

## Notes of the meeting held

On 4 May 2021



### 1. Chair role

Maria was nominated by Zoe, seconded by Helen, to take over the role from Margaret. She was duly elected. Margaret expressed her gratitude to Maria for helping out over the previous few weeks. Margaret was thanked for her hard work as chair.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mel and Louise.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

3.1 The Willows nursery children had been watering the apple trees. They had made a banner asking car drivers not to idle while picking up their children. The nursery hoped to develop their own garden. They were still interested in planting trees but there was nothing further to report.

3.2 No current response from idVerde regards the hard-cutting back in Wandle Park, discussed at the last meeting when a letter went from the Friends, to John Bosley responsible for BioDiversity at Merton Council, in March. Maria offered to follow up.

3.3 The Friends met with Mark Holmes, Future Merton, Merton Council on 25 March to discuss how to approach the litter within Baltic Close and vehicle access into Wandle Park. Margaret and Helen followed up with emails 25 & 26 March. No response to date, so the action is to follow up with mark to understand how this is being resolved.

### 4. Volunteer activity

There has been a great deal of activity the last couple of months and a thank you was given to the wide number of volunteers, **see attached for full list of volunteers and projects in March and April**. Some notable projects and people mentioned were:

4.1 Zoe who had been busy planting up and maintaining the Myrna Close/Devonshire Road area. She has had lots of donations of plants, books and painted stones. Working with Noberto and Stella, Zoe also had built and installed a book swap cupboard in Myrna Close and a mud kitchen in the Recreation Ground.

4.2 Funky Owls nursery children, who to recognise 'World Earth Day 2021', had planted flowers on the edge of the field in the Rec and were watering them.

4.2 Richard and Cola Eddison's 'Greening Colliers Wood' project of tree base planting was well underway with Cavendish, Clarendon and Colwood garden residents having planted up shrubs and flowers. Warren and College Roads are next. Contact [richard@eddisonwhite.co.uk](mailto:richard@eddisonwhite.co.uk) to get involved.

## 5. Litter picking

This is now taking place fortnightly by volunteers on Tuesdays at 9am. Recent areas cleared have been Wandle Park, Myrna Close Nature Reserve, Recreation ground. Litter collected is now weighed so that a report as well as photos can be sent to idVerde, Veolia and Merton Council.

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, a group of young people also collect litter every Thursday.

## 6. Volunteer recruitment

Recruitment of volunteers is a high priority for the Friends team, as there are a huge number of projects and ideas that can only be made possible with a more active volunteer base. A recruitment campaign is to be undertaken with posters and social media including improvements to make it easier for people to volunteer.

## 7. Watering/Water Butts

Watering is another high priority for the group.

7.1 Two (donated) waterbutts are to be installed in the recreation ground to help with watering. This is being managed by Margaret, Tom and Zoe.

7.2 It was requested that volunteers help look after one or two planters or share watering. Tom was watering at the same time as dog walking. He suggested that dog walkers be encouraged to take water bottles out with them. Maria would message the CW dogs page. Notices could be put up on the field and near the tube.

7.3 Baltic Close still needs waterers. The current volunteers had to withdraw as the hose was too heavy.

7.4 Helen is creating a 'watering' timetable of planters and areas that require watering, and volunteers looking after them. This is make it easier to see which areas still need to be covered.

## 8. Signage and social media

A pop up exhibition stand to tell passers-by 'We are **Volunteers**' had been suggested. It would cost about £80. The group has the high vis jackets which are

walking advertisements. Maria would organise informational leaflets to hand out in response to enquiries. This would also be supported by 'How to volunteer' information to be added to the website. Design support has been kindly offered by 2 locals Lee Wilmott from Brush Strokes and Oona Brown.

Publicity could also be focussed around the young people litter picking in Wandle Park for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

## 9. Funding

9.1 On behalf of Joshua Joseph, Manager of the Coop on the High Street, Maria advised Josh has asked if we can put forward ideas for projects for the Coop community fund. Suggestions were a mud play area or seating instead of the wall behind the tennis court wall. Estimate costings need to be provided to Josh for the application. Maria and the Friends team will follow this up.

9.2 In order to make use of Phil's offer of crowdfunding the friends would need to have a project in mind. Bryony suggested greening the area around the tube station but she did not have a clear idea of what could be done to improve the area.

## 10. Merton council/idVerde

10.1 The area in front of the green boxes for the mast in the recreation ground was still bare, despite the council officer offering to fund planting which would be refunded by the mast company. It was suggested that this was because the area was not suitable for planting. Other suggestions were to have something to house the boxes with a green roof might be possible or the mast company could offer funding for something else in the recreation ground. The Friends group will get in touch with owners of the mast/Merton Council to understand why this hasn't progressed and come up with some ideas.

10.2 Maria offered to follow up queries about repairs and closure of the bridge in Wandle Park with idVerde. Plus the hard cutting back in Wandle Park, (see 3.2 above)

10.3 Margaret reported that Justin Swarbeck had been in touch about spraying with weedkiller, he would follow this up himself as a resident.

## 11. Merton Climate Action Group/Greening Merton

Greening Merton led by Kelly Gunnell had launched two initiatives. People were encouraged to feedback to Kelly directly:

- Merton Garden Streets - a street scale competition to promote planting up under street trees, greening front gardens etc
- Urban ReLeaf - a grey to green project to find neglected or unused bits of land to plant up, with a focus on private land

## 12. Any Other Business

12.1 The 3 remaining High Street planters need to be refreshed once the overgrown shrubs have been removed and planted elsewhere.

12.2 Acre Road planters need to be refreshed with new plants. Elizabeth Cuff and Lesley volunteered for planting and onward maintenance. Maria will speak to them separately.

12.3 The patch of grass outside Singleton Close was another project. A flyer had gone through all doors in Singleton Close with Oona's email address. One person had volunteered. The project would be taken forward when there are a few more volunteers.

12.4 Tom suggested that everyone keep an eye out for places where trees could be planted as in the autumn the group would be offered trees and shrubs.

12.5 Susan offered to do some research on the best spring bulbs and flowers to order now for autumn delivery and planting.

12.6 River maintenance – idVerde had offered to help with training when South East Rivers Trust (SERT) had to cancel the clean up in November due to the pandemic. However idVerde don't seem to have time to support this and so conversations will once again be picked up with SERT.

It was agreed that once the group of friends have been trained the pond at Myrna Close could be cleaned up as well as the river running through Wandle Park. Maria would follow up on the training with SERT

## 13. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 7:30 pm

A full list of volunteers and projects in March and April.

Continued on next page....

## Volunteer Activity March & April

A HUGE thank you to all volunteers across March and April...

Thank you to everyone who has given their time and have helped in some way; planting, watering, litter picking, building etc to make Colliers Wood a great community and a prettier place to live:

Margaret, Zoe, Bryony, Helen, Tom, Susan, Molly, Michael, Norberto, Stella, Kyle, Phil, Alex G, Daniella, Emily, Molly, Gary, Karen, Clare, Tom B, Tom K, Antonia, Louise, Joyce, Mark, Lesley, Linda, Rita, Fiona, Katy, Keith, Ruth, Kath, Oona, Daniela and family, Alexandra Franco and family, Children and teachers from Funky Owls and not forgetting any other locals who just quietly just get on helping the community with planting or watering.

Plus all the tree base planting volunteer residents of Cavendish, Colwood and Clarendon Roads with special thanks to Richard and Cola of eddisonwhite who, very generously sponsored the plants for each of these roads.

Special huge thank you in particular to Norberto and Stella for building the book swap cupboard and the new mud kitchen.

### DAFFODILLS:

Over 1,000 bulbs planted end of 2020 were in bloom through-out Colliers Wood.

### HIGH STREET PLANTERS:

**Christchurch Road outside Venus, the tube and eddisonwhite** - 2 have had daffodils removed and replaced with perennial flowering plants. Plus tall tub planted outside the tube. eddisonwhite planters to follow as overgrown shrubs need to be split and cut back.

**Opposite tube station adjacent to CJames/Charles Holden/Traffic Lights** - 2 have been refreshed with perennial flowering plants and shrubs cut right back. 1 planter to still be done as overgrown leggy shrub needs to be removed and replaced.

**Long bed outside nursery/Johmard, opposite community centre** - Daffodils beheaded and mixture of plants added Forget me not, Sedum, plus others. Wild flower and Alyssum seeds sown.

### WANDLE PARK:

**Baltic Close entrance adjacent to wall** - Eucalyptus donated and planted. Also natural wooded area created from cut down trees and piles of wood (left in a garden on the High Street) and twigs which will create homes for some wildlife habitats and a place for children to practice their balance skills.

#### BALTIC CLOSE:

**7 Charles Holden beds** - cut back old growth, moved plants and refreshed beds with new plants. Jasmine cut back and tied up to encourage growth up and around the metal arches.

#### RECREATION GROUND:

Fig tree donated and planted

**Railings between football pitch and rest of the Rec adjacent to the path** – A Celebration of *'World Earth Day'* with 2-4 year old toddlers from Funky Owls Nursery. Mixed selection of flowering plants Petunia, Calibrachoa, Verbena and Sweet Peas

**Memorial garden** - Hawthorn tree planted on the central bed with a selection of other hardy shrubs and added compost. Bunting also **added**. Built up to prevent small children playing on there and breaking plants, although Singlegate have responded to email saying they will speak to the children.

**Park Pantry/Mud Kitchen** - This was installed Mon 5 May near the table tennis.

**Planters at Cavendish road and Singlegate entrances** - The 4 planters have been adopted, plants sown and Susan, Zoe and Helen will maintain and water.

#### OTHER LOCAL AREA INITIATIVES:

**Singleton Close Green at junction Robinson and Singleton Close** – An initiative suggested by Abby. Flyer door dropped to recruit local volunteers for ongoing watering but little response so far.

**Cut-through between Myrna Close and Devonshire Rd - Now** a beautiful little walk-through with lots of planted shrubs and flowers plus a growing collection of painted stones, windmills and a hand carved wooden mushroom for the fairies. A book swap cupboard has been built, large bush cut back with decorative stones added at the base and handmade Easter eggs hung from trees.

**Acre Road** - Planters full of daffodils.

**Tree base planting in Cavendish, Clarendon Roads and Colwood Gardens** – as part of eddisonwhite's 'Greening Colliers Wood' Project, residents of these roads came together to plant up shrubs and flowers at tree bases along their respective roads. Warren and College Roads are next. Contact [richard@eddisonwhite.co.uk](mailto:richard@eddisonwhite.co.uk)

#### LITTER:

**Fortnightly litter picking team meet every other Tuesday at 9am** - Recent litter picking along Wandle near Sainsbury's, Myrna Close Nature reserve and Wandle Park. Now being weighed and reported back to Veolia.

#### WATERING:

All planting mentioned above has been watered by an army of volunteers.