



## Co-Chairs Report to AGM 2019/2020.

### Introduction.

Following the last AGM, we established a clear set of priorities:

The rebranding of FoBP as an effective organisation focussed on our volunteers and park community with more effective communications including the new website and social media links.

The establishment of:

- A new and close relationship with Enfield Council and our elected councillors.
- An updated and prioritised Park Action Plan.
- A new Park Events Program.
- School visits and engagement with young people.
- Involvement in new projects such as the Wetlands, Netball Court refurbishment and Swim Broomfield.
- An effective response to anti-social behaviour and crime within the park.
- Continued support of the Broomfield House Trust in pursuit of a solution for Broomfield House and Stableyard.

### COVID19

The lockdown in March put a hold on the busy year we had planned.

Impact – stopping volunteer activities – Events/School visits/REACH/Boating Pond/Community Café/Conservatory among others.

Essential activities continued – watering in conservatory/apiary and orchard management. Supporting the council in Covid19 restrictions within the park.

### Communications

With the help of Steve Quinn and David Williamson we continued the development of communications with a calendar of park events and regular news items on the website. An active FoBP Facebook Page encouraged engagement with project ideas and used Mailchimp to send out focussed ‘mailshots’ and event advertisement to the Facebook membership. Over the year 1/4/2019 to 31/3/2020 our media engagement increased significantly:

<u>FoBP Website</u>	Site Visits: 28,045	Page Views: 63,917	Form Submissions: 96
<u>Facebook Page</u>	Membership: 1,415	Posts: 923	Reactions: 18,533

The new FoBP logo developed by Steve Quinn has been used to promote the Friends in communications, publicity of events and on Hi Vis vests worn by volunteers carrying out activities within the park.

### Relationship with Enfield Council

Throughout the year we met regularly with council officers within the council office building and in the park, often with the excellent and essential support of a group of our local elected Councillors. The meetings were principally concerned with the establishment of a new Park Events relationship; the maintenance of the Bowling Green Clubhouse and licence for FoBP use; an updated Friends Action Plan for the park; and the future of Broomfield House and Stableyard.

We took part in the new Friends of Parks ACM (Associate Cabinet Member) meetings. In 2019 Sonya Kavanagh was appointed as a new council parks liaison officer with responsibility for Broomfield Park. After starting to develop a relationship with the FoBP Sonya unfortunately was unable to continue and there has been no replacement to date. Hakema Lasmi, Senior Business Development Officer, has continued to be our point of contact within Enfield Council and has continued to be very responsive and helpful.

### Park Action Plan

A 14-point Action Plan was agreed 2019, it was reviewed and agreed with Enfield Council in January 2020 and is published on the FoBP website.

1. Model Boating Pond – The long-standing problems of, obstruction to the supply of clean water from the artesian well, and obstruction of the drain from the Boating Pond to the upper lake, were addressed by the council with CCTV investigation and remedial works to sections of supply and drain pipelines. Neither issue was resolved and after further CCTV investigation and works the pond was eventually drained, leaving the accumulated debris to be cleaned from the pond base. The clean water supply pipe was found to be further obstructed and we were told that a full replacement pipeline would be required, a possible budget for this was included in the Action Plan.
2. Long Border – Elizabeth Dobbie working with Vic Black (work experience volunteer from Capel Manor Horticultural College) developed a volunteer subgroup to restore the historic Long Border and other flower beds within the walled garden in the park. This has involved discussion with the previous head gardener who managed the Long Border, reference to historic planting plans and the development of a new planting plan.  
Efforts were made to set up a process to establish a horticultural management plan with the council and to develop a regular ‘work experience’ relationship with Capel Manor
3. Garden of Remembrance and memorials – FoBP provided topsoil and new roses to replant the rose bed in the Garden of Remembrance. This was additionally supported by a grant from Enfield in Bloom.  
Financial support was provided to the Broomfield House Trust’s project to clean the Portland stone plaque commemorating the opening of Broomfield Park and to re-cut it’s lettering. This was completed with a formal opening in March.  
We had a very successful Remembrance Day Service in 2019 led by the vicar of Christ Church, Southgate with the Deputy Mayor, local councillors, local MP and the British Legion in attendance. There were contributions in the form of poems and

songs by pupils from Broomfield Secondary School and Bowes, Hazelwood and Walker Primary Schools. At the end of the service the Greenery Cafe provided 'wartime' cakes and biscuits, tea and coffee for refreshments.

On January 7th 2020 we commemorated the planting of Mulberry tree planted by Peter Brown. A plaque was unveiled to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Sir John Spencer who was a silk merchant and very wealthy man who became Lord Mayor of London and lived in Broomfield House. A film entitled 'A walk around Broomfield Park with Peter Brown' has been produced by Jenny Bourke as a 'Palmer's Green Tale'. It shows several historic features in the park including the Mulberry tree and is available on the Friends' website.

4. Conservatory - This was another successful year with regular openings, events, fundraising and our faithful band of 30 regular volunteers. During the year we had 6058 visitors and an income from donations and fundraising of £1990 which allowed us to spend £1000 on our plants and compost and repair our staging and watering system. January 2020 marked 10 years since the decision to take over the running of the Conservatory after a council refurbishment. We planned a summer of celebrations - now delayed. In March we were able to agree that, even in lockdown, we could continue to care for the plants under strict Covid conditions.
5. Broomfield House and Stable yard – FoBP continued their engagement with the council's Broomfield House Partnership Board in the pursuit of restoration of the house.
6. Swimming Pool – The FoBP committee voted to formally support the project group seeking to return the lower lake to a swimming pool.
7. Community Orchard, Growing Space, Wildlife Pond and Apiary – Two sets of steps and a new path were created around the wildlife pond by the REACH project group, funded by FoBP. The soil covering of the wildlife pond surround was completed and laid with wildflower seed.

Graham Deal worked throughout the year on his own and with project groups to maintain the Community Orchard to its award-winning standard. His regular work includes mowing, strimming, pruning, cutting back of hedges and outwitting of foxes. The apiary was managed throughout the year bringing five honey bee colonies through the winter and producing a high yield of delicious honey (in excess of 200lbs). The colonies were passed as free of disease by the regional bee inspector. A new secure store was purchased and installed by the apiary for beekeeping stores.

8. Clubhouse and Bowling Green – after ongoing negotiations with Enfield Council it was agreed that a temporary licence would be issued for one year to allow the continuing usage by FoBP for storage, volunteer group activities and events.
9. Events in Broomfield Park – 2019 was very successful for events with a wide range of community-driven events in the park, including:

Park Life' Weekend	Broomfield Strings	Broomfield Blues
Outdoor Screening	Gangsta Granny'	Palmer's Green Festival
Yoga in the Orchard	Conservatory Music	Apple Day
Winter Tales'	Orchard Picnic	Wassail

Feedback from public was overwhelmingly positive, with social media responses saying how events add to the sense of community.

There was high demand for more and similar outdoor events in 2020 and beyond.

10. Wildflower Gardens - We continued the project to deal with the problem of thistle and couch grass overtaking the existing annual and perennial wildflower beds. A plan was developed by Vic Black while working on a work experience attachment from Capel Manor Horticultural Project to convert the gardens to a wildflower meadow

managed principally by biannual mowing. 400sq.m. of weed suppressant membrane was dug up along with surrounding thistles by volunteer groups, including the REACH project group, Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers and a group of 20 volunteers from the new Premier Inn in Southgate. The bare area was seeded with wildflowers appropriate for the conditions and a mowing plan agreed with the Council mowing team.

11. Native Hedgerow – The project to plant native hedgerow around the park perimeter using whips provided by the Woodland Trust and the Conservation Volunteers was continued with volunteers from the community and Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme volunteers. Over 750 whips were planted with supports and protecting tubes this year.
12. Wetlands project – The new Wetland was opened with a ceremony in August 2019. The FoBP had been involved in supporting the public consultation, the planning application and its subsequent reconsideration by LBE's Planning Committee and involved along with other groups (Thames21, Pymmes Brookers) in planting the reedbeds and marginal plants.
13. Antisocial Behaviour – We continued our liaison and meetings in the park with the Enfield Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the Met Police Safer Neighbourhood team to tackle the issues of vandalism, graffiti, criminal and inappropriate sexual behaviour in the park and park buildings. We linked with Streetwatch and took part in joint visits with outreach workers to help rough sleepers occupying the Community Orchard.  
Following the break-in and thefts from our stores in the Clubhouse the FoBP actions in reporting the crime and providing witness statements helped bring about a conviction and prison sentence of the perpetrator who admitted to many other similar crimes in local parks and gardens.  
We met with the Community Safety Unit to survey and provide costings for CCTV and security lighting around the Clubhouse and other risk areas in the park.

### School Visits and Engagement with Young People

Helen Blairman co-ordinated school year visits from Walker and Hazelwood schools. Volunteers lead activities in the Conservatory, Orchard and Apiary, the Wildlife Pond and Wetlands. Plans were in place to expand to include other local schools with a structured program involving more volunteers taking responsibility and new visit resources funded by FoBP.

Regular weekly sessions were supported in park areas with the REACH group (helping excluded school children back into mainstream education); Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers; a group of young adults with severe learning disability from Enfield Mencap. The Greenery Community Café started a project giving work experience to school children with special educational needs from West Lea School and initiated a scheme to engage local young people in devising, planning and developing a project area in the park supported by 'Build-Up'.

## AWARDS

### Bees' Needs Champion Award 2019

This is in recognition of work by FoBP supported by Enfield Council and Thames 21 in creating habitats and food for bees and other pollinators in Broomfield Park.

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bees-needs/#:~:text=The%20annual%20Bees'%20Needs%20Champions,and%20raise%20awareness%20about%20pollinators>

### Enfield in Bloom Awards 2019

Conservatory	Gold
Wildlife Pond	Gold
Wildlife Meadow	Silver
Community Orchard	Silver

### 2020 Susdrain SuDS Awards

Broomfield Wetlands – Highly Commended

<https://www.susdrain.org/community/SuDS Awards2020winners>

## Update

Coming out of lockdown we have worked with Enfield Council to establish risk assessments, working protocols and PPE resources to allow us to work within the Covid19 guidelines published by the Government.

We have been able to facilitate outdoor projects and events with the strong engagement and safe working of many volunteers.

Including – The Long Border, Orchard, Growing Space, wildflower meadow, Apiary – honey production, Greenery café, and events in the Bowling Green and in the Big Top of Zippo's Circus.

Further meetings have taken place with Marcus Harvey, Senior Operations Manager and Graham Campbell, Senior Engineer regarding the restoration of pump and pipe-flows to the Boating Pond leading to its refilling and the maintenance of pipe-flows to and from the Wetland.

## Financial Report

To be forwarded separately for the AGM.

Kim Lumley

David March

Co-Chairs FoBP

October 2020