

Notes of Meeting held:

7:30pm Tuesday 6 July 2021



1. Welcome

No 1st time attendees

2. Apologies for absence

Three Committee members sent apologies: Bryony, Helen, Tom

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising

Only matters outstanding were queries raised via various emails to Merton Council or idverde to which we have not yet received responses. See below point regarding improving communication*

4. Volunteer activity – Gardening

For all volunteer activity in May and June see below**

Regular volunteer workdays are now set up:

The 3rd Thursday in each month at 10am | The 4th Saturday in each month at 8:30

The idea behind the early start on a Saturday is so that it doesn't cut into the time people have at the weekends. With a sizeable group we may only need 1-2 hours work but we are open to feedback to change if required.

Upcoming dates:

10am Thu 15 July - Weeding the large bed behind the tennis courts in the Rec that backs onto Woodlands Nursing Home.

8:30am Sat 24 July – Planting out sunflower seedlings in the Rec. Meet by the fence that separates the football field with the memorial garden/rest of the Rec.

5. Litter Picking

Regular litter picking sessions are also reinstated:

The 2nd Tuesday in each month 9am | The 4th Sunday each month 11am (with the Green Party)

Upcoming dates are:

July 13th & 25th | Aug 10th & 22th | Sep 14th & 26th

Confirmed locations will be advised in the WhatsApp Group

6. Watering

We have a committed group of volunteers responsible for each of the areas we plant and maintain. We have put a schedule together so that we can see where and when plants are watered plus names if reserves in case required.

We have found out that having waterbutts installed in the parks is not permitted as this is against health and safety rules as the lids can be removed. We need to speak with Merton Council Parks Team/idverde regarding useable water supply.

7. Councillor Irons

On 16th June the committee met Councillor Natasha Irons who has taken on the newly created role within Merton Council as Cabinet Member for Local Environment and Green Spaces. We gave Councillor Irons a tour of the Rec and she has offered to help us arrange a meeting with Merton Council Parks Team and idverde

8. Merton Council/idverde/Parks & Green Spaces Group

*Idverde: Meeting arranged for the Committee on 02 August to meet with idverde to understand their remit in Colliers Wood Recreation Group, how we can support them as a group of volunteers and improve communication.

Bee Keepers association contacted Zoe offering budget for us to plant bee and pollinator friendly plants in Devonshire Close/Myrna Close Cut-through. This is being progressed with local Councillors Laxmi and Caroline plus Jonathan Turner of Head of Merton Parks. Councillors are also considering making a donation from the local ward fund.

9. River Wandle clean-up training

On 30 June, a small group of volunteers from our group had river training from the team at Wimbledon Common who manage the Beverley Brook. We learnt how to spot invasive plants like Himalayan Balsam and how to carefully collect litter.

We have ordered our own equipment including waders and have organised our first River Wandle cleaning day Friday 9th July 9-11.

10. Planting plan and advance ordering for 2022

We discussed that we need to start this planning. It was suggested we consider more drought resistant plants. No one offered to lead a sub group on this during the meeting but will see if we can get volunteers from WhatsApp group. Maria to request.

It was noted that Morden Hall Garden centre have said they could offer suggestions. We could also approach idverde for support too.

11. Sainsbury's dying plants

Zoe has spoken with Lucasz Romanowski, Store Manager at Sainsbury's Merton and convinced them to give us plants that do not sell for planting in Myrna Close Cut-Through and other areas we manage.

12. GoParksLondon / Merton

'GoParksLondon' was set up to encourage people to enjoy London's parks and get involved with their local park friend's groups. Walking and cycling route maps have been created for each borough. Our Friends Group provided information for Colliers Wood Rec and for Wandle Park and on Sunday 6 June GoParksMerton was launched with the route starting in The Rec then proceeding to take in many of Merton's parks and the River Wandle The map for Merton is available online here so that people can follow the route any time

13. Reported local wildlife

Wildlife spotted in the last 2 months: Reed Warbler, Heron, Kingfisher, Rose Chaffer Beetle, Terrapin.

14. Any other business

How to report antisocial behaviour in our parks and green spaces:

https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/0434_asb_reporting_leaflet.pdf

15. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7:30pm

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

Continued on next page....

A HUGE thank you to all volunteers across May and June ...

Thanks to Margaret, Zoe, Helen, Bryony, Tom, Maria, Peter, Mark, Gary, Kyle, Susan, Richard, Adi, Abby, Stuart, Elizabeth, Lesley, Mel and family, Patricia, Kamila, Stuart, Louise, Tracy, Sarah, Daniela, Karen, Linda, Francesco, Nina, Alice, Oona, Katy, Bibi, Linda, Keith, Tracey, Alessandra, David, Tony and Rhi. Thank you also to the tree base planting residents mentioned below.

Volunteer Activity May & June

HIGH STREET PLANTERS:

Christchurch Road outside Venus, the tube and eddisonwhite – Stuart and Maria pruned back and removed over grown shrubs which were replanted in new the Singleton Close Green beds.

Long bed outside nursery/Johmard, opposite community centre – Margaret, Keith, Lesley, Katy and Maria weeded and planted new flowering plants. A huge thank you to the Merton Greening Streets Project for donating many of the plants.

BALTIC CLOSE:

7 Charles Holden beds – weeding with 3 large sacks gathered by Stuart, Elizabeth, Peter, Louise, Tracy and Sarah

RECREATION GROUND:

Railings between football pitch/rest of the Rec adjacent to the path – flowers refreshed

Memorial garden – the roses and alliums have appeared after being tended by Margaret

Planters at Cavendish road and Singlegate entrances – tended by Susan and Helen

OTHER LOCAL AREA INITIATIVES:

Singleton Close Green at junction Robinson and Singleton Close – Zoe, Abby and Adi created circular flower beds, filled with plants and placed large border stones for children to paint. Lavender bushes are home to many visiting bees

Cut-through between Myrna Close and Devonshire Rd – Zoe, Karen and Linda continue to add new plants and maintain this area.

Acre Road – Lesley and Elizabeth have cut back dead growth and have planted some pretty flowers and shrubs

Tree Base Planting

College Road – Many thanks again eddisonwhite for their generosity and continued support

Bidhurst and Warren Roads – Mel and family and Patricia also planted around trees and created window boxes. Mel not only supplied the plants but grew them herself from tiny seedlings and nursed them for weeks until they were ready. Thanks also to Greening Merton Streets <https://www.frontgardenfriendly.uk/Mertongardenstreets> for supporting this.

Lyveden Road – Kamila has adopted a tree-bed and it is looking lovely with flowering shrubs

Merton Vision – the group helped to clear the overgrown gardens as the centre prepares to reopen to clients.

LITTER & Weight Collected:

11.05.21 - Wandle Park 17.5kg

16.05.21 Stream in Wandle Park

25.05.21 - Myrna Close Nature reserve 18kg. 15.06.21 Myrna Close Nature reserve 24

27.06.21 - Wandle Trail

WATERING:

Many thanks to all the watering volunteers who help maintain all of the areas above.