

Springfield Park User Group Meeting

Tuesday 12th April 2011

Present. Spug members: Asher , Amy , Deborah, Pam, Ann.

Guest. Bruce Irving (Hackney Parks)

Apologies. Barry and Candy.

Agenda.

- 1) Matters Arising.
- 2) Parks for Life
- 3) Bowling Green
- 4) Dog fouling
- 5) Glass House
- 6) Springfield Mansion
- 7) AOB and date of next meeting.

1 Matters arising

Bees. Ann informs the decision has been made to introduce hives to the Robin Hood Community garden as soon as the levelling and planting is complete. She is in contact and will inform.

Bread Man. The LBH Environmental Enforcement Team have been collating the evidence which is now almost complete, they will then proceed to trying to prosecute him for his ASB activities. SPUG observed that this had all been done before, 6 years ago, when he was fined but paid the fine, and asks what the upshot was.

Glass House. A meeting was held between the Landscape Architects, Growing Communities and LBH Parks to discuss the utilities needed for the glass house. This turned in to a bit of an update meeting and wider issues concerning the glasshouse were discussed. SPUG were emailed a copy of the minutes from this meeting. Issues discussed included toilet provision on site and the structures used to divide up the glass house.

2) 'Parks for Life' events 2011.

Bruce reports this hugely successful summer series will now take place in only one park (either Haggerston or Clissold) to coincide with the carnival on Sunday 7th August, accompanied by a series of smaller activity based-sessions in other parks, throughout the summer. The programme has yet to be confirmed. Bruce reports this is due to the loss of staff members from Hackneys Parks Events Team. SPUG suggested that Bruce look at Tai chi, photography, painting, and events suitable for the older generation for Springfield Park.

Ann informs that she has been and is presently a 'Bridgebuilder' with 'Colours for Life' workshop team. Workshops have been ongoing in the community by SAFH. (Social and Family Health) and presently for St. Josephs Hospice. Vivi B. Co-ordinator and author of book 'Colours for Life ' to be informed by Ann of SPUGs request and Bruce to be introduced accordingly.

3) Bowling Green.

SPUG emphatically expresses disappointment and frustration at the lack of care and maintenance for Springfield Park Bowling Green, following repeated council promises to bring it back into use.

Maintenance of the bowling green is provided by Darrell Abercrombie 0208 356 3253

Bruce stated that the bowling green has been receiving maintenance and has been sprayed with selective herbicide several times and is being cut. But due to the current restructure proposal Bruce thinks it is unlikely that the green will be in use this summer.

SPUG expresses that maintenance of the green has not been regular and the site is abused by dog foulers in particular. SPUG requests (again) that the green is mowed once a week.

Deborah met with the Park Manager, Bruce and the Biodiversity Officer on site to discuss the hedge and its maintenance. She reported back from the meeting stating that the Council's Biodiversity Officer does not believe the maintenance of the hedge has had any impact on the biodiversity of the park. In time the hedge will thicken out throughout the growing season and will be able to maintain in the future. This contrasts with SPUG's view that it was needlessly butchered, a view shared by ecologist Annie Chipchase who also examined the work.

Ann suggests that the site could be used appropriately by eg. Local boys Club.

Deborah is going to find out the cost of set(s) of bowls.

4) Dog fouling

Dog fouling has been regularly witnessed in both the bowling green and the rugby field. No attempt has been made by dog owners to clean the mess.

Asher and Bruce agree that any witness to dog fouling should call the council's Environmental Enforcement team ASAP (020 8356

Bruce suggests that dog owners should be better educated on the proper use of parks and public spaces. SPUG requested a Dogs trust session on site and thought this might help to address issues. Bruce agreed that he would contact the trust to see if an event could be timetabled.

5) Glass House.

Bruce stated that the glass house planning application is due to be submitted imminently, however planning have just requested an Arboricultural survey. If this is undertaken then it will delay the application. LBH parks have been liaising directly with the Arboricultural Manager and await his recommendations.

The management of the facility and the access to the winter gardens has yet to be discussed.

Asher asked Bruce for information about costing. Amy requested that the budget figures for refurbishment be provided for SPUG.

Bruce will speak to the project manager regarding the budget.

6) Springfield Manion

Fear is expressed by SPUG that the funding for Springfield Mansion might be suspended because of excessive spending on the glasshouse. Bruce expresses that he and his team would be very upset if this were to happen.

Bruce informs that the conservation management plan has finally been completed and is due for submission to LBH Planning

Amy enquires when the planning application will be available to SPUG: since meetings with SPUG on the glasshouse have been ongoing, why not on the mansion too? Bruce will talk to Katie about a stake holders meeting. Ann requests an invitation to the stake holders meeting.

AOB.

Pam informs that Richard from Springfield Rowing club would like to be invited to the next SPUG meeting to give information about the club and the cafe. Bruce expresses an interest in the possibility of rowing and the 'Parks for Life' events in Springfield. The Parks for Life entire program will run from June until the end of August.

Ann will invite Vivi Boucher to the next meeting and will provide contact for Bruce who particularly likes idea for photography workshop.

Next meeting Weds 18th May 2011 7.30pm.