

**ELL General Meeting
Friday 22nd April 2016**

Present

Trustees: Lorena Vila (Chair), Alex Sylvester, Nick Turner, Lucy Nacson-Jones, Carrie Anker, Sarah Bush, Gemma Harris, Mary McHugh, Jo Homan, Richard Vials, Vanessa Morris. Members: Les, Alison, Vicky

Apologies

Jane Howson, Jamshid Maylanchi, Damian Rafferty, Chris Speirs

Agenda

1. Actions from last GM (Lorena)
2. Soil leaf contamination testing (Jo)
3. Manor House Lodge Move
4. Make Sense update (Nick)
5. Schools / Skinners Academy (Jo/ Sarah)
6. A/B roles
7. Recruiting Site Leaders
8. Signage (Vanessa)
9. FoP Forum (Gemma)
10. AOB

1. Actions from last GM

The meeting begins with a review of actions from last General Meeting:

Who?	What?	Completed?
Carrie	Measure dimensions of MHL garden	Yes
Jo	E-mail Simon Farrow re: procuring more land in the park to use as a demonstration garden	Yes but not 100% clear – on-going
Richard	E-mail Jo, Chris, Lucy, Alex, Nessa, Carrie & Damian with list of funding bodies to research	Yes – now have an online database with several completed funding applications
Jo	Research cost of DBS checks	No – Carrie says it costs approx. £40/ person + admin fee
Richard	Arrange meeting with FoFP gardening group via Kevin Duffy	Yes – there have been two meetings
Richard	E-mail Jo, Lorena, Lucy, Damian, Chris, Jamshid & David with details of current comms platforms + start discussion about what message ELL wants to send out	No – forwarded on to this meeting's actions
Richard	Circulate e-mail to trustees w/ suggestions for home seed-sowing + appoint someone to coordinate this	No – Richard doesn't have seeds today but he suggests speaking to him after

		today's meeting if people are interested – Alison raises an interest
Richard	Arrange meeting with Damian & Jo for advice on fundraising applications	Yes – this happened over email
Richard	E-mail Jamshid & Vanessa re: creativity group	Yes
Jo	To recruit volunteer leaders for April using Doodle Poll + Google calendar	Yes
Jo	Add events to Google calendar – Alison's FG planting, Damian's Kingsmead Primary School event & ELL's edible hedge event	It is decided that we need to get rid of the Google calendar as this is getting confusing. New action added. There is a calendar already on the website?
Richard	E-mail Alex w/ recruitment details	Yes
Lucy	Pursue links with Our Lady's Convent school	Yes – but school are still waiting for funding before they can agree to do anything.

2. Soil leaf contamination (Jo)

- Jo explains that the soil is polluted and that there are certain levels of lead at all 3 points of the park
- The issue of lead is historical; we need to also look at other forms of pollution on the proposed new site, particularly given its situation next to the main road.
- There are two options re the soil:
 - Importing soil – Jo suggests that moving site this could be a good opportunity to bring in new soil and this has been the case in other projects such as Mabley Green – where Damian works. Here they also use barriers to stop deep rooting accumulators. Imported soil could be used specifically for beds where we will be picking and not used on beds that might just be a showcase bed. The general consensus was that imported soil should be used on all beds as it is a small site.
 - Other suggested methods of soil remediation such as planting deep rooting accumulators (and then disposing) but Jo raises the concern that this can take a long time
- Jo refers to her conversation with Stuart where he suggested that we might want to move the plants soon, but following the current discussion about soil, the group agree that the soil needs to be prepared fully before moving plants to new site.
- If we were to move to the proposed new site, we would also need to think of other forms of plant barriers in terms of pollution.
- Gemma suggests that further soil tests, using different remedial efforts, might be a lengthy project that would require regular commitment and therefore perhaps not the most practical long-term option for ELL's soil contamination issues.
- Suggestion that a test bed be set up to check and monitor progress

3. Manor House Lodge move

- The previous topic takes conversation into the Manor House Lodge move.
- Carrie confirms that we have the measurements for the proposed new site and that the current ELL site has slightly more growing space than the Manor House Lodge site.
- The group discuss the aims for ELL moving site and Jo outlines the need to make this clear to the council:
 - They would need to cut down the tree next to the site
 - Clear the site
 - Be clear about finances
 - Have more growing space
 - Lower rent (than proposed in contract)
 - Having a form of building with indoor space would also be very useful.
- Returning to the issue of soil, Gemma circulates among group a list of EcoParks compost which she has used before and may be useful for ELL.
- The conversation moves towards other site possibilities within the park
- Alex suggests the fenced off depot by the ring road, further in the park. He thinks this could be a more secure site and further from the road and therefore pollution. The site is also more easily accessible for importing soil.
- Vanessa raises issues of contamination and needles. Others in the group suggest that it is no more contaminated or at risk than any other part of the site. But agreed that contamination is a serious issue that we need to think carefully about.
- The depot site already has sizeable pile of green manure that could be used.
- In reference to Chris's email, sent in his absence, there a number of concerns with the drafted contract that Jo circulated before the meeting.
- The group unanimously agree that Jo should go back to the council and suggest this as a new potential site.
- Mary asks the group: what would happen if the council say no to the depot? Jo is confident that this will not put ELL in a weaker position and we will still be able to negotiate.
- It is agreed that it would good to also negotiate the building at the Manor House Lodge in addition to the Depot so to secure indoor space for courses, volunteers etc.
- (post meeting – most visited this site and general feeling is positive about this site being used)

4. Make Sense Update

- Nick has been in contact with someone at the organisation who is interested in working with ELL.
- In reference to the email circulated before the meeting: Make Sense is a global community that brings volunteers together to support local social entrepreneurs. They find a challenge an entrepreneur might want to solve and create a design thinking workshop around that.

- It is agreed that it is worth finding out more about what they could offer ELL. Nick explains that someone from ELL needs to talk to them and take next steps; Richard volunteers to take this forward.

5. Schools/ Skinners Academy

- Jo discusses the interest that she has had from the Inspire Academy
- Sarah and Alison expresses interest in getting involved.
- Sarah and Alex report on the afterschool club that they have been running with Gillespie School. They are waiting for funding to develop the programme and pay for their time. This is ongoing.
- The link between ELL and Skinner's Academy continues. Currently the sessions are as follows:
 - Years 7 & 8 – Sarah is running sessions on Fridays 12:30 – 13:30
 - Year 9 - Jo has been working with Skinners Academy doing 'evaluative units' with Year 9 on Mondays 9 – 9.45
- ELL is doing really well developing their education projects!

6. Session leading – A/B roles

- Carrie says that generally the AB rotation has been working well but it can be challenging in terms of limited forest gardening knowledge.
- Session Leaders agree that it would be beneficial to have clearer writing in the handover book, not just using Latin names and more accurate descriptions of beds.
- Carrie suggests that it might be useful to have a more obvious place with ongoing jobs
- Vanessa shows group her newly painted chalkboards and it is agreed that these will be used for outlining on-going jobs. This will be kept in the greenhouse.

7. Recruiting Site Leaders

- Thanks goes to Sarah who has put together a doodle poll for dates
- Les voiced problems filling out doodle poll. This method seems to work for others so Sarah suggests phoning Les when scheduling to make easier.
- The group discusses: what happens if someone can't come at the last minute? Jo says that we just make sure that there is always someone planned to work so that this doesn't happen and we don't need to find a way to communicate to volunteers if the site will be closed.
- Vanessa offers to put up a sign at the entrance, offering volunteering opportunities and chance to be session leader.
- Jo clarifies that ELL no longer have a key for the kitchen. Ray comes in on Tuesdays. There is no way for ELL to get the keys.
- Volunteers to use compost toilet or by going to the café.
- There are suggestions that the Café might think that they are expanding onto the ELL site. Jo suggests it might be worth talking to Simon Farrow informally about the future of the site. Nick also offers to do some research about the future of the site.

8. Signage

- If anyone has anything they want communicated on signs, email Vanessa this might include forest gardening quotes etc.

9. FOP Forum

- Gemma has been to the last FoP forum. These are held every 2 months at Bruce Parks. They involve representatives from the park and are a good opportunity to support others involved in the park – uniting and working towards getting what they need from the council.
- Gemma is happy to go the next meeting but will need a few more details in responses to questions she was unable to answer. She will send an email nearer the time, but these included:
 - What are the size measurements of site?
 - Did we want the corner by the site?
 - Is there a FoFP stakeholders group? Jo confirms that there is no longer.
- She asks if anyone else would like to accompany her – Lorena expresses an interest
- The next meeting is on June 4th.

10. AOB

Next meeting: 15th July chaired by Nick.

Actions

Who?	Action	By when?
Richard	Send details of current comms to Jo, Lorena, Damian, Chris, Jashid, David, Les and Nick	ASAP
Gemma	Close Google calendar	ASAP
All	If anyone has an event, use link on Facebook. For any big events, email Jo and she will update on the website.	Ongoing
Jo	Ask council about option of using a different site and suggest depot option. Plan site with Alex and Les, cc'ing Vanessa, Carries, Lorena and Chris	ASAP
Vanessa	Go back to TCV and see if there is a potential to work with ELL if they were to be based at the Depot site.	Once site is confirmed
Richard & Alex	Nick to pass on Richard's contact details to Make Sense. Richard to find out more about the offer.	ASAP
Sarah & Alison	To take on contact from Jo with Inspire Academy	ASAP
Richard & Les	To find out brand name of chalk pens that work	ASAP
Vanessa	To make sure blackboard is in greenhouse	25 th April
Vanessa	To make signs to promote volunteering opportunities at ELL and recruiting more session leaders	ASAP
Jo	Ask Stuart informally about future of site	ASAP
Nick	To investigate retail of land	ASAP
Gemma	To send email with details about FoP forum before meeting on June 4 th	Before June 4 th
All	Promote session leader roles among volunteers.	ASAP