherhithe Movement Plan (RMP)</p>	<p>The RMP is Southwark Council's response to the growing residential population in Rotherhithe, Surrey Quays and Canada Water - the area that borders Evelyn to the immediate north. The RMP includes pedestrian and cycle planning in Rotherhithe, as well as considerable changes in the way vehicles move through the area.</p> <p>Marianna (Trundley Road resident) is leading work on this. She has responded to RMP consultation but is concerned in particular about the impact of traffic proposals on Bush Road, Bestwood Street and Trundleys Road. Southwark's plans forecast and expected 100% increase in traffic along Trundley Road, which is fully within Lewisham Council and borders Deptford Park and the playground of Sir Francis Drake primary school.</p> <p>The whole Rotherhithe Movement Plan has been created for Southwark, ignoring the immediate bordering area of Evelyn.</p> <p>Marianna secured a meeting with Lewisham Cllr Sophie McGeevor and showed her the dangerous spots (incl the bridge by Sir Frances Drake). She also showed her dangerous crossing at Lidl - the RMP plans propose removal of the existing island outside Lidl which will make the crossing even more dangerous than it already is.</p> <p>The next step for the RMP is for Lewisham Council to negotiate with TfL, also to improve greening in the area. There is a huge risk that cars in Southwark displaced by new CPZ will simply start parking on Trundleys Road and surrounding areas, where parking is free. Evelyn risks becoming even more of a car park.</p> <p>Cllr Sophie McGeevor and council officer Josh learner have put forward an amendment to RMP plans for no right turn into Trundleys Road. Another proposal is no left turn from Surrey Canal Road onto Trundley. A more transformative move would be to put a bus gate on Trundleys Road to restrict access for cars but not busses or emergency vehicles.</p>	

	<p>Trina noted that representatives of DeptfordFolk met with Heidi Alexander (TfL Dep Mayor for Transport) earlier in the year to put DPLN and the RMP on her radar. More of this kind of joined up thinking is needed from our local representatives.</p> <p>On a separate matter, thanks to Marianna's perseverance the trees outside Vida House on Trundleys Road were installed and then replaced when they died in the hot 2018 summer. These trees were part of the original Vida House planning permission but Lewisham Council had failed to enforce this aspect of the planning permission until residents demanded it.</p>	
<p>Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)</p>	<p>Lewisham Council has been collecting NCIL for the last three years. 25% is accounted for by Evelyn Ward because this is where most of the development in Lewisham has taken place. This means that £574,000 is available for Evelyn.</p> <p>Winston for LBL: Lewisham Council is democratising its approach to the distribution of NCIL. Evelyn has the lion's share of what's been collected over the last three years. The council is trying to use the Local Assembly framework as a way of distributing the funds. Ward assemblies are an opportunity for the local community to identify those overarching needs that can be supported by NCIL. NCIL ought to complement existing works, such as DPLN.</p> <p>The local assembly will look at what the community has asked for and review the items that people have requested.</p> <p>Trina said that the number one priority when Deptford Folk surveyed the community was a new playground in Folkestone Gardens. When the playground is taken together with the neighbouring 'multi use games area' at the top of Woodpecker Walk, this area is bigger than the highly-popular Greenwich Park playground.</p> <p>These two play spaces bisect the Evelyn and New Cross ward boundaries. There's extra funding available for cross-ward projected e.g. Age 0-100 play space. This space is available in Evelyn and NewCross - it just needs investment. Another priority is community safety - this is not about increasing the police visibility in the area, but about 'natural policing.' For example, if people see women, children and young people passing through areas, this is an indicator of safety.</p> <p>Evelyn has the highest child poverty, highest density, highest numbers without their own outdoor space. New playgrounds are desperately needed to cater for these children and the new families moving to the area.</p> <p>Cllr Kalu said she was working with Cllr Slater to recruit a planning officer for the ward with an "architectural background". Winston said this was not the case and tha: LBL is recruiting an external individual for the area to implement community engagement, rather than a planning officer. Cllr Jonathan Slater is leading this work.</p>	

	<p>Trina noted that residents were unhappy about the Folkestone Gardens skate and play facility. The skatepark was built but the money ran out for a new play facility. This was originally supposed to be funded alongside the skatepark but now NCIL is going to have to go toward this. The council committed to a new playground in 2015 alongside the skatepark.</p> <p>The Evelyn Assembly has been rescheduled for 8 Feb due to the General Election (tbc)</p> <p>Viv Evans is the Lewisham Council officer dedicated to planning issues for Milwall, Convoys Wharf and the general Evelyn area.</p>	
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