

Edible Landscapes London (ELL) General Meeting
Friday 19th January 2018

Present

Chair: Chris Speirs

Directors: Jo Homan, Patrick Maher, Richard Vials, Alex Sylvester, Vanessa Morris, Les Coupland, Jane Howson, Sarah Bush

Members: Vicky Lewis

Apologies

Carrie Anker, Camila Barboza, Andrew Smith

Upcoming meetings 2018

To be confirmed – see actions

1. Actions from previous meeting

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

2. Actions from meeting 19th January 2018

Who?	Action	Status
Vanessa	Follow-up with Council (Chris Poore) about date for water supply to be installed	
Jo	Confirm if 16/17 accounts have already been submitted – ELL accounts run June to July	
Jo	General meeting dates/times - send doodle poll to confirm best availability, weekday evenings	
Richard	Asset of Community Value – check when expires and how to renew with planning	
Jo	Email rough design of map to group, indicating potential site locations of new structures	
Chris	VAT, reclaim from council as per agreement on cost of structures, compost toilet etc.	
Vanessa	Email new Partnership Agreement with Haringey Council to the group	

Richard	Research and clarify best practice around appointing/ reappointing directors, reference Articles of Association	
Linda	Clarify the needs of Cob in the Community, footprint of storage space required	
Vanessa, Linda, Jo	Develop agreement outlining relationship between ELL and Cob in the Community before next general meeting, April 2018	
Richard	Develop an agreement with Andrew using the framework of the agreement between Cob in the Community, confer with Jo and Vanessa	
Sarah, Jo Vanessa, Les	Arrange party to celebrate recent achievements in Spring	
Les	Hackney School of Folk looking for venue for an event, send more details to group for decision	
Vanessa	Initiate a conversation within the funding group via email	
Vicky	Clarify our lone-working policy and draft a paragraph that can be added to the volunteer policy regarding safety – confer with others involved in policy and Andrew	
Vanessa	Order new padlock for gate	
Jo	Order lock box for keys	

AGM

Group agreed 16/17 accounts to be signed off by email
Agreed next AGM in January 2019

Minutes

Council comms and updates

Water supply update expected from Council in February – Vanessa to follow up with Chris Poore (Haringey Council). The materials for the compost toilet have been delivered to the site, ready to be built. The funding for both greenhouse and shed has come through, materials ordered, and both to be delivered week commencing 22nd Jan.

Vanessa suggested the council may request legal fees for the Licence to Occupy, allowing us to stay on site. We could potentially negotiate this to come from a future Council-related grant.

Structure of future meetings

Group agreed that these meeting should be strategic. Site design and planting design would be week by week.

Directors

A brief discussion around the subject of CIC structure, numbers of Directors, process to appoint directors, or for current directors to stand down. It was discussed whether having fewer directors, (e.g. five) would make decision-making more manageable. It was generally felt that a greater number of directors contributed to the breadth of skills on offer. It was decided that we should try to maintain around nine directors on the committee. Richard suggested that members of working groups who are currently directors may want to step down as directors, as long as they still felt able

to be involved in decisions via the working groups. Richard offered to initiate research to clarify best practice around appointing directors for the benefit of the CIC.

Project aims / partnerships

Linda Royals presented a proposal for Cob in the Community to work in partnership with ELL, and share use of the site. Linda highlighted shared interests and aims of both organisations and the possibility of joint funding opportunities.

Linda proposed that the working agreement would be based on shared principles of permaculture. As well as running activities at ELL, there would be a need to store materials on site, and share facilities such as water, toilets, shed. It was agreed that future external signage would reference all partners.

Discuss partnership and arrangement for site use between ELL, Cob in the Community and the Beehouse (Linda, Vanessa, Jo, Richard, Andrew)

Jo suggested we should celebrate the achievements we have made over the last year, with a party in Spring. Sarah, Vanessa and Les to help organise.

Les mentioned Hackney School of Folk are looking for a venue for an event, and would send more details to the group by email.

Funding

Over the past year we have raised approximately £13.5k (Environmental Impact Grant, Festival Republic grant, Ward Funding, Marks and Spencers /CAF grant) Vanessa suggested we try to recruit an experienced fundraiser, and agreed to start a general conversation within the fundraising group via email.

Site security

Andrew and Chris had addressed a need to clarify policy around site security and lone working, after a serious recent incident that took place within Finsbury Park over Christmas. In general, the group felt relatively safe on site. Vicky offered to draft a paragraph around site safety/lone working that can be added to the volunteer policy.

The gate had been found unlocked on several occasions, due to the difficulty in closing the current padlock. Michael had recommended a padlock model used at Wolves Lane, a link to this model had been forwarded to the group by Vanessa. It was agreed to order one for the site. Jo agreed to purchase a lock box for the site, to store all keys.

Working groups

New members have shown an interest in being involved in various groups. It was agreed that the current working group 'core members' names be suggested in the minutes to follow the meeting, and confirmed.

Garden Alex, Richard, Vicky, Carrie (Jo, Vanessa, Camila)

Building Jane, Chris, Les, Simon (Michael)

Education Jo, Vanessa, Sarah, Vicky (Art group connected, Sarah to lead)

Funding Jo, Vanessa, Richard, Chris, Sarah, (to recruit)

Accounts Carrie, Jo

Comms and Coordination Jo, Vanessa, (to recruit)

Site design All directors, members who have shown a particular interest include Gora, Carrie, Vicky, Andrew, Camila, Mirjam