The Dulwich Society Environment Group

https://www.dulwichsociety.com/environment

Minutes, Tuesday 28th January 2025

A: Attendance and Apologies

Members present: Laurie Johnston, Mark Marshall, Gill Mein, James Leabeater, Tom Palmer, Donncha O'Shea,

Guests: Ed Allnutt, Trustee of Friends of Clapham Common

Apologies for absence: Helen Pickering, Huw Russell, Gaby Hornsby, Mark Hughes

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:

- Front gardens; Importance of stopping the trend from green to grey and ideally to reverse
- Continue with regular journal articles and find examples of good, better and best. Open Gardens, Community talk, **Action DO, GH**
- Create an info pack for members. **Action DO/GH**
- Guest Ed Allnutt outlined the work he has been involved with in limiting the impact of festivals on Clapham Common.
- Lambeth Council have been pretty frank about the necessity to raise revenue from holding commercial events in parks.
- The Friends of Clapham Common's strategy has been to reduce the size and impact.
- Particular concern over tree root compaction with related diseases found in higher percentage of trees near heavy footfall or infrastructure. An area 15 times the diameter of the tree's trunk should be protected.
- Encourage communication between different park interest groups facing the same challenges. Green Defenders meeting online 30th January. Committee member to attend. **Action TP**
- National legislation coupled with GLA vision for green space would be a helpful legal framework.
- Recommended establishing codes of good practice and clear guidelines within council event strategies together with the council to work out desirable outcomes and red lines in advance looking at size, what kind of event, how long, location and timing.
- Royal Parks invested heavily to stabilize the ground in advance of events. Such investment is rarely made by councils in advance and the fragility of the public space should be respected.
- Ensure rig & derig time is included in legal time allocation as it still prevents park access.
- Commons are governed by a different legal framework where the final consent rests with the Sec of State responsible for common land (DEFRA).
- Event companies have significant funds to make legal challenges to hold events. Councils lack funds and expertise to challenge. Importance of getting the contract right from the start. It was argued that legal objections from community park groups were justifiable in this context, but ideally community groups would work together with the council to find acceptable positions in advance.
- Advised seeking early expert advice from an arborist and/or ecologist on potential damage and post damage.
- All discussed in relation to upcoming GALA event series to be held in Peckham Rye Common with a related consultation process. Propose a submission **Action TP**
- Air source heat pump talk to be held in the coming months, date tbc. Proposed talk on the benefits and then planning and practicalities on heat pump insulation from a retrofit expert. **Action JL, MM**
- Modern systems do not require homes to be fully insulated to be effective.
- Cargo bike storage; requires different kerbside parking options as opposed to pavement parking, with secure parking near homes via specialist hangers or ground hoops. Insurance cover needs to be more comprehensive. Ask Southwark for a specific strategy to address. **Action TP**

AOB

- The Dulwich Society is now a member of the Aviation and Environment Federation and has submitted a response to a proposed UK Aviation Design Service (UKADS).

F. Date of next meeting: 25th March 7:30