



Co-Chair's Report October 2019

Council Leader's Visit

In November 2018 Cllr. Nesil Caliskan visited the FoBP with Loretta Hoy (LBE liaison officer) and was shown round the sites of the projects we are involved in within Broomfield Park. While expressing approval of the variety and quality of FoBP activities and projects other issues were discussed. Cllr. Caliskan spoke about the importance of considering inclusivity and diversity in relation to our activities and events and access to park areas. We spoke about the problems we have experienced with antisocial behaviour in the Park and ways of trying to reduce this. Cllr. Caliskan said that she had recently met the new Principal of Capel Manor College, Malcolm Goodwin, and was keen for their students to be involved in projects in the borough and encouraged us to make contact.

Events Subgroup

Following the 4not24 protest over a proposed 24-day fairground booking in the Park and on-going difficulty experienced by the FoBP Committee in getting information and being involved in consultation with the Council about future events an FoBP Events Working Group was established. This included members of FoBP Committee, some residents who had been active in the 4not24 campaign group and Council officers with the support of local Councillors and Cabinet members. The process was informed by a survey of local opinion on current and desired events.

The focus has been on events with community involvement and family interest. Over the summer there have been a highly attended and well received programme of events with an estimated footfall of up to 12,000 visitors. These have included previously promoted FoBP events such as those in the Orchard and Conservatory, new FoBP events including the Park Life Arts Festival and Strings in the Park, an outdoor theatre event put on by Enfield Council supported by FoBP, and events by other groups (Blues, Talkies and PG Festival) under the umbrella of FoBP. A process of consultation for new events has been integrated in the Group and has taken place for Cogger's May Fair and with Zippo's Circus planned for 2020.

FoBP Website

A Committee decision was made to establish a new FoBP website and media communications to more effectively inform members, the local park community and general public about Broomfield Park, FoBP activities and events. There was an intention to promote the image of the FoBP and improve local engagement and volunteer involvement. A local Graphic Designer (Steve Quinn) was employed by the FoBP to lead the Design and setup of the website and media links and he has provided a huge amount of ongoing support and work on a voluntary basis. David Williamson has also been instrumental with his considerable experience gained from setting up Talkies Community

Cinema. The website (www.friendsofbroomfieldpark.org) went live in December with links to the FoBP Facebook group and a regular online newsletter to members.

Action Plan

The FoBP Committee developed a new Action Plan for the Park in 2018 revised for 2019. This is published on the website with priority areas identified.

Council officers from the Parks (Marcus Harvey, Senior Operations Manager for Parks, Hakema Kharoti, Senior Business development Officer and Shaun Rogan, Head of Communities, Partnerships and External Relations) met with Committee members in the Park on 15th May 2019 to walk round and review an agreed Action Plan.

On 4th September our new parks liaison officer, Sonya Kavanagh, visited all the sites in the Park that FoBP are involved in, including the Conservatory. She was presented with an agenda of five priorities that had been agreed by the Committee:

1. The Model Boating Pond – to reconnect a freshwater supply to the pond and drainage to the lower lakes to allow annual cleaning and a reduction in pollution. With the aim of establishing a full, clean and usable boating pond and preventing the now regular occurrence of severe algal overgrowth.
2. To establish with the Council and gardening team a horticultural management plan for the Park in terms of plans for the long border and other flower beds, park mowing patterns, and management of the new Wetlands. To determine how volunteer teams can support this and consider training, equipment and storage needs.
3. Security and protection from antisocial behaviour around the Clubhouse and bowling greens (Community orchard) fenced areas.
4. The Children's Playground development. To restart dialogue and Council based meetings as suggested by the Council Business Unit in their last communication.
5. To be given a Council contact, both in-hours and out of hours for urgent problems, such as, the failed electricity supply to the Conservatory/Greenery.

School / College Links

The FoBP continue to host school visits in the Orchard, Conservatory, Wildlife Pond, Growing Space and Wetlands. In the last year we have had visits from Walker, Hazelwood and Tottenhall Schools and the Southgate 23rd Beavers.

Local schools take part in the annual Remembrance Service.

We have contacted Broomfield School and hope to develop projects with secondary school pupils in the future.

We have contacted Capel Manor College with the hope that we may gain joint working and expertise projects within the Park. We were visited for a walk around by Malcolm Goodwin (Principal) and subsequently by Nigel Thorne (Head of School). The response was very positive, and we are waiting to see if we might develop a working relationship later in the year.

Working with Young People

On Wednesdays we work in the Park with a group from the Enfield Secondary Behaviour Support Service funded REACH scheme. This involves Year 9 students who in place of exclusion or PRU referral attend a 2-month course with intensive teaching, group support and mentoring with follow-up in school after. The first courses have been successful and at the graduation ceremony last term it was a pleasure to see 7 of the 8 being accepted back into their own schools and the other admitted to another school in the borough. After assessing the outcomes, the Council have continued funding and we will start with the next programme on the 25th September.

Through the summer a group of young adults with severe learning difficulties from Enfield Mencap come to the Community Orchard weekly and have enjoyed take part in gardening activities, apple juicing and honey extraction.

We also continue to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteering scheme.

Support for Wetlands

The FoBP supported the Council and Thames 21 in the initial consultation for a Broomfield Park Wetlands Scheme both in their Open Meeting and in the Park. We made a formal submission to the Planning Committee and a formal complaint, which was upheld, when this was not adequately considered at the original planning committee meeting.

The FoBP and other volunteers have been involved in two well attended planting days to establish the reed beds and marginal flora. A formal opening event took place in August when the perimeter fencing was removed. We expect FoBP will be involved in training and acquisition of equipment for the long-term management of the reed beds and have already started to use the Wetland as an additional habitat for school visits in association with Paul Busby of Thames 21.

Support for Broomfield House Trust

The FoBP have continued to have an active role in the quest for the reconstruction of Broomfield House with Committee members as Trustees in the Broomfield House Trust and as members of the Partnership Board within Enfield Council. Members helped curate the highly successful Enfield Museum exhibition 'Hidden Treasures – Revealing Broomfield House and Park' at the Dugdale Centre and were actively involved in the programme of talks and activities that accompanied this.

Parks Scrutiny Panel

Evidence has been given to the Parks Scrutiny Panel both in written submission (Documents in the Friends section of the website) and in person to Councillors working on the Scrutiny Review.

Relationship with Council

We have been developing relationships within the Council with officers and elected Councillors through our Events Subgroup and in the Councils new initiative to establish better communications and working relationships with Friends of Park Groups through the ACM process.

Antisocial behaviour and crime in and around the Park

Over the last year there have been regular and distressing episodes including muggings, assaults, indecent exposure, destructive vandalism, break-in's to park property and fire setting. Individual episodes were reported to the Police and concerns highlighted on the FoBP Facebook page.

FoBP Committee members met in the Park with members of the Southgate Green Safer Neighbourhood Team (Met Police) and Joanna Savva of the Community Safety Unit of Enfield Council for a walk round and to discuss these issues. The SNT were able to tell us of the actions taken in association with Palmers Green SNT including arrests and banning orders imposed on certain individuals. We discussed measures such as CCTV and lighting of risk areas.

Areas of activity and projects within Broomfield Park

Clean water flow through the Park (Boating Pond/Reedbeds in the Lakes/Wetlands)

Community Orchard and Apiary

Silver Award Enfield in Bloom

Conservatory

Garden of Remembrance

Greenery Community Café

Native hedgerow planting

The Long Border flower beds

Wildlife Pond

Gold Award Enfield in Bloom

Community Growing Space

Wildflower Gardens

Silver Award Enfield in Bloom

Kim Lumley (Co-Chair FoBP)

Conservatory Group Report for 2019

The Conservatory Group remains stable with around 25 members. The conservatory is a small but busy space. Someone visits every day to water and check on the plants. Problems can arise such as the electric power going off. Fortunately, this happened in summer as it was 4 weeks before the cause was found and rectified. The power supply and structural maintenance are the responsibility of the council but everything else is done by volunteers. Our work was recognised by Enfield in Bloom. We were once again awarded Gold in the category Exceptional Horticultural Contribution to the Community (small space).

We held a series of successful Plant Sales, the latest being at the Palmers Green Festival which saw a record attendance. These fund the plants and equipment needed in the Conservatory. We organised a children's activity, a talk on looking after cacti and musical entertainment with Marc Harris.

Perhaps, we should be known as the Conservatory and Horticultural Group. Since our formation, nearly 10 years ago, we have taken on responsibility for the Sensory Garden and the Dipali Garden. This year a small group have been tending the long rose border. Our biggest challenge was taking over the long herbaceous border. A handful of volunteers managed to restore the section near the Conservatory to a satisfactory state but despite our best efforts the longer stretch could not be brought under control. We are hoping to have some assistance from the Council this autumn. It would be great if more volunteers came forward so that in 2020 the whole border could be well maintained.

