

ELL – Minutes of Quarterly Meeting

Friday 15th November 2013

Present:

Poppy, Jane, Jo, Gemma H, Mike, Adam, Patrick, Monica

ELL Summary November 2013

Jo tabled summary covering training/plants/people/profile/future plans

Copies are kept on site for those not present to read.

Financial Summary Year Ending August 2013

Income = £8964.86

Expenses = £8693.48

Balance = £944.63

Stroud Green Forum:

Poppy to talk about ELL at next meeting and make them aware of us.

Relationship with Metropolitan (MHT):

ELL agreement ran out July 2013 – waiting for MHT to action. Not a threat to ELL as rent is owed, so no reason to delay. Noted MHT want ELL on site

Lease from Haringey for whole site runs out July 2014. Early discussions are starting to take place re other ways the site might be organised and developed beyond the current model. Nothing specific to report other than Jo would like ELL to take a greater role in governance.

Forest Garden Course:

Congratulations to Jo

10 students finally – 8 to go for accreditation (open college network)

Some drop outs early on due to demanding nature.

Turn out 75%+ (agreed this is good)

£200 fee – most on subsidised rate, 2 on full volunteering, 1 volunteering and paying!

Various tutors used.

Jo thinks course broke even

Next course to run on weekday instead of weekend

PACT will help with marketing next course.

Need to get more people on board from the PACT area as only one in last group

Mike suggested that Finsbury Park Concert promoters be asked to put the course on their flier

Jane noted the good effect on volunteering at ELL – with new people & a good social network developing.

Things to review/change:

1. Could reduce to 18 weeks.
2. Timetable needs to be more explicit
3. Be more explicit about how learning will be measured
4. Reduce delivery and add more self directed learning
5. Some basic stuff wasn't understood – Jo to review how this was delivered
6. Divide into two blocks with break in between – suggest take Aug out. Jo to get feedback from students tomorrow.

Jo might write an article about the course for local publications like Haringey people to help publicise.

New Plants

Monica would like to expand the list of plants we grow and try growing things from seeds. Gemma cautioned that this approach was typically high maintenance and growing from cuttings etc was likely to be more successful. Agreed anyone can put forward suggestions for discussion. Jo noted that we have not been successful with Ginko & Plum Yew both grown from seed.

Celebrations

Jo suggested we should have a party or similar to celebrate our achievements.

Date agreed - **Sat 11 Jan**

Jane suggested that we team up with the Maiden Lane community garden to do some wassailing in of our plants (very old traditional thing to do in/for orchards re 'blessing' for a good crop in the coming year).

Jo checked with Tash & Les from Maiden Lane who are interested.

Jane to check if she can organise some singers

Suggested that the Friday PACT meal be moved to the Saturday.

Date of next meeting. AGM Friday 7th February 2014, 11am