The Dulwich Society Environment sub-committee

https://www.dulwichsociety.com/environment

Minutes, Tuesday 25th June 2024

A: Attendance and Apologies

Members present: Laurie Johnston, Mark Marshall, Gill Mein, Donncha O'Shea, Barry Coker, Helen Pickering

Guests: Gaby Hornsby, Anna Hwang Colligan, Jenny Morgan, Tom Palmer, James Thompson,

Apologies for absence: Mark Hughes, James Leabeater, Maria Psaras (Guest)

B: No declarations of interest.

C: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

D: The members and guests introduced themselves and described their specialties.

E: Items discussed:

- Southwark Nature Action Volunteers (SNAV) presented their work detailing green corridors in Southwark, with the latest version of their map and additional information.
- SNAV are collaborating with Southwark Council, particularly the Environmental Scrutiny Committee and Climate Resilience Committee, Chaired by Margy Newens. They are hoping to get more done under the GLA Nature Recovery Strategy. They would like to see a higher standard for greening in new development; rather than just 10% more biodiversity, a recognition of where the greening fits into a strategic network or corridor.
- Depaving and planting every 50m were recommended.
- Why Burgess Park is more biodiverse than Dulwich Park.
- The map was discussed as a potential additional data layer in Southwark planning guidelines.
- It is primarily a map for human active travel movements through green spaces, but green corridors for animals are also marked. These include back gardens and land adjacent to railway lines.
- It represents a first draft of an ongoing project. DS members can help by highlighting additional green corridors and putting SNAV in touch with locally specific groups, for example Friends of Dulwich Park. In addition the committee will look at whether any green corridors were under threat from current planning applications in the Dulwich area. **Action: All**
- Transport was discussed in relation to the map, including potential environmental corridors across roads, for example touching tree branches and making hard surfaces more wildlife friendly, both at ground level and above ground.
- A 60m buffer around any sites designated as of special environmental significance was recommended.
- The real danger of cities overheating because of climate change and how greening urban areas can mitigate this (what's good for wildlife is good for humans). A temperature map of Southwark was suggested as a useful additional layer of mapping, given increasing temperatures, given that green spaces lower site specific temperatures and provide shade. Details of individual street temperatures are available via the BBC; a link will be shared. **Action: GH**
- It was asked whether depaving would come into conflict with disability access. SNAV had not received any such complaints and said there is enough hard standing to do this work whilst adhering to all access guidelines and regulations.
- SNAV asked if the Natural History Museum's project 'Nature Overheard' could be circulated around members. The project requires individual engagement. Proposed for next eNews **Action: LJ**
- The East Dulwich Station Sidings development was raised in relation to loss of green corridor.
- Noise assessments of air source heaters, the cost and unreliability of such reports, and the importance of getting implementation right the first time so that homeowners don't remove them or feel discouraged from switching to them. **Action: MM**
- Next Journal articles. **Action: BC**
- The environmental impact of Events in Brockwell Park.
- Rosendale School Street Proposals and Croxted Road safety and congestion issues.

- Dulwich Prep and Jags planning applications, specifically related to transport implications.
- The Foundation School Bus Service is being administered by a new company ‘Vectare”, who are looking at better efficiency and compliance from bus operators.
- A consideration of where benches are located and if additional benches should be considered for the less mobile; specifically the corner of Woodward Rd and Calton Ave. **Action: HP**

F. Date of next meeting:

24th September 2024, 7:30pm