

**Trustees Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Meeting

**23 August 2022****Present:**

Dave Morris (Chair, NFPGS)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN)
Shelly Quinton-Hulme	Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces
Sarah Royal (CEO, NFPGS)	Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF)
Michelle Furtado (Network Coordinator, NFPGS)	Green Tides (Adur&Worthing Green Space P/ship)
Nigel Sharp (Secretary, NFPGS)	NW Parks Friends Forum

**Apologies**

Martin Willis (Treasurer & Vice Chair, NFPGS)	Nottingham Open Spaces Forum (NOSF)
Marion Williams (ref. MW2)	Friends of Leazes Park (Newcastle Parks Forum)

<b>Minutes of previous meeting (28.6.22) and Matters Arising</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</li> <li>Matters arising covered by agenda items.</li> </ul>	
<b>Administrative issues and roles</b>	
<p><b>Website &amp; media</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave Hastings (DH) is still working on updating the NFPGS website – will add previous meeting mins.</li> <li>MF updated that there are currently 2.5K twitter followers for @NatFedParks</li> <li>parkforumsuk elist - A Forum invited comment on group relationships with councilors – there have been some replies. Would be good to see the list more widely used by Forums to share news and good practice.</li> <li>GreenNet has now completed our parkscommunity.org.uk website upgrade – DH has been involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MF agreed to draft a newsletter to include promotion of the AGM.</li> <li>Also aim to look at scope to invite additional case studies to be submitted for parkscommunity site – need to check a template is still available to support this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Annual report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SQ-H has prepared a report format to improve the appearance of this doc.</li> <li>Noted that this will also help present information to partner organisations and funders.</li> <li>Following the Theory of Change process, details to include revised mission, include Chair's statement – 'Year in Review', aim to include trustee details inc. brief bio's from each.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>MF</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>all</b></p>

<b>Finances&amp; Fundraising</b>	
<p><b>Finances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following messages circulated by DM to the Board and subsequent responses we agreed to pay Sam Dunne £984 (inc. VAT) to cover an additional year extension to host and manage the Better Friends Audit Tool.</li> <li>• From online messaging and meeting discussion it was noted that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is a valuable resource for parks and friends community groups and provides valuable sector evidence to support NFPGS activity and funding bids.</li> <li>2. longer-term funding is unsustainable and every effort will be made to ensure additional external grant funding – or partner donations are identified to cover future costs to maintain the tool. DM to contact KBT and FiT to promote.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• MW to prepare draft annual financial report for the Charity Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Fundraising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research continues to inform the draft National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) bid with support from Nyma of University College London (UCL) – DM has written to 140 Friends groups who had expressed commitment to address diversity, Nyma following up with the 25 respondees, inc. interviews to inform this UCL dissertation and in turn the NLHF application. Paul Ely and Dave are overseeing.</li> <li>• Work includes preparation of a template for a self-audit checklist for ethnic diversity to cover the group memberships, activity and outreach work, etc.</li> <li>• It is intended this could help develop recommendations with links to the Better Friends tool.</li> <li>• DM has been in contact with NLHF to update on progress. Match funding remains an issue (as with Esmee Fairbairn Foundation) but alongside alternative match funders it is intended to consider the ‘in kind’ volunteer support available.</li> <li>• DM has approached Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) and Fields in Trust (FiT) with a view to encourage promotion/support for the Better Friends tool suggesting a donation or fee.</li> <li>• All urged to look into other suitable funding pots for the NFPGS, especially for our core activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>DM MW</b></p> <p><b>DM/PE</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<b>NFPGS Initiatives, Projects and Issues</b>	
<p><b>Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See previous re. link with UCL.</li> <li>• Some feedback to the parksforumsuk list item re. Friends groups ‘longevity challenge’ around the UK (20+ years) – possible item to include in the newsletter.</li> </ul> <p><b>National campaigning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Westminster Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee MPs held two public sessions which highlighted the worsening crisis affecting public parks. Oral witness contributions from 7 or 8 key national organisations, including DM for NFPGS. Also included the National Trust whose report calls for £5.5bn just to level up. Issues are acute with additional current concerns re drought. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/event/14266/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/">https://committees.parliament.uk/event/14266/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Guardian has published 2 major items on the funding crisis affecting public parks and the importance of Friends groups:</li> </ul>	<p><b>DM/MF</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/23/funding-for-englands-parks-down-330m-a-year-in-real-terms-since-2010">https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/23/funding-for-englands-parks-down-330m-a-year-in-real-terms-since-2010</a></li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/23/parks-at-risk-if-it-was-not-for-the-volunteers-we-would-struggle">https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/23/parks-at-risk-if-it-was-not-for-the-volunteers-we-would-struggle</a></li> <li>● Subsequently another comment piece was also published (29/8/22):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/aug/29/underfunded-rusting-fenced-off-britains-parks-public-spaces-government">https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/aug/29/underfunded-rusting-fenced-off-britains-parks-public-spaces-government</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Wildlife and Countryside Link is campaigning for ‘Nature for Everyone’ with 80 organisations and 36,000 individuals calling for increased resources linked to a campaign for the right to access. Details at: <a href="https://www.wcl.org.uk/nature-for-everyone.asp">https://www.wcl.org.uk/nature-for-everyone.asp</a></li> <li>● There is a Future Park Accelerator conference ‘Naturally Thriving: Rethinking Urban Green Space in the autumn: <a href="https://www.futureparks.org.uk/news/post-one-gbcnb-r6mkb-8tet3-xayfn-pwg6d-x82bj">https://www.futureparks.org.uk/news/post-one-gbcnb-r6mkb-8tet3-xayfn-pwg6d-x82bj</a></li> <li>● World Urban Parks has invited DM to contribute a pre-recorded video about the UK Friends Groups movement and the NFPGS, for their global Congress in Monterrey, Mexico in November: <a href="https://worldurbanparkscongress.com">https://worldurbanparkscongress.com</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DM</b></p>
<p><b>AGM</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreed to hold as a hybrid event, following consideration of suitable venues and available dates, it was agreed to use a park venue:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Building, Victoria Park, Stretford, Trafford <a href="https://fovps.org.uk/community-building/">https://fovps.org.uk/community-building/</a></li> <li>○ Shelly to book 11am - 4pm on Saturday 5 November (revised to 12-5pm)</li> <li>○ Session to comprise AGM 1-3pm followed by Trustee meeting 3-4pm</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Agenda items for discussion to include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sources of support for groups and forums.</li> <li>○ Wider discussion on groups’ relationship with their respective local authorities.</li> <li>○ Promotion of NFPGS Trustee/ officer roles for additional input, e.g. Treasurer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SQ-H</b></p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DM noted that the NFPGS has been approached by organisations to be involved on a ‘Green Spaces Advisory Group’ re. standards for green space provision in social housing. Link <a href="https://www.ground-control.co.uk/gsab/">https://www.ground-control.co.uk/gsab/</a></li> <li>● DM was concerned about potential conflict of interest with other activity including the Green Flag Award. MF to follow up</li> <li>● SR has been working locally in the W. Mids to help establish a Sandwell Forum.</li> <li>● DM has set up a NFPGS Trustees ‘What’s App group to support informal communication.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MF</b> <b>SR</b></p>
<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5 Nov (AGM) – hybrid mtg, Victoria Pk, Stretford, Trafford, Gtr Manchester M32 0AD</li> </ul>	

