

**Edible Landscapes London (ELL) General Meeting
Friday 14th April 2017**

Present

Carrie Anker, Richard Vials, Jo Homan, Chris Speirs, Vanessa Morris, Mary McHugh, Alison Roberts, Alex Sylvester

Apologies

Sarah Bush, Nick Turner, Patrick Maher

Next Meeting

Friday 14th July 2017

1. Actions from last GM in January 2017

Who?	Action	Status
Vanessa	Talk to Martine about intro to gardening training	Complete
Vanessa / Sarah / Les	Discuss how to spend £650 on training sessions and formulate a plan.	Complete
Chris	Draft email to LBH proposing a meeting	Complete
Jo	Write job list for February in diary	Complete
Chris & Jo	Jo send aims and objectives to Chris so that he can re-word our aims and objectives	Ongoing
Jo	Register Chris Vanessa Sarah Les as directors	Complete
Jo	Make Vanessa admin on Project Dirt	Complete
Richard	Publicise Friends of Haringey Parks forum meetings on sign inside ELL greenhouse and encourage trustees and members to sign up	Incomplete
Carrie	Continue working on two safeguarding policies – children and vulnerable adults	Incomplete
Jo	Send mailing list to Vanessa	Complete
Sarah	Ask session leaders best date for session leader workshop	Complete
Vanessa	Update session leader induction notes	Complete
Alex / Mary	Check plant list is updated	Incomplete

2. Actions from meeting, April 14th 2017

Who?	Action

Rich	Send an email to Simon and Stuart to follow up the process of drawing up an agreement. Ask them for a formal proposal with a site map and proposed boundary
Vanessa	Connect with Carolina (MHDT) to continue to discuss build funding options once agreement formalised, process
Chris and Rich	Discuss methods to communicate with the council, collaborate
Vanessa	Outreach and post volunteer adverts
Jo	Add herself to fundraising group
Carrie, Chris, Vanessa	Look into ward funding and Environmental Impact Grant
Carrie	Send apologies to Finsbury Park Stakeholders meeting
Chris	Confer with Rich and Vanessa to draft a form letter to respond to companies regarding volunteering
Jo & Chris	Jo send aims and objectives to Chris so that he can re-word our aims and objectives*
Richard	Publicise Friends of Haringey Parks forum meetings on sign inside ELL greenhouse and encourage trustees and members to sign up*
Carrie	Continue working on two safeguarding policies – children and vulnerable adults*
Vanessa	Continue to update session leader induction notes*
Alex / Mary	Check plant list is updated*

*Ongoing actions carried over from previous meeting

Minutes of Last meeting

ELL Site Logistics/ Council Agreement

Richard, Vanessa and Chris recapped: On 22nd March we met with Haringey to discuss ELL's location and proposal to stay on site. Other attendees included Simon Farrow, Stuart Hopking, Carolina Correia (MHDT) and Cllr Zena Brabazon. It was agreed that Manor House Lodge was not a viable site. Instead Haringey and ELL would draw up a 'Licence to Occupy', for ELL to stay at our current location, and share the site alongside Haringey's Parks Operations. Rough boundaries were informally agreed using an arial map, so the site could be divided with a metal fence constructed by the council. Haringey would create a separate access gate for ELL to use, and a water stand pipe at our end. ELL would relocate our greenhouse and showcase bed, and we would fundraise to construct a compost toilet. Carolina and Simon were very supportive of the idea to build a timber shelter for volunteers/ cooking/ educational purposes, to replace facilities we would lose. It was agreed the council could assist ELL and MHDT to co-fundraise for this. Vanessa and Carolina would continue the conversation to discuss funding grants and possibilities when the council agreement was formalised. It was recognised that both Cllr Brabazon and Carolina have been very supportive of ELL in this transition process, and that this support was appreciated. Richard agreed to send an email to the council to follow up the Licence to Occupy, to ask them for a formal proposal with a site map and proposed boundary. The group agreed we should encourage a quick transition, especially regarding the agreement, gate and water pipe. Chris suggested asking the council about gaining access to electricity on our current

site, Jo agreed. Chris is happy to collaborate with Rich on future council communications. Carrie and Chris reiterated that we should not take any responsibility for the upkeep of the Lodge, or place any long-term reliance on access to it. The group agreed a storm kettle would be useful. Alison suggested it would be good to get extra learning resources and second-hand books for the greenhouse to help maintain the wildlife areas.

Further activities, workshops, cob oven

Vanessa gave a brief overview of workshops and skill-shares arranged until October. Unfortunately the dates for Martine's Introduction to Organic Gardening are now on hold until Martine's new work arrangements can be finalised. Vanessa discussed a potential collaboration with Linda Royles (Cob in the Community), and CIC's proposal to build a cob rocket stove on site, deliver a series of workshops and co-fundraise. The group was very supportive of this proposal. We had originally approached Linda with an idea to create a mobile cob oven for forest garden pizzas, to take to local festivals and events as outreach, which may happen in future. Andrew and his colleagues are planning to start running workshops in beekeeping again, which would fit well with our work, and generate interest. We would share site resources such as the compost toilet, shelter and water pipe.

Recruitment/volunteers

As in other years there has been a slight dip in numbers over winter, but nothing unusual. The group felt that running skill shares, outreach, events and good spring weather is serving to attract new interest, along with advertising on the volunteer websites. We currently have more session leaders than previously. Collaborating with projects like Cob in the Community and a natural build will increase the diversity of interest, as will future accredited training courses, the group agreed. Mary noted that bee courses are popular and attract interest from a wide audience. Jo encouraged members of the group to post on Facebook. Vanessa will continue outreach and post volunteer adverts.

Funding

Jo to add herself to the fundraising group. The fundraising team will start to look through available grants, once agreement finalised. Zena had told Chris and Vanessa that ward funding is available from mid-April. Chris, Vanessa, Carrie to look into this, as well as the Environmental Impact Grant. Carrie to send apologies to Finsbury Park Stakeholders meeting.

Corporate days

We discussed whether we should agree a rate to request. Carrie suggested £250 minimum, as other organisations such as TCV and Volunteering Matters ask for much more, around £50 per person. Vanessa suggested session leaders should be paid to stay longer than 1pm. Approaching companies directly could be a way to get funding in future, and also to collaborate with companies that we'd specifically like to work with. Jo said in the past companies have asked for receipts for materials and tools, and current partners may not expect higher rates. Mary suggested we need a policy and a strategy. Rich, Vanessa, Chris to discuss corporate volunteer policy/ strategy. Chris to confer with Rich and Vanessa to draft form letter to respond to companies regarding volunteering.
