Dulwich Society Executive 550th Meeting Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm at Bell House

Attendees:

President
Kenneth Wolfe

Officers
James Thompson – Chair
Russell Lloyd – Treasurer
Heather Stubbs– Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairs
David Beamish - Trees
Patsy Bramble - Licensing
Diana McInnes - Membership Secretary
Ian McInnes - Local History and Journal Co-Editor
Jeremy Prescott - Gardens
Claire Richards - Journal Co-Editor
Peter Roseveare – Wildlife
Penny Stern - Planning and Architecture

In attendance
Laurie Johnston

1. Apologies
   Sue Badman - Vice-Chair

2. Register of Interests

   None to declare in addition to those at Appendix 1

3. Co-option of Laurie Johnston to the Executive Committee

   JT introduced Laurie to the meeting and said that she has agreed to help set up and chair the new Environment Committee until it is established and can elect a Chair. She has a strong interest and expertise in this area. LJ reported that a number of people have agreed to serve on the new Environment Sub-committee, including some from the former Travel and Environment Sub-committee, all with relevant expertise and one with expertise in public transport. She is still seeking members with expertise in retrofit, installation, greening biodiversity, air quality, noise pollution and recycling/waste. The Sub-committee will have the power to co-opt or invite those with relevant expertise to meetings.

   LJ has drafted Terms of Reference for the new Environment Sub-committee which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee welcomed the Terms of Reference and the addition of noise pollution and awareness-raising to the areas covered. They stressed the

importance of links between the Environment Sub-committee and the Planning and Architecture and Wildlife Sub-committees. Following discussion, the Terms of Reference of the Environment Sub-committee were approved subject to some minor amendments.

Action:

LJ to finalise the Terms of Reference of the Environment Sub-committee and circulate the final version to Executive Committee.

LJ to organise the first meeting and appointment of a permanent Chair.

IM/CR to include a statement about the winding up of the Travel & Environment Sub-committee and the establishment of the new Environment Sub-committee in the Winter Journal.

JT to post the information in eNews and the website, encouraging members to put themselves forward for the new Sub-committee if they have relevant expertise.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of 11th September 2023 were approved and signed by JT.

Action: HS to post the Minutes on the website.

5. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Item 4) Internal Controls

Action: HS to send RL the outstanding action points from the Minutes of 13th March 2023.

Item 5k) Lone Volunteers Policy

Action: JT will circulate the Lone Volunteers Policy to zone distributors for issue to Journal deliverers.

Item 6a) Action point for CR to include a QR code linking to membership in the Journal to be removed as it is unnecessary.

Item 6b) JP reported that the production of photographs of problem areas on the South Circular for DE is in hand.

Item 6j) JT and SB have met with Richard Wingfield to discuss the Development Officer role.

Item 6l) HS reported that the Archiving Action Plan has made progress, with some Committee members providing documents for the archive.

Item 6m) HS has not uploaded the new Reserves Policy to the website as the website links to the current Annual Report so will automatically update when the 2023 Annual Report is uploaded.

Item 10) PR said there has been little progress on the Greendale Wildlife Project. CR said that the Chair of the Friends of Greendale has been approached to write an article for the Spring Journal.

6. DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Rules – JT reported that the consultation on the proposed new Rules has now closed and 40 comments have been received from 3 members, (with some overlap). He had circulated a paper summarising the comments and invited discussion of any which the Executive Committee felt should be reviewed and said that no decision would be made at this meeting.

Executive Committee expressed the following views:

- There was a strong feeling that we should remain as close to the Charity Commission standard as possible.
- The process for nominating a member for the Executive Committee should be made more explicit and should include a requirement for the candidate to agree to serve and a proposer and seconder (both DS members) in writing.
- There was a strong resistance to amending the Objects of the Society in this process. This was one of the explicit premises of the process and the consultation has not been designed to cater for a change of Objects. Any change of Objects would need a scheme to be agreed with the Charity Commission.

Action: JT will invite the DS members who have provided comments to an individual meeting for further discussion. Following consideration of their views, JT in conjunction with SB, PB and HS will then present final proposals for the Rule changes to the January Executive Committee for approval and presentation to the AGM in May.

Streets for People Phase 3 - JT said he has still not seen the designs for Phase 3. He has recommended that plans are reviewed by Southwark's Design Review Committee, which has already pointed out the need to comply with heritage rules on the public realm for the specific area.

JT reported that Southwark's request to organise multiple events in Dulwich Square must be approved by the Department of Transport. Approval has not yet been received, so there is currently a limit of one event per year, which for 2023 will probably be the St Barnabas Christmas Eve Parade. Further announcements are awaited regarding 2024 events.

Streets for People CPZ

JT said that, as previously circulated to the Committee, Southwark following the informal consultation has decided not to proceed with a CPZ in Dulwich Hill or Dulwich Wood but will consult on a reduced CPZ in Dulwich Village. Goose Green was not included in the proposals. It was noted that the views of members on the CPZ which had been collected may be relevant to the consultation on the reduced CPZ in Dulwich Village when this takes place.

Appointment of Development Officer

JT and SB have met with Richard Wingfield to discuss the Development Officer role. The Development Officer, when appointed, will work closely with the Journal Editors and the Communications and Media Lead. The Committee agreed to invite Richard Wingfield to the January meeting with a view to co-opting him as a Trustee.

Action: HS to invite Richard Wingfield to the next meeting.

House near the South Circular

JT, SB and PS have attended site visits to a house near the South Circular where there is an application to demolish and replace with another which will be lower but with a larger

footprint. A large area of tarmacked tennis court will be removed leading to a 50% increase in biodiversity and many trees will be planted. This reduces concerns over Metropolitan Open Land. The Society does not intend to object.

Estate Enforcement Actions
JT confirmed that he has lodged a question about enforcement on the agenda for the DE Advisory Committee on 21 November.

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's report was received.

SB has provided an update that the Diocese of Southwark has granted the faculty so that the installation of the Ancient Stocks Stone in the Burial Ground can go ahead.

Action: SB to liaise with Aquinna Homes and DE on the next steps.

c) Streets for People - Phase 3

This item was dealt with under the Chair's Report.

d) Streets for People – Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs)

This item was dealt with under the Chair's Report.

e) Rules Review

This item was dealt with under the Chair's Report.

f) 60th Anniversary Party – Publication of History Boards

The History Boards will be included in the Winter Journal as a pull-out insert replacing some local history pages, so at no extra cost. The Journal is expected to be ready by 24th November

g) Society Events

h) A programme of local history talks is underway including River Effra, Labour politicians in Dulwich and East Dulwich pubs.

i) Membership

The Membership Report was received.

DMcI reported there has been a slight increase in numbers to 1213, including 5 from Whytefield Estate. This is encouraging at a time when most similar organisations are contracting.

DMcI announced that she will not be seeking re-election as Membership Secretary at the AGM in May. She will complete all renewals and Gift Aid payments up to this time. The Committee thanked Diana for her 12 years valued service and said she would be greatly missed. A replacement will be sought through the Society's publications.

Action: JT to ask Sharon O'Connor to announce DMcI's resignation in eNews and seek a volunteer to take her place.

j) Editorial Committee/Journal

CR said she would be interviewing the Vice Chair about the varied work she undertakes for the Society for an article in the next Journal. It was agreed this could form part of a series of articles about the work of Committee members, which many members may be unaware of.

k) Policy Review Timetable

SB/HS had circulated a timetable for the review of Society Policies. In general, it was proposed that most policies would be reviewed every 3 years, with certain financial policies such as Investment, Reserves and Grant-making being reviewed annually. The timetable was approved by Executive Committee.

7. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report from Sharon O'Connor was received.

Sharon O'Connor had asked whether the listings part of eNews was too long. Following discussion it was agreed that the length of the listings section is appropriate, but some of the repeated entries could be removed.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

RL said that Quotes' fee for website management has increased.

The Society has c£700 in the bank, c£37k on deposit and is expecting CGS income of £2,300.

The interest rate for Monmouthshire Building Society is very low. JP recommended closing this account. RL said he will transfer the deposit account to Barclay's so it will be easier to transfer monies between accounts.

JT said that the increase in new members was insufficient to compensate for increasing costs and fundamental changes will be necessary to future-proof the Society, and enable us to continue awarding grants. It was agreed that JT/RL/ JP should meet to discuss this and prepare proposals for the January meeting.

Action: JT/RL to visit a Barclay's branch to amend the regular payment to Quotes.

RL to close the Monmouthshire Building account and transfer the funds to a Barclay's account.

All members to let RL know of any forthcoming significant expenditure, so funds can be made available.

RL to analyse what DS has spent on grants and other areas over the last 10 years following which JT/RL/JP will meet to prepare financial proposals and a draft budget for the January meeting.

9. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The Grants List for November 2023 was received and approved.

It was noted that:

a) A donation has been sought to the Dulwich Square Christmas Tree crowd-funding appeal. It was agreed that DS will make a contribution of £100, if the target of £3,000 is not reached.

Post-meeting note: The target of £3,000 has been reached without any donation from DS.

b) The Dulwich Vegetable Garden is under new management. The Committee agreed to reinstate the grant to them in 2024 (now £478) as a contribution to the purchase of a new greenhouse.

c) The Bell House Pottery to which DS contributed £250 for equipment is proving very successful.

d) JP recommended supporting the LWT fundraising initiative for Sydenham Hill Wood/Dulwich Wood improvements, possibly over 3 years or as matched funding. DS donated £5,000 in matched funding last year. JT said this should be considered as part of the overall budget review. CR suggested recommending LWT fund-raises from individuals, e.g. sponsor a tree.

10. Other Dulwich Issues and Points from Sub-committee Reports

Reports were received from Planning and Architecture, Local History, Gardens, Wildlife and Trees. There was no report from the Travel and Environment Sub-committee, which has been wound up, or from Licensing and Events, as there have been no applications since the last meeting.

Trees
DB said that the Trees Sub-committee needs new members. Enthusiasm for trees but no expert knowledge is required.

Action: DB to ask Sharon *O'Connor to seek volunteers for the Trees Sub-committee in eNews.*

Planning & Architecture
PS said that a Telecommunications company is applying to install a phone mast close to the Burial Ground in Dulwich Village. She will be writing to say that whilst DS recognises the need to improve mobile phone reception in Dulwich Village, the proposed location is unsuitable as it is close to a historic burial ground and a school. She noted there is an application to demolish a house in the Village area.

Action: PS to write objecting to phone mast near Burial Ground.

Wildlife
PR said the Wildlife Sub-committee is interested in Swift bricks and asked for support in getting these installed in new developments.

Gardening
JP said that he is considering moving to Ticket Tailor from Eventbrite for Garden events as the administration fee is lower.

11. Dulwich Estate

JT said the next DE SoM Advisory Committee is on 21st November and SB has prepared a list of points regarding the portal. It was noted that service levels are unsatisfactory at present and DE staff are hard to contact.

12. AOB

a) Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery 70th Anniversary in 2024

HS said the Gallery has a programme of events scheduled to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery in 2024. It was agreed that DS could promote and contribute to these events.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Macandrew Room at Bell House

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary

Signed: ***James Thompson*** **Date:**

(James Thompson, Chair)

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 13 November 2023)

Kenneth Wolfe (President) – Member of the Friends of Dulwich Square

James Thompson (Chair):

Dulwich Society nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of The Dulwich Estate; Member of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel of Dulwich Village; Chairman of the committee of the Stradella and Springfield Residents Association (Stradella and Winterbrook Roads and parts of Burbage Road and Half Moon Lane); Honorary Independent Examiner of the Dulwich Festival; Anne, my spouse, is the Bursar of Herne Hill School

Sue Badman (Vice Chair) - Safeguarding Officer and Member of Parochial Church Council, St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea, SW3; also member of Chelsea Safeguarding Group; Teacher of English as a Second Language (Chelsea – part of All Souls Church Free English group); Member of "Re-imagining Herne Hill" working group (Part of the Herne Hill Forum); Member/Attendee of Dulwich Village Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

Heather Stubbs (Secretary) – Member of Dulwich Picture Gallery Friends Advisory Panel and organiser of Walks and Tours for Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery

Ian McInnes – Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

Diana McInnes - Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

David Beamish – Parish of St Barnabas, Dulwich, Vice-Chair of the Parochial Church Council; Dulwich Deanery Synod (Member); Southwark Diocesan Synod (Member); Member of the Southwark Diocesan Council of Trustees and Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance; Volunteer at Dulwich Picture Gallery; Volunteer at Dulwich Village Infants School.

Patsy Bramble – Member of Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

Peter Roseveare is a member of the Burbage Road Residents Association.

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way & Close RA; Dulwich Society-nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of the Dulwich Estate

Jeremy Prescott - Wife is a committee member of the Dulwich Park Friends.

Claire Richards - Chair of Lambeth Wind Orchestra and a member of Dulwich Symphony Orchestra.

For Information

The Dulwich Society is a member of the London Forum. The Trees Sub-Committee has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends. The Dulwich Society through the Gardens Sub-committee has affiliated society membership of the Royal Horticultural Society