Minutes of The Friends of The Scrubs Trustees’ Meeting

5th September 2022 at 6pm in the Meeting Room W10

Present: Stephen Waley-Cohen (chair); Carmel McLoughlin (secretary); Smita Dave (treasurer); Ben Novak, Miriam Shea, Sarah Johnson, Emma Ranson

Apologies: Jack Perschke, Faye Thomas

1. Minutes of the last Meeting approved. Matters arising – all covered in tonight’s agenda.
2. The Agenda for the next WSCT meeting on the 7th September (which all have access to through LBHF website) referred to. Stephen had previously asked Friends for any items they would like raised on their behalf. 3 responses were received. Items raised were:- Update on LNR status (awaiting Masterplan approval); Recovery after HS2 leave site and the need to encourage biodiversity; Out of control dogs and too many dog walkers. Sarah suggested that each dog walker should have an individual licence, with photo id to show to LET officers so that the rules can be properly enforced. Stephen said that the new Trust Manager, Osama El Amin (reporting to Steven Hollingsworth) and Development Manager, Vicki Abel (reporting to Richard Gill) are now in place. Both have been responsive to date. FoWWS are pushing for a 5, 10 and 30 year Masterplan for the Scrubs, with more education which an ecology centre would support. Stephen and Smita have met with Osama and Vicki to discuss improvements to the three main entrances – Old Oak Common/Wulfstan Street; Braybrook St and Children’s playground; and Scrubs Lane. Discussed the best surface in keeping with the Scrubs which is suitable for buggies etc to be taken into the Playground and onto the Scrubs. There is funding of £110k from OPDC for these works. Quotes have been obtained and a sustainable solution of preferred surfaces is likely to be more or less within budget.Thanks to Stephen and Smita for their time and efforts on this.

Noted that HS2 are proposing to hand back in Dec 22 with reinstatement to begin prior to that. Must emphasize the need for it to be consistent with Masterplan proposals.

TVH proposals for the upgrade to their Clubhouse, to provide better facilities at a cost of c. £400k. including a café and toilets for use by the public, is on agenda. There is a proposal to expand the terrace overlooking the running track. They are asking for a contribution of £40k from WSCT and also £40k from Id Verde. The Friends are supportive of these improvements as they will benefit all users of the Scrubs.

The London Development Trust are also presenting their summary report to the WSCT on the proposed further consultation on the Masterplan although it has not been sent through in advance of the meeting.

As suggested by the Friends, WSCT are proposing to take forward the base line survey on what is on the Scrubs in terms of flora, fauna, etc. This is welcomed by the Friends.

With the OPDC Local Plan on proposals for the OPDC area now adopted, they are proposing a meeting with WSCT. They have not met before and the Friends are supportive of this to help with a better understanding of the Scrubs by the OPDC.

Secret Cinema are also due to present to the WSCT regarding an event on the Scrubs next Summer. Friends are wary of large groups using the Scrubs in the late evening due to detrimental effects on the local residents and wildlife.

There was discussion around improvements to the LCS especially the changing rooms, showers, toilets and the covered running track. Stephen will talk to all users, e.g. Kensington Dragons, London Sports as well as TVH, and may work with TVH chair who is also a Sports Facility consultant, to prepare outline proposals on these improvements, to include the removal of the Artillery Wall with a lido to be built in that area. The trustees are aware that the lido proposal has received widespread support amongst Friends. Stephen will request that the outline presentation go to the WSCT meeting in December.

1. Dog Show Update – this was a successful event with in the region of 150 people attending and a great atmosphere. There was support for it being repeated next year, with an earlier date prior to school holidays. Lessons learnt have been captured. Winkworths’ sponsorship money still awaited.
2. Following on from this, Stephen said that he obtained a quote for annual insurance for events that the FoWWS might hold on the Scrubs and it was not much more than the one off cover. The committee agreed to this being taken out.
3. AOB: Stephen will request a further meeting with LBHF and id verde in October following the very useful meeting in March this year. Things had improved under the new contract but increased litter has been noted on the Scrubs recently over the Summer. Emma said the hedgelaying earlier this year had been very successful, and it is necessary for a further round to take place in October. She’s liaising with Groundworks on the feasibility of their doing the workshops, as likely to be the most effective. Costs of doing so are important consideration.

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