

Edible Landscapes London (ELL) General Meeting
Friday 13th October 2017

Present

Chair: Carrie Anker, Patrick Maher, Richard Vials, Alex Sylvester, Les Coupland, Vanessa Morris, Alison Roberts, Graziella Lorimer, Andrew Smith

Apologies

Jo Homan, Chris Speirs, Sarah Bush

Upcoming meetings scheduled in 2018

19th Jan, 13th April, 13th July, 12th Oct

1. Actions from previous meeting

Who?	Action	Status
Rich	Publicise Friends of Haringey Parks forum meetings on sign inside ELL greenhouse	No longer required
Alex / Mary	Check plant list is updated	No longer required
Carrie	Continue working on two safeguarding policies – children and vulnerable adults	Complete
Vanessa	Update session leader induction notes	Complete

2. Actions from meeting 13th October 2017

Who?	Action
Richard and Vanessa	Initiate process to become a Community Interest Company (CIC)
Carrie	Buy secure combination padlock for new gate
Les and Alison	Look at disabled access on site, paths etc
Vanessa	Follow up with Haringey regarding new boundary fence, gate and water supply. Email council regarding ward funding.
Vanessa	Email Jo with an update for the ELL group page, and change website news section, regarding redesign
Andrew	Contact Furtherfield Gallery to discuss collaboration with the Beehouse
Les	Organise bird box workshop in Spring 2018

Minutes

Updates

Licence to Occupy- Simon Farrow says this process is taking longer than expected as it is now in the hands of property services, and this department is stretched. However, because we have a partnership working agreement with Haringey which enables us to raise funds to operate on and develop the site, there is no longer the same urgency to pursue this. The council may try to charge us money in legal fees, or rent. We have communicated that ELL currently has no funding for such expenses.

Tim Pyall and Chris Poore (Haringey Parks) have been in touch to arrange the gate and fence installation. Chris Poore will meet us next week with the contractors to mark out the location. There have no news from the contractor about the water supply. Vanessa to follow up with Chris Poore.

Structure and Sessions

The group agreed to stop holding regular sessions as of mid-October, have a break, and begin to install facilities over winter. We aim to start sessions again by early Spring, with funding in place for a volunteer coordinator and sessional work. Vanessa will email an update announcement for the ELL group page to Jo, and change the website listing. Alison and Les can let the group know when they are likely to come in over the next few months. If extra volunteers are needed, e.g. when the greenhouse and toolshed arrive, we can advertise for extra volunteers.

Funding

Environmental Impact Grant Richard and Vanessa summarised the proposal for a pilot project The Food Forest Project, and the recent meeting with FP Stakeholders / Haringey council. The aim of the project is to support the design and creation of forest garden sites around Finsbury Park, hosting an accessible introduction to forest gardening, and regular volunteer days. As part of these sessions ELL would create a showcase bed within the park, and a new propagation area on site.

It was agreed that ELL is more likely succeed in applying for grants with new project ideas, than to request funding for ongoing running costs. It's motivating for volunteers to be offered a structured/educational experience and the potential for future paid work. Carrie suggested the project could last longer than 4 months, so we decided 6 months seemed a better option, with fewer paid positions. Richard mentioned the Esme Fairburn grant applications that had been submitted but were unsuccessful.

Ward funding: The grant for a greenhouse and toolshed has not come through yet, Vanessa to follow up.

Beehouse: Andrew will contact Furtherfield Gallery regarding a potential collaboration with the Beehouse, on an application for an Arts Council grant. He is interested in exploring the idea of an artists' residency on site. Patrick mentioned Organic Lea had received some arts funding in the past.

Community Interest Company (CIC)

It was unanimously voted that ELL should become a CIC. This status would benefit us in clarifying our intentions as a not-for-profit. It would provide us with access to greater support for ELL's community work. Richard and Vanessa agreed to initiate the application.

Facilities

It was decided we should complete the order of the stepped compost toilet from Freerange Designs, despite it costing £300 over the £1.5k grant we had received from Festival Republic, including the waste bin. It was agreed that a secure metal shed was necessary, and that the ward funding should go towards this.

Workshops

Les is planning to organise a birdbox workshop in Spring. Others are welcome to plan workshops and use the space, as long as they take responsibility for promotion.
