

## Trustees Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting



**Monday 10 March 2025**

### Present:

Dave Morris (Chair)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) + Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Paul Ely	Parks Community UK
Sarah Royal	Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF)
Shelly Quinton-Hulme (Treasurer)	Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces
Nicola Dempsey	Sheffield Green Spaces Forum
Michelle Furtado (Network Coordinator)	Green Tides (Adur & Green Spaces Worthing Partnership)
Nigel Sharp (Secretary, NFPGS)	NW Parks Friends Forum

<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting (20.1.25) and Matters Arising</b>	
<p>Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p>NS will continue to review and update Forum membership/ contact lists following the forthcoming general meeting and share with DM for further input. A definitive list will then be available for PE and the Research survey use.</p> <p>SQ-H has provided an associate trustee role description - included with the previous mins for consideration.</p>	<b>NS/DM/PE</b>
<b>NFPGS Update</b>	
<p><b>Parks Working Group (PWG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DM chaired the Community Empowerment themed meeting. ND attended too.</li> <li>- Follow up meeting comprising DM, Chris Worman (PWG chair) and MHCLG<sup>1</sup> reps considered proposals.</li> <li>- A Community Empowerment 'Task &amp; Finish' group is due to meet 11.3.25 to consider keys items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A new breed of ranger (to support community engagement)</li> <li>o Delivering improved site quality (e.g. inc. better facilities)</li> <li>o Volunteer code/ training best practice</li> <li>o Strengthening, and increasing the no. of, Friends Groups</li> <li>o Research on community empowerment (e.g. to include inclusion &amp; diversity)</li> <li>o National standards and audits</li> <li>o Cross government support</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Next PWG meeting will focus on funding</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DM circulated to all PWG members an NFPGS list of relevant previous research reports</li> <li>- ND is also involved and may support further research.</li> <li>- DM had prepared – and circulated – a draft Inclusion &amp; Diversity self-audit checklist for Friends groups to employ to follow on from Better Friends support and test this quality of their group.</li> <li>- We, Trustees, agreed the draft to be shared with the Research Working Group for comment.</li> <li>- DM tested it with his own group and made substantial amendments as a result.</li> <li>- ND and SQ-H agreed to circulate within their respective Forums for further group input to the working draft.</li> <li>- It was noted that the checklist would benefit from a cover note to introduce the doc and highlight the virtue and value of groups discussing these issues.</li> <li>- DM hopes to receive feedback from these initial trials by the end of March.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <p><b>ND /SQ-H</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>NFPGS Working Groups</b></p>	
<p><b>Research (PE/ ND)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group has comprised reps from Sheffield, Birmingham and London based establishments. Intend to involve additional reps to possibly include The Open University and another from London.</li> <li>- PE circulated docs ahead of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Summary of main issues from meeting (3.3.25)</li> <li>o Draft Friends of Parks Forums survey</li> <li>o Draft Friends Groups Needs survey</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Comment on the draft surveys was requested - intention is to circulate in April.</li> <li>- Survey results will inform future NFPGS activity – and associated funding bids.</li> <li>- DM stressed need to ensure any research questions / data is consistent with information collected through the Better Friends tool to ensure details correlate with this data (now totaling 500+ groups).</li> <li>- Data will be managed/ processed using research programme software.</li> <li>- As outlined earlier, the working group is also to comment on the draft Inclusion &amp; Diversity checklist.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>PE/ ND</b></p>
<p><b>NFPGS Funding (SQ-H/ PE/ NS)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SQ-H outlined suggested phased approach to seek funds and develop NFPGS governance and resources through successive funding bids. (These details to be circulated for info.)</li> <li>- Initial focus will aim to strengthen, and demonstrate capacity of NFPGS to deliver activity and manage additional resources through an incremental approach.</li> <li>- Alongside National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) recommended to consider National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), with initial focus on Awards for All (A4A) programme:</li> <li>- <a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england</a></li> <li>- NS noted this fund is also now effectively the starter fund for heritage since NLHF has discontinued the small heritage grant (£3K-10K).</li> <li>- A4A projects can be up to £20K over 2yrs.</li> <li>- Discussion followed about possible content, noting the need to both develop NFPGS governance/ capacity alongside delivery on NLCF objectives and A4A</li> </ul>	<p><b>SQ-H</b></p>

