

- Apologies for absence
 - Minutes for 2022
 - Matters arising
 - Co-Chairs' Report
 - Financial Report and Approval of Accounts
-
- Questions?
 - Election of Committee Members*
 - Any other business?
 - Presentation on ecology by Trustees Louise/Bethany
 - Guest Speaker, Haringey Cllr. George Dunstall

For Tom

We have received apologies from:

- Carrie Anker
- Justin Hinchcliffe
- Louise Wass (Trustee)
- Hugh White

Minutes & Matters arising (?)

CDC

Co-chair's report for 2022

2022 was our first full year since the pandemic and it saw our Trust's membership increase again. I'll go through a review of the year by the month.

January

Like this month, January 2022 was also the quietest month of all, with little park-related activity.

February

But on 19th February, volunteers planted 293 saplings along the New River and near the end of the month, we organised another hedge planting near Edible Landscapes.

March

A further volunteer hedge planting on the 26 of March, saw about 200 young trees planted around the *Richard Hope Play Space*.

April

On the **21st of April** we organised Stroud Green's only Local Election Hustings next door, at the St Aidan's school, capably chaired by our own chair, Tom Graham. The candidates received questions about a certain local park and certain council involvement.

The very next day, **22 April, on Earth Day** of all days, we learned to our shock that Parks department officers had ordered the ripping out of the entire 200 recently planted March hedge trees in March.

we would never just destroy our trees and this has nothing to do with the major events in the park this summer

Parks claimed that the move nothing to do with the scheduled Major events in the summer, but two months later, the Wireless steel wall was erected hard-up against the fence of the Play Space, as shown in the photo taken by our Tom.

The public's disgust at this action was reflected in our tweet on the matter, that was re-tweeted and viewed more than 58,000 times.

Just one example of the environmental challenge to our park: the council insists that any Event generators "must be diesel fuel only" and many tonnes of fuel were burnt by about 50 such generators.

May

Mid-May saw the launch of the **Ecology page** on our website, work by TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) on a "dead hedge". And the re-wilding work continued.

We continued to question the council's long use of glyphosate.

As we made repeated pleas to improve public safety in our park.

June

One of the founder members of the Friends, passed in June. Monsieur **Bruce Kent** was a leader in the campaign for nuclear disarmament and remained an active member of the Friends.

Bruce lived locally and was a consistent opponent of Haringey's Major Events policy. We hope the council will mark this nationally known figure, with some physical memorial in our park.

From mid-June, the big build-up to yet another Wireless began. After two fallow years in which the park recovered, the Council brought Wireless back again. We were assured that the 2022 event couldn't be stopped due to the budgetary cycle with the implication that it might be last.

July

Thus for several weeks our park was dominated for weeks by the build-up; the huge commercial event itself, and then the break-down. A review of our Twitter account during July will show how closely the Friends monitored it and reported throughout, for safety and evidential purposes. A huge contribution by Tom!

Our Trustee Lawrence Singha organised the Petition against the Major Event that. We circulated the results to the local press. Due to the dangerous situation that threatened a crushing, the national press covered the story with photos; also BBC London TV and on Radio 4.

August

Now we're half-way through the year and another relatively quiet month for the Friends, but lots of use of the park by the public. Lawrence's petition reaches 2,000 signatures and it would eventually garner 2,400 signatures, with 177 strong comments against it

September

Our fellow trustee Louise became even more active in the Autumn and began conservation work and planting more trees. She sends her apologies but you may hear her pre-recorded voice shortly.

October

As above!

November

On 1 November we hosted a Public Meeting at the Muslim Welfare House about the council's huge events. A senior police officer spoke about their operation Taipan aimed at crime reduction in our park. And our patron Jeremy Corbyn MP spoke at the end and suggested we hold a further meeting. Watch this space!

December

Finally, on 15 December — our Trustees Gina and Lawrence gave a presentation to the council's Environmental Scrutiny Panel about events in our park during the summer.

Given the council's apparent determination to continue with these too big events, annually, the Panel were surprisingly interested and engaged. The Panel promised to provide answers to the questions that were put to them.

e.g. the lack of transparency about the funds received from Live Nation and the £870,000 spent on staffing costs.

Membership

We ended 2022 with more than 400 members and today they stand at 446. Our newsletters are forwarded to many more than the base membership and our Twitter Followers number more than 3,600.

This year, we look forward to growing numbers and having an even more effective group to safeguard our No.1, Charitable object:

To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Finsbury Park, London

And that concludes the Co-Chair's report