The Dulwich Society Environment Group
https://www.dulwichsociety.com/environment

Minutes, Tuesday 25th March

A: Attendance and Apologies
Members present: Laurie Johnston, Gill Mein, Helen Pickering, Gaby Hornsby, James Leabeater, Tom Palmer, Donncha O'Shea,
Guests: Beth Ambrose - Dulwich Estate Sustainability Lead, James Thompson - Dulwich Society Chair
Apologies for absence: Tom Harrison, Mark Marshall, Huw Russell

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:

- Reminder of front gardens talk on 16 April, waste management visit on 14 May and AGM on 19 May
- Remembering to keep an eye out for East and West Dulwich news for Journal and e-news
- Importance of sustainability in wider DS objectives for the future
- Consider holding an annual talk in Bell House on Environment group work
- Possibility of June date for retrofit talk and article in Journal ahead of talk
- Possibility of a Dulwich area tree walk for families
- Beth Ambrose was introduced by Dulwich Society Chair, James Thompson.
- Beth Ambrose introduced herself. She joined the Dulwich Estate five months ago following a career in sustainability. She has been working on developing a sustainability strategy which is hoped will be signed off by June.
- The strategy includes wildflower planting, cherry laurel clearance & flood prevention with applications for funding made to Southwark Council and usually match funded by the Dulwich Estate.
- Coordinating funding applications made from the Dulwich Society and the Dulwich Estate, where initiatives align.
- Education is a big part of the Dulwich Estate's agenda.
- The Dulwich Estate is looking for ways to involve children in nature, to monitor species for example. Information was provided by attendees about sunset phone free childhood and connectedness to nature along with a downturn in interest at secondary school ages. Discussion of possible volunteering opportunities and connecting to the Duke of Edinburgh. **Action GM, LJ, JT**
- Transport initiatives were discussed including sustainable freight, parking enforcement and wider pavements on Dulwich Estate controlled roads, which Beth will look into.
- Building strategy needs to be signed off by the board and includes climate adaptation and ways to lower the carbon footprint of homes, including solar, heat pumps and insulation. 95% of applications for these home improvements are approved, with 5% requiring further discussion to ensure architectural integrity, etc.
- Heat pumps are the most effective way to lower the carbon footprint of your home.
- A breach in front garden policy will stay on that property's record.

F Mark Hughes has resigned due to time pressures. The group is grateful for his contributions.

G. Date of next meeting: 24th June, 7:30pm