Dulwich Society Executive 554th Meeting

Monday 8th July 2024 via Zoom

Attendees:

Officers
James Thompson – Chair
Sue Badman - Vice-Chair
Russell Lloyd - Treasurer
Heather Stubbs– Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairs
Laurie Johnston – Environment
Ian McInnes - Local History
Jeremy Prescott - Gardens
Claire Richards - Journal Editor
Peter Roseveare – Wildlife
Penny Stern - Planning and Architecture

Christine Brandon – Membership Secretary
Sharon O'Connor - Communications and Media Lead
Richard Wingfield – Development

1. Apologies

Kenneth Wolfe – President; Patsy Bramble – Licensing; Claire Richards – Journal Editor

2. Register of Interests

Sue Badman is no longer a member of the Reimagining Herne Hill Working Group. Claire Richards is no longer Chair of Lambeth Wind Orchestra but is still a member. Claire is now a committee member of Dulwich Symphony Orchestra.

3. Welcome to Christine Brandon and Sharon O'Connor

The Chair welcomed Sharon O'Connor and Christine Brandon to their first meeting since being re-appointed/appointed as trustees. Sharon is the Society's Communications and Media Lead and Christine is the new Membership Secretary. JT said they are already very much part of the fabric of the Society.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of 13th May 2024 were approved for signature by JT subject to two changes:

Item 5) JP to liaise with DE (not Southwark) to identify a tree in Dulwich Village to commemorate Bill Higman and install a plaque.

Item 10) Trees: It was agreed a payment of £150 could be made to Greg Packman to conduct a forthcoming Tree Walk.

Action: HS to post the approved minutes of 13th May on the website.

5. Matters Arising

Minute 5) **Action: PS and PR to look at Wildlife impact of the East Dulwich Sidings development when/if a planning application is made.**

6. Minutes of SGM on 20th May 2024

It was agreed that the additional cost of the SGM should be stated in the minutes as this had been announced at the meeting. It was noted that the first circular to members regarding the SGM had been sent as a hard copy rather than emailed as it had not hitherto been customary to communicate important administrative matters to members by email. In addition we have 300 or so members who in any case need hard copy notice as we do not hold their email addresses. Considerable cost had been avoided by hand delivery of the circular via the delivery network.

Action: All members to send any comments on the 20th May SGM Minutes by 12th July so that they can be posted on the website as a draft approved by the Executive Committee for agreement at the 2025 AGM.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the SGM on 20th May 2024

There were no matters arising.

8. Minutes of AGM on 20th May 2024

Action: All members to send any comments on the 20th May AGM Minutes by 12th July so that they can be posted on the website as a draft approved by the Executive Committee for agreement at the 2025 AGM

9. Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM on 20th May 2024

There were no matters arising.

10. DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Streets for People: JT referred to the letter and plan from Southwark Council regarding the timetable for the works at the Calton Avenue Junction/North Dulwich which had been circulated to the Executive Committee. He thanked SB for meeting with Southwark to agree the relocation of a bench which would have blocked the view of the stocks stone in the burial ground. He noted that there will be a power unit to provide electricity for lighting for shops/stalls at the junction. There was no ideal place for this and it was now likely to be located on the Court Lane side of the burial ground. He said the yellow hatching road markings on the plan on the website were incorrect. The proposed parking changes in Gilkes Place were also not reflected on the map.

SB said there will be a statutory 21 day consultation on the CPZ and parking changes in Dulwich Village but not on the works at the junction.

Dulwich Estate: JT said DS's attendance at a recent surgery had been put on hold but SB is endeavouring to rearrange this. JT and PS will attend an Advisory Committee meeting on 9th July. SB reported significant concerns about the DE level of service had been raised. This will be raised at the Advisory Committee meeting. IM said works were due to start in Huntslip Road in the summer. This will be raised at the next surgery.

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's report was received.

Stocks Stone: SB is liaising with John Strange at Aquinna regarding the relocation of the stocks stone plinth. This is scheduled to take place when Aquinna have completed the landscaping work.

SB continues to attend Safer Neighbourhood Panels and "Cuppa with a Copper" in Dulwich Village Ward. HS said links with Dulwich Hill Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel were now poor, due to changes in staffing and meeting dates being changed at short notice.

There is a problem with litter in College Road which SB will raise at the DE surgery.

Action: the work of Safer Neighbourhood Panels to be promoted in eNews/Journal.

c) Streets for People - Phase 3

This was dealt with under the Chair's Report

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

This was dealt with under the Chair's Report

e) Follow-up to SGM/AGM

HS reported difficulty in submitting the new Rules to the Charity Commission as their website does not accept a whole document and it is necessary to submit the changes in small batches. HS has sent a hard copy of the new Rules to the Charity Commission.

f) Development//Member Engagement

RW had circulated version 2 of his Strategy Development paper and a report on responses from the committee and how whether/how they were reflected in the revised document.

I. Strategy Day – it was agreed this should take place in the Autumn with an external facilitator.

Action: RW to organise a Strategy Day for the Executive Committee with an external facilitator in the Autumn. JT, RL, CB and RW to work on the agenda.

II. Survey - RW had revised the draft survey in response to comments from the Committee. The survey will be distributed over a 3 month period from August to October and demographic questions will be amended and moved to the end of the survey. It was noted that it was important to capture some demographic information to ensure that the membership reflects the local population and that as a society our activities and events are welcoming for all. It was agreed more questions will be added about the type of activities and events members attend and would like to see more or less of. The survey will also provide an opportunity for members to become more actively involved by asking whether they would be prepared to assist in organising events and activities.

RW to finalise and issue the survey including a standalone email, links in the August, September and October eNews, and an article in the Autumn Journal. All members to let RW know of any activities they would like feedback on via the survey.

III. Meet the Trustees events – it was agreed that two "Meet the Trustees" events would take place in the Autumn, avoiding half-term weeks (19 October-3 November), one in East Dulwich and one for new members. Eventbrite registration to be considered. There will also be a social event for volunteers in JT's garden.

Action: RW to identify appropriate dates and check Trustee availability for the "Meet the Trustees" events. HS to liaise with venues (e.g. Crown and Greyhound).

g) Society Events

The Joe Spence talk on "Shackleton and School Leadership" will take place in late November/December and will be publicised to non-members for a small fee. (Free to members).

Action: JT to finalise date with Joe Spence and identify venue.

JP said there will be a fungus walk (fee £5).

It was agreed that events should be kept in focus. An events lead and events page on the website were suggested.

h) Membership Report

The Membership Report was received. CB encouraged any Executive Committee members still paying by standing order to convert to Direct Debit. She had circulated information on how to do this. She also noted that there were clusters of members living close to each other, for example in Herne Hill, who should be linked to the relevant Journal delivers. JT has received 2 responses to the advertisement for new journal deliverers. CB asked for membership to be more prominent on the website and to remove the old membership leaflet PDF. (Post meeting note: SO'C has removed the old leaflet).

Action: CB to redraft the Membership leaflet and email RW and SB about Herne Hill deliveries.

i) Editorial Committee/Journal

CR had reported that she plans to include an item on the SE24 Community Energy Group in the Autumn Journal. There has been a previous Journal article on SE24 and references in eNews. The share offer closes on 4th August.

j) Policy Review

Privacy Policy – deferred to a future meeting

Conflict of Interest Policy – the revised policy was approved

Grant-making Policy – the revise policy was approved

Action: HS to post revised Conflict of interest and Grant-making Policies on the website.

11. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report was received.

Action: SO'C to put forward proposals for alternatives to the term Sub-committee.

12. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

RL said the Society has c£8,500 in various Barclay's accounts and just under £48,000 in funds. The only spend on projects and grants this year so far is £503 on swift boxes, in part because funds agreed have not been requested.

Action: RL to liaise with Katharine St.John-Brooks on the Garden Coach Trip account.

13. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The Grants List for YTD July 2024 was received.

IMcI reported that the picture retrieval system at Dulwich College is being implemented but no funds have been requested from DS yet.

JP said he has a Journal article ready to promote matched fund-raising for LWT "Reunite the Woods" project. Members will be invited to match DS funds.

PS reported that the Scouts are fund-raising for the fort.

14. Environment Sub-committee

The Environment Sub-committee report was received.

Following consideration of CVs and recommendations from the Environment Sub-committee, Donncha O'Shea, Gaby Hornsby and Tom Palmer were approved as new members of the committee. Tom Palmer will be the Secretary. He has drafted an article on the use of parks, in liaison with PR and PB.

Two members of Southwark Nature Action Volunteers (SNAV) attended the Environment Sub-committee meeting to discuss the development of a nature connectivity map of Southwark. DS will be credited with support for development of the map.

Following consideration of his CV, Hugh Russell was agreed as a member of the Environment Sub-committee subject to sub-committee approval.

15. Planning & Architecture Sub-committee

Following consideration of his CV, Tim Foster, Theatre Architect, was approved as a member of the Planning and Architecture Sub-committee.

16. Trees Sub-committee Membership and Chair

Following David Beamish's resignation as Chair of the Trees Sub-committee, it was agreed that consideration should be given to bringing trees into the terms of reference of the Wildlife Sub-committee and inviting David Beamish, who is a tree expert and writes all the Journal articles on trees, to join as a member.

Action: PR to approach DB about becoming a member of a potential Wildlife/Trees Sub-committee and if DB accepts, to seek approval from members of the Wildlife Sub-committee. Members of the Trees Sub-committee to be informed of the new arrangement, if agreed.

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

Reports were also received from Local History, Gardens, Wildlife and Licensing & Events.

Local History – JT thanked IMcI and SO'C for finding information about his house during their research.

18. Dulwich Estate

JT said there was an Advisory Committee meeting on 9th July.

SB reported that Jo-Ann Deekes is now full-time.

Action: SB to arrange a new DE Surgery meeting and update the committee.

19. Meeting Dates for 2025

HS had circulated a list of proposed dates for Executive Committee meetings/AGM in 2025.

Action: All members to let HS know of any issues with proposed meeting dates by 14th July.

20. AOB

i) IMcI has written an article on Soane Place for the Journal and has asked Councillor Newens for information on what the Construction Infrastructure Levy for the development (earmarked for expenditure in Dulwich) has been spent on. PS said that the developers have also paid Southwark because affordable housing and accessible units were not provided.

Action: IMcI to circulate the response from Southwark to the committee

ii) IMcI asked about DS X account retweets following the election. SO'C said the policy is that only information about new MPs, or MPs who have become ministers, is retweeted.

iii) CB asked whether the DS Directory is still used. It was noted that this is useful for the Secretary.

Action: All Sub-committee Chairs to send CB a list of members of their Sub-committees with email addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers. CB to update Directory.

21. Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 16th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Macandrew Room at Bell House.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary, July 2024

Signed: ***James Thompson*** **Date: 16th September 2024**

(James Thompson , Chair)

Appendix 1 Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 8th July 2024)

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; Lay member of Chelsea Deanery Synod; Teacher of English as a Second Language (Chelsea – part of All Souls Church Free English group); 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; Member/Attendee of Dulwich Hill Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

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

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 Dulwich Park Friends.

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

Laurie Johnston - Volunteer Chair of Southwark Living Streets, the Southwark branch of the national charity Living Streets which campaigns for everyday walking and wheeling.

Richard Wingfield is Chair of Southwark Liberal Democrats.

Christine Brandon is membership secretary, vice-chair, publicity officer and website manager for The Arts Society Dulwich

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