

Trustees Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

**Wednesday 6 March 2024****Present:**

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

Apologies:

Pat Gross	Wandsworth Greenspaces Forum
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Minutes of Previous Meeting (27.1.24) and Matters Arising

Minutes from the previous meeting, which followed the AGM, were agreed.	
AGM / trustees meeting mins are available for circulation.	
MF agreed to update the website with these papers and others highlighted in the AGM.	MF
NS/ DM still need to review and update membership/ contact lists.	NS/DM
DM intends to phone around potential new trustees – specifically reps from established, active Forums in key regions to encourage wider NFPGS trustee representation to include these areas. This could include Yorkshire/ NE England, Scotland and Wales.	DM
In addition, there remain opportunities for additional officer positions however it is considered a priority to recruit the additional trustee representation.	
Following the January meeting DM subsequently invited PG to attend the Trustees meeting however she was unavailable.	
PE has approached Nicola Dempsey (Sheffield Green Spaces Forum) re. a survey and will follow up.	PE
NFPGS Update	
Pre-election campaigning Following comment at the previous meeting re. the likely forthcoming general election, DM	DM

<p>noted that there is a statement and campaign to support London groups which could provide the basis for pre-election campaigns in other areas. DM to share details for further discussion.</p> <p>Fields in Trust have a campaign which NFPGS could promote, details at: https://fieldsintrust.org/insights/policy-hub/park-protectors.</p> <p>DM added that the 'A More Natural Capital' coalition will include a focus on green spaces at hustings leading up to the London mayoral elections in May.</p>	
<p>NFPGS initiatives, projects, campaigning</p>	
<p>Research</p> <p>PE updated. UCL has included green space research options on a student noticeboard with a view to involving local students in work which could have possible wider application, potentially enabling other Area Forums to replicate with a local university (e.g. Sheffield, Leeds, etc.). SR added that BOSF has links with a student currently researching 'The Right to Grow'.</p> <p>DM – many London Network meetings involve specific working groups (eg biodiversity, climate resilience, dogs, commercial events) which could link with research themes.</p> <p>BOSF is working with the RHS (also Liverpool, Cardiff and Manchester contacts) on a pilot prison service growing project - preparing plug plants from seed to enable community groups to grow produce for food banks.</p> <p>PE added that research questions being considered by Sheffield include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how active are community groups in green space decisions? - Does the role/ activity vary according to level of deprivation? - Does the quality of sites improve if groups are involved in the decision process? <p>Sector events</p> <p>DM/PE attended a meeting to review the Nature Based Inclusion Survey. 30 groups had responded. Final results and a report to follow.</p> <p>The session included reps from Natural England who are involved in discussion with Groundwork and the National Trust about 'green community hubs', as a focus for engagement in the natural world. 10 pilot projects are due to report – DM is due to attend discussion in March and intends to lobby for the role of parks to be more recognized. DM to share information once available.</p> <p>PE has also been involved in National Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Net Gain work which has also highlighted the role of communities, but PE felt there is greater potential Friends group input.</p> <p>SQ-H and NS are due to attend an APSE biodiversity seminar in Manchester, 14 March, after DM procured two free places.</p>	<p>DM/PE</p> <p>DM</p>
<p>Finance/ administration</p>	
<p>SQ-H confirmed the final total from the crowdfunder campaign was £2,608.35.</p> <p>PE is working through work priorities but then will focus on the reviewing and revising a draft</p>	

