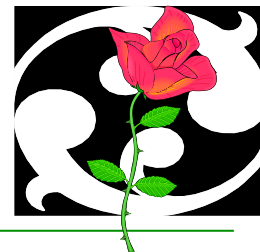


# FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK

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Fentiman Arms, 64 Fentiman Road, SW8  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014

- 1. Apologies:** Helena Lewis (Treasurer), Louise Norwood, Sophie Kotch

**Committee in attendance:**

Teresa Clay – Chair  
Polly Freeman – Membership Secretary  
Laura Cook – Secretary  
Helen Monger  
Tommy Candler

Claire Holland – Labour Councillor

- 2. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising**

All agreed minutes of last meeting.

- 3. Revision of Masterplan and plans for new Playground**

The Chair reported that the development of the Masterplan was essential to secure funding. The Chair introduced Lynn Kinnear and Florence Moon from Kinnear Landscape Architects, who will be working on this. They will look at the park facilities, particularly the playground, history, flora and fauna in the context of all the new developments and the extra pressure these will put on the park.

Kinnear are working on a number of parks throughout London and have experience of working with community groups and local authorities. They are planning an informal walk-around in park with local residents to discuss possible plans for the park and to determine which are the most important areas to focus on. They will host some engagement events in the park where people can comment on proposals. They will also be consulting local schools. Kinnear have asked the council for a bus to tour local parks that are considered to be good examples.

Polly Freeman and Helen Monger are the points of contact for the Friends and questions and comments should be directed through them in the first instance. It was agreed that each stage of the development of the plans could be posted on the park noticeboards.

Lynn advised that Kinnear would be discussing with Jo Lewis at the Council about how to target young people and include them in plans for the development of the park. Clare Holland suggested using the Youth Mayor to help target them.

The rough timing is that there will be consultation on the Masterplan until Christmas, consultation on the playground at the beginning of 2015 with implementation beginning in the summer. There could possibly be phased development of the playground with only part closed at a time. Timings might be revised.

#### **4. Report on Summer Fair 2013**

Polly Freeman reported that the Fair was a huge success and no complaints were lodged. The overall profit was £834, in addition to the £2k sponsorship from Winkworth. A particular highlight was the Plant Stall, which raised £809.10. The Chair thanked the volunteers, for their efforts, persistence and enthusiasm. The Chair asked for more volunteers to help with the fair next year, particularly to run the stalls.

#### **5. Plans for 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Vauxhall Park was opened by the Prince of Wales on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1890, making 2015 its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Chair has approached the office of the Prince of Wales and has been advised that he might attend.

The Chair called for ideas to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

One possibility is a Scented Garden, which is particularly appropriate as Henry Fawcett was blind. Henry Fawcett's house and garden were part of the current park's footprint and his widow, Millicent, was an important member of the group who helped establish the park.

The Chair thanked Tessa for her designs for a Scented Garden but all agreed that its position in the pergola might not be appropriate for the blind and partially sighted. It was also agreed that the development of a Scented Garden needed to be considered as part of the Masterplan. Christina Burnett from Vauxhall CLC advised that consulting blind and partially sighted people would be important and volunteered to introduce other appropriate people to help with the development.

It was agreed that although it was unlikely that a Scented Garden would be established in time for the anniversary, it could still be part of the celebration, for instance starting the planting then.

Other ideas included the Fawcett Society giving a special lecture or a special event at the Summer Fair.

#### **6. Maintenance Issues**

##### **Volunteers**

Polly reported that several volunteer groups have visited park, for example The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (who also donated £100 for tools), a hotel group, and Community Payback who are currently painting the railings.

##### **Fountain**

The Fountain works only sporadically, Mickey Penney can not explain why so the Friends are considering becoming responsible for its maintenance.

##### **Flower Beds**

Polly has asked Mickey Penney to employ some gardeners with proper horticultural experience to tackle the beds at the entrances to the park. Tessa said she was happy to organise a working party if there were enough volunteers.

##### **Lavender**

Polly reported that the lavender harvest was a great success with many members of the public participating. Some lavender has been distilled at Carlshalton press, this will be sold and the proceeds given back to park. Some of larger plants are to be replaced by new plants that Polly has propagated from the old ensuring they are the right variety.

The Chair thanked Polly for all her hard work.

##### **Rough Sleepers**

Polly reported that she has discussed the problem of the rough sleepers with Mickey Penney and the Safer Neighbourhood team but they seem powerless to deal with them. One member suggested ringing 101 (non emergency number) to log complaints. Claire Holland advised that it needs to be escalated as an 'Anti Social Behaviour' and 'Child Protection' issue as at the moment the focus is on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. She suggested the Friends attend the Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting. Claire Holland agreed to take the matter up with the Council and report back to Polly.

#### **7. Planning Issues**

Helen Monger reported that the Bondway redevelopment had been approved. The Friends have written to Secretary of State questioning the decision but as yet have had no response.

#### **8. Cooperative Parks Update**

The Council is consulting on 'Parks and Open Spaces Capital Investment Plan' in which £20million minimum investment in Lambeth Parks is identified. £9 million would be from the Council's resources and would require the parks to match funding. The Chair reported that raising money on that scale would be a huge task even when approaching bodies like the Lottery Heritage Fund. (Kennington Park had to produce a 500 page document to secure £375k for walled garden). The remaining investment would be from S106 money. The Chair summarised that this was not, therefore, a very realistic plan for addressing underinvestment. The Friends need to respond to make these points cogently.

It was discussed that it is unclear whether Vauxhall Park has been identified as a 'Pioneer Park' although we have been allocated money for the Masterplan and Children's Playground.

#### **9. AOB**

Teresa Clay announced she is to stand down as Chair due to family reasons, and called for volunteers to replace her.

Helen Monger advised that Nominations for board of KOV (Kennington Oval Vauxhall) Forum are currently open.

Laura Cook  
Secretary  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2014