



Annual General Meeting, Temple Bowls Club, 24 March 2025

Name	Role
Céline Gilbert	Trustee (Co-Chair)
Kate Malleson	Trustee (Co-Chair)
Jo Broadbent	Trustee (Co-treasurer)
Sarah Salter	Trustee (Co-treasurer)
Jemima Ashdown	Trustee
Mandy Millward	Trustee, minutes
Chris Norris	Committee member
Lucy Hadfield	Committee member
Claire Vinycomb	Committee member
Sara Robertson-Jonas	Committee member
Kay O'Neill	Committee member
<i>plus 33 other members and 6 non-members</i>	

Welcome

The chairs welcomed Lambeth colleagues, Kevin Crook and Tom Smith. All members and non-members present were welcomed.

Apologies for absence

None.

Minutes of last AGM, 16 January 2024

The meeting approved the minutes, 16 January 2024.

Trustee and committee changes

Lucy Hadfield and Chris Norris are standing down as trustees after many years of excellent service. They will continue as committee members. The meeting thanked them both for their tireless work and support of FoRP.

Jemima Ashdown was welcomed as a new trustee.

Kate Malleson and Céline Gilbert will continue as co-chairs.

Sadly, Claire Vinycomb will be moving away and therefore leaving the committee. The meeting thanked her for all her contributions to FoRP, in particular for leading the litter picking sessions on Wednesdays.

Volunteer and donor thanks

The meeting thanked all volunteers and corporate volunteers for their time and commitment over the year. Donors were also thanked, regular donations give us core income. One-off donations and bequests were also gratefully received.

A special thanks went to Suzanne Vincent from Urban Village who has made a great contribution over the past few years to the paddling pool.

The bench and tree sponsorship schemes had a good year and the meeting thanked all donors/sponsors.

Thanks to Lambeth colleagues with whom we work very closely – Tom Smith, Kevin Crook and Tim Daniels in particular. Tim will be retiring this year and we look forward to welcoming his replacement.

Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24

CG presented the annual report for approval. FoRP's accounting year runs from September to August.

JB covered the financial year – the reduction in the level of cash in hand at year end reflected planned expenditure from grants or earmarked funds received in previous years, e.g. Aviva finances for gardening activities in the Labyrinth, £4,000 for paddling pool maintenance. It does not cause any concern about our overall financial position.

We are pleased to have obtained City Bridge grant funding which will support our work in the Labyrinth Garden, Willow and Community Garden for the next five years. We have £9,000 left in the paddling pool fund to support its running for this coming year and the following year. There were significant donations from tree sponsorship and the fête has historically made an important contribution to general funds. We remain committed to park activities as per our objectives.

The Independent Examiner's report did not raise any matters of concern in the accounts.

The meeting duly approved and adopted the report and accounts.

The chair presented a summary of the report. We had an amazing 2024 and plans for 2025:

- fete a success despite the weather
- playground refurbishment, tables/benches by kiosk
- Community and Willow Gardens, workshops held
- Wildlife Garden cleared
- Bandstand concerts (thanks to Kathy Erasmus)
- Benches/trees installed/planted thanks to sponsorship scheme
- Paths being repaired making them more accessible.
- Toilets being repaired/refurbished in next few weeks.
- Depot area repurposed as a community sauna. Charlie here to take questions; planting around it. Water supply installed which the park will benefit from.
- Chess tables installed – allocation of money from Lambeth. Launch on 22 March.
- Stable Block: planning application put in by Lambeth, some money. Café and creative project with young people potentially.
- Fête: 21 June '25. Lots of free stuff for the community but it needs help with volunteers.

Lambeth Council report, Kevin Crook

He spoke about the value of the FoRP relationship and steering group for the capital programme and in other areas.

The current financial crisis was the worst in the council's history. There was an expenditure freeze. Statutory delivery only being reviewed. Parks, however, have certain

obligations in legislation. There was no intention to cut parks budget at the moment – it was cut in 2016. There is pressure to increase income. Lambeth aspires to make Ruskin Park a health park.

Night time strategy: consultation has been done and looking at the use of parks in the evening e.g. sauna, stable block possibilities. The stable's basic building will go out to let commercially. Floodlighting for tennis courts is planned. The 7-a-side football on the Redgra area has been planned but there are issues with match funding. English Cricket Board funding for an additional cricket pitch is being explored.

Kiosk improvements have allowed a rent increase.

Staff leaving so looking at restructuring in the future.

The formal business of the AGM was concluded.

Questions and answers

Q: Lighting at night for safety?

A: Looking to light main path Denmark Hill/Northway Rd. Will parks be locked at night in future? £150,000 on locking our parks through the year. Piloting a scheme to leave them unlocked is currently running until August..

Q: Timescale?

A: Have source of funding for the lighting, need planning to agree the floodlighting first.

Q: Houses whose gardens back onto park are worried about potential anti-social behaviour at night.

A: Understand the concerns e.g. noise, burglary. Hard to say until we try it. Want to see what actually happens. Anecdotally, some parks have been left unlocked to no detrimental effect.

Q: What is the legal status if unlocked, is the park 'open'?

A: Byelaws allow opening/closing times flexibility. Putting up notices re hours. Dusk/dawn usual. 'Authorised use' is an exception e.g. tennis courts in use. Enforcement teams may be able to issue fixed penalty notices – more effective.

Q: How will this be monitored?

A: police data, council reports, logs of incidents, friends' groups feedback.

Other comments from the floor

Rebecca Tee, chair of the Herne Hill Society said how 'awestruck' she was as FoRP is so impressive, we know how hard it is to run such a group. HHS is supportive of things you're doing. We have £500 grants available for FoRP from our funds.

Thanks from Kay O'Neill to Urban Canopy for the 22 gardening sessions they supervised during the year including the installation of 480m of metal borders and 480 plants.

General thanks from attendees and the meeting closed.