

Trustees Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

**Monday 24 January 2026****Present:**

Dave Morris (Chair)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) + Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Nicola Dempsey	Sheffield Green Spaces Forum
Michelle Furtado	Network Coordinator
Sarah Royal	Trustee
Wendy Blythe	Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations (FeCRA) & Cambridge Green Space Groups
Shelly Quinton-Hulme (Treasurer)	Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces
Nigel Sharp (Secretary)	NW Parks Friends Forum

Apologies:

Paul Ely	Parks Community UK
Nikki Iyayi	NFPGS administrator

Minutes of Previous Meeting (24.11.25) and Matters Arising

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

Following the AGM approved changes the revised CIO constitution. NS to prepare final copy and share with DM and SQ-H. The revised doc. to be submitted to the Charity Commission and uploaded to the NFPGS website.

Before the recent MHCLG survey was posted out the NFPGS e-mail / newsletter mailing list was updated to include all contacts - it now stands at over 2,400.

**NS/DM/
SQ-H****Parks Working Group**

ND/ DM provided an update on the MHCLG survey project:

- A fantastic response: 938 groups filled it in, and 28 Forums.
- findings are being compiled in a comprehensive report
- executive summary in preparation
- Dave conducted a number of interviews with groups and Forums to be able to add some Case Studies
- Our Diversity and Inclusion Checklist is part of the project, and is now up on our the PCUK website, to be launched at the same time as the Report.
- aim to send to MHCLG by the end of January
- MHCLG require 2 weeks to undertake a 'data analyst review' following which it is hoped the report will be endorsed by Govt and available for publication and wider circulation – on the Govt website, NFPGS website, shared with community sector,

ND/DM

etc. - Report will include key recommendations for all, including: Friends groups, Area Forums, NFPGS and HM Gov. - Survey responses included extensive comment providing a rich dataset for analysis. - ND aims to share the final report (under embargo) with NFPGS Research Working Group members after MHCLG have responded – the Research Group contributed to the process and will be influential in taking the report forward, i.e. including potential future academic papers In terms of finances: - Nicola is leading on the Report for the Univ of Sheffield and has her own arrangements with the UoS - DM is being reimbursed for his extensive additional contribution - through NFPGS funds for the moment. - This is in lieu of MHCLG funds in the interim, the work fees to be covered by the contract payment, via U of Sheffield (UoS) to NFPGS. The great work by ND, DM and UoS research associate Yuhan was noted by all. DM reported little additional news on PWG matters – task and finish groups are underway. NS added that there could be potential to promote the report and its recommendations at a forthcoming APSE Annual Parks Seminar in Manchester. Update: Dave has requested a slot for a presentation. [Details: https://www.apse.org.uk/index.cfm/apse/events/parks-seminar-2026/]	ND/DM
NFPGS Working Groups	
Research - Group to meet to review the MHCLG work and consider further opportunities. Funding - due to meet again Monday 23rd Feb, 7:30pm - the MHCLG report will both help inform NFPGS priorities and provide significant evidence to support future bids. - Need to also review A4A NFPGS Ad min/Coordination project progress and any related needs, etc. [See below] - DM noted the Govt's new Pride in Place funding for local areas around the UK (£5bn over 10 years) may provide future opportunities, as yet uncertain how funds will be distributed, etc. - Details: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pride-in-place Campaigning - link with Community Planning Alliance https://communityplanningalliance.org - 18 April, Day of Local Action for Nature, Parks & Green Spaces - Opportunities for UK groups and Forums to organise activity and register online - Details at: https://communityplanningalliance.org/events-calendar/ - DM had shared details and NFPGS's support agreed by email - This will be a timely event in the build up to local elections on May 7th Additional action by CPRE London for defending green space from development/sell	ND SQ-H/PE/NS

off/commercialisation threats. Supported by London Friends of Green Spaces Network. - details at: https://www.cprelondon.org.uk - have set up a London 'Green Defenders Network' for mutual support - details at: https://www.cprelondon.org.uk/we-care-about/green-defenders/ An additional area of concern is the Government threat to remove The Garden Trust and others, notably Sport England, from the list of statutory consultees on planning matters. We have formally objected as part of the official consultation. - another organization, campaigning to protect grassroots sport is the Sport and Recreation alliance, details at: https://sportandrecreation.org.uk	DM
NFPGS Admin/Coordination - Awards for All Project	
NI was ill over the Christmas period however continues to support with review of all our comms and social media (including the PCUK site material), preparation of a newsletter underway, and possible further future case studies. Along with the Inclusion Checklist, these items will provide additional resources to support the MHCLG report. Liaises closely with Dave.	DM
Partnership working/ networking/ events/ enquiries	
NS updated on recent enquiries from potential partners: Butterfly Conservation (BC) https://butterfly-conservation.org - is interested in supporting NFPGS activity and campaigns - NS forwarded them details of the Day of Action 18.4.26 and also referred to the forthcoming MHCLG report - advised BC that we could include them on our mailing list for updates and to ensure they are aware of opportunities for future joint working. Unity Insurance Services https://www.unityinsuranceservices.co.uk - aims to provide support and policies for not for profit and charitable groups - broker for Friends and Forum groups - expressed interest in link with NFPGS - feedback mixed – concern at recent issues with BOSF - NS agreed to share details for further comment The Dogs Trust - are developing for submission to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in relation to the 2031 England and Wales census - seeking NFPGS support for a question on pet ownership - ONS closing date for census topic consultation is 4.2.26 - NS agreed to share for comment. Noted this was not really a core issue for NFPGS.	NS
Next General Meeting	
Agreed that the MHCLG project and report should provide the focus for updates and discussion and that this will effectively dictate the date of the meeting.	
Date of Next Meeting	

Tuesday 10 March: 7:30pm Trustees Meeting Saturday 14 March 2026: 10am-12pm General, & 12pm-1pm Trustees zoom meeting Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9213929960?pwd=Y1QyYi9iK2ZjY2VrdFk3RVh2Qm5Sdz09 Meeting ID: 921 392 9960 Password: FOVPS	
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