

JANUARY 2020 Friends of Coronation Gardens Committee meeting

14th January 2020, 7.30-9pm at the Earl Spencer, Merton Road

Present:

Charles (Chair), Susannah, Jo, Toby, Dan, Suki, Wendy and Nada (notes)



1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and will be added to the Friends website.

Action: Susannah to add notes to website

We welcome Suki as a new committee member.

Actions:

Suki to send Susannah short bio and photo for website.

Susannah to add Suki to WhatsApp group and Nada to add Suki to FOCGcommittee email distribution list.

Susannah distributed FOCG business cards to committee members.

2. Finances and membership

Our finances are healthy because of grants from Wandsworth Council and National Lottery Community Fund, and ticket sales from Winter WonderGarden.

As of 14th January 2020, we have £4998.61 in our current account and just over £4000 in our savings account.

We still only have 19 paid members, but 49 people are members of the website and we have 243 email addresses on our contact list.

We agreed that we should refer to members as 'Friends' in the future because they are supporters and there are very few benefits to the 'member'.

We need to have a big recruitment drive and aim for 100 members.

Susannah has leaflets for membership.

Actions:

- All to try to recruit new Friends.
- Susannah to contact website members to ask them to become Friends.

3. Winter WonderGarden - feedback

Feedback from the online survey (27 Responses – as at 14 January 2020)

Overall: 17 people rated the event as good, very good or excellent, 6 rated it as fair and 3 as poor.

People liked: community, atmosphere (vast majority (17), also local schools involvement, singing, Christmassy feel.

Ideas for improvements: More lighting (22 respondents) and also – more stalls, more entertainment, better speakers, things for kids to do.

21 thought it was about the right length.

Plans for changes for this year:

- Start an hour earlier
- More lighting – more power sources
- Hire proper gazebos with professionals to erect and remove.
- Singing for longer, communal singing, background music between performances.
- Rethinking the raffle
- More stalls - Include more local organisations eg Ambulance, safer neighbourhood team.
- Better sound system.
- More volunteers
- Increase ticket price slightly (to £4) investigate family tickets.
- We need to find sponsors for the event now as we will not have grant funding.

Charles proposed a vote of thanks to Susannah for all the organisation.

4. Feedback from Enable

a) Water supply

The committee expressed disappointment at the slow progress in obtaining a water supply for the gardens. Suki reported that there is a leak.

Actions:

- **Charles to chase Council and Thames Water about the leak**
- **Susannah to contact Marina about possibility of water butts (Charles reported that the Nursery building has no downpipe), and whether the proposed works might be an opportunity to investigate the water supply.**
- **Suki volunteered to monitor flooding.**

b) Planting

Action: Susannah to contact Marina about timetable for wildflower planting.

c) Herb garden area

Action: Susannah to contact Marina about the timeline for the work to see whether she can run the Easter Egg hunt this year.

d) Brightside

Charles circulated the latest Brightside featuring Friends groups.

Action: Susannah to contact Amy at Enable about the next issue

e) Notices and notice board

Suki reported that she had talked to a Council worker who takes down notices attached to the railings, and that this person had never heard of Enable.

Action: Susannah to contact Marina about the situation with respect to our notices attached to railings and if they will be removed by the Council.

Marina is planning a bid to the Wandsworth Grant Fund to enable Friends groups to purchase notice boards.

Action: Charles to circulate answers to her questions ASAP.

f) Antisocial behaviour

Committee members reported that antisocial behaviour is still an issue especially at the Pirbright Road entrance.

Suggestions to discuss with Enable:

- More 'aggressive' signage, eg warnings, mention of CCTV
- Motion-sensitive lighting.
- Better litter collection (eg under bushes).

Action: Charles to write to Met Police copying in local councillors.

Action: Dan to organise a 'big clean' session with volunteers in the Spring.

5. Planning for 2020

We have certain commitments for our funders which include:

- Three events for Wandsworth Grant Fund (nature walk, which can be combined with planting, Easter Egg Hunt (see above) and summer event
- Working with schools and other community groups around nature and history plus summer event for National Lottery Fund.

Ideas for summer event – 4th July 2020

- Afternoon tea for older people (Susannah has contacted Southfields Academy about doing the tea and two residential homes, Suki suggested contacting local churches and charities).
- Art competition for local schools – 100 pieces to be displayed at event and winner to feature on interpretation board.
- Open park with people bringing picnics.
- Music – World Heart Beat?
- Entertainment – maybe from circus performer.
- Dog assault course.
- Donations asked for (we need to raise some money to pay for the 2021 event if we want one).

Actions

Susannah to lead event organising group with Jo and Wendy

All to provide ideas to Susannah.

6. Locking the gates

The committee were not happy with progress of the trial, and the lack of communication with Enable.

When the gates are fixed – which we assume to be 16th January we need clarification from Enable:

- New padlocks etc will be provided.

- How to prove to Enable if Suki finds the gates already open in the morning (as she did before Christmas but was told that they had been locked). Is there any way for us or Enable to monitor when the gates are locked?
- Clarification of time of locking with dusk getting earlier.
- Notification of the public.

7. Annual meeting 2020

New date is Wednesday 25th March 2020, 7.30pm to 9pm at the Scout Hut.

We want as many people as possible to attend.

We agreed to refer to this meeting as our Annual Meeting – rather than AGM as this might be off-putting.

We discussed having a speaker – suggestions included Steffi Sutters (Cabinet Member for Community Services and Open Spaces) and/or representatives from Wimbledon Tennis.

Actions: Charles and Susannah to lead on organisation, publicity (eg flyers), and short report (including financial statement), encouraging people to stand for election to committee.

8. Co-op local causes

We need to encourage people to shop at Co-op and choose us as their local cause.

Actions:

- **Susannah to promote via Facebook – link is <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/36211>**
- **Charles to lead on liaising with our assigned stores (including Funeral Care)**

Business	Store Name	Store Post Code	Store Telephone No.
Food	Wimbledon - Inner Park Road	SW19 6DA	02087 890335
Funeralcare	Earlsfield	SW17 0PB	020 8946 4666
Funeralcare	Earlsfield Care Centre	SW17 0JY	020 8879 1299
Funeralcare	Morden	SM4 5HP	020 8648 3598

9. AOB and date for next meeting

- Charles and Wendy will attend Wandsworth Forum on 28th January.
- Susannah will attend SWLEN event on 21st January.
- **Wendy will investigate charitable status.**
- **All will think about more volunteers to support Susannah with event organisation.**

Next meeting Tuesday 17th March Earl Spencer, 7-9pm