

Friends of Colliers Wood Parks and Green Spaces

Notes of Meeting held:

7:30pm Tuesday 7 Sept 2021



1. [Welcome](#)

Everyone known to group. No new faces.

2. [Volunteer activity the last 2 months](#)

See last 2 pages for detail of work carried out by Gardening, Litter and River Groups and the thanks received.

Upcoming volunteer dates:

Gardening: 8:30 Sat 25th Sept, 10am Thu 7th Oct, 8:30 Sat 30th Oct

Litter Picking: 9am Tue 14th Sept, 11am Sat 26th Sept

9am Tue 12th Oct, 11am Sun 24th Oct

All gardening and litter locations TBC nearer the date via WhatsApp group.

River: It is likely there will be some work required towards autumn and winter to cut back vegetation in the stream to help it flow. Dates to be advised. Also Floating Pennywort, a very invasive plant is growing in parts of the River Wandle. We are awaiting training dates to be advised by SERT South East River Trust which are expected to be 1 September in the Wandle in Morden Hall Park.

3. [New projects](#)

- **Bee Beds in The Rec:** Zoe is managing this and outlined the plans for planting the currently dormant beds in the Rec, near the Cavendish Road entrance. The large bed in particular will have a focus on bee pollinating plants. We are aiming for the large bed to have a central Rowan tree surrounded by planting that provides flowers as much as possible across the whole year. In addition, the wall will be rebuilt and we hope to have bug and bee hotels built into these walls. We have applied for funding from the Bee Keepers Association, idverde's Community Investment Fund and the ward fund available to local councillors to fund this project. The 2 adjacent much smaller beds will also be planned and planted. We aim to raise these beds off the ground. Idverde are going to increase the height of the football fencing adjacent to these beds so that plants are not destroyed by flying footballs and tennis balls.
- **Beds/Green near the bus stop on the High Street at the junction with Byegrove Road, next to Tesco and opposite the library:** This new project is being managed by Tom. This is Clarion owned land but Mark Holmes from LB Merton has been in touch and asked our group if we would be interested in looking after this area. A 'High Street Flower Meadow' is one of the ideas being discussed.

4. [Splitting into project subgroups and confirming leaders \(Share screen\)](#)

As a group, we are taking on more and more gardening projects so it has been decided that it would be useful to have group coordinators for each area then each group leader can feedback information about their project at the bi-monthly meetings.

So that we can plan planting for 2022, **ACTION: Can all group coordinators check their areas and advise what gaps they have and what new plants are needed so we can create an order list order for now or spring.**

Cont....

	Project	Group Leader	Description
The Rec	Memorial Garden	Margaret	Raised central bed and surrounding flower bed borders
	Planters Singlegate	Bibi	2 planters near Singlegate entrance
	Planters Cavendish	Helen	2 planters near Cavendish Road entrance
	Dormant/Bee Bed	Zoe	Large dormant bed near Cavendish Road entrance, behind tennis courts
	Dormant Beds	Maria	2 smaller dormant beds near Cavendish Road entrance, next to large Bee Bed
High St Planters	Johmard Nursery	TBC	1 long raised bed outside Johmard centre on High St next to St. Joseph's Church
	Clames		3 square planters to the left of CJ on High Street/opposite tube traffic lights
	Tube entrance		1 tall narrow planter outside tube on Christchurch Road
	Venus	2 square planters outside Venus on Christchurch Road	
	eddisonwhite	Richard Eddison	2 square planters outside eddisonwhite on Christchurch Road
Other Areas	High Street Flower Meadow Beds	Tom	3 large ground beds adjacent to High Street and Byegrove Road
	Baltic Close	Elizabeth	3 ground beds + 12 climbing Jasmine
			3 ground beds with plants and tree in each 1 ground bed with grasses and tree
	Singleton Close	Abby	2 circular ground beds
	Myrna Close/ Dev'shire Walkthru	Karen & Zoe	2 long beds adjoined to walkthrough path. Has book cupboard + Sainsbury's plant hospital
	Acre Road Planters	Lesley & Eyll	2 circular planters
	Greenhouse funding	Bryony & Lesley	Planning, fund raising, installation of a new greenhouse (we could share with Christchurch community garden?)

5. [idverde meeting](#)

The Friends Committee met with the idverde team in August to discuss activity mostly in The Rec. Full notes were taken and shared with idverde but these are the main points discussed:

- **Greenflag Award:** for The Rec is up for renewal in 2022
- All idverde activity is based on a park management Plan managed by Jonathan Turner, Perks team LM Merton. From this monthly task sheets are provided to the idverde ground team.
- **Perimeter bed pruning:** Following the severe pruning in Spring 2021, it was agreed that from 2022 bushes are to be cut just once in the year, in October. It is currently twice a year.
- **G5 Power Station Communication Cabinet:** (near tennis courts): Photinia (Red Robin) will be planted here shortly to disguise the cabinet.
- **Beds near the Cavendish Road Entrance:** i.e. 2 small beds + 1 large bed. The latter was planned to be 12 months dormant following removal of bindweed and diseased box hedge. Idverde are happy for the Friends group to suggest plans for these beds to include pollinating plants that will attract bees. An extension net will raise the height of the safety net at the rear of the tennis courts.
- **Clarendon Road Entrance:** repairs needed to the knee rail/wooden railings
- **Wandle Park Grass Cutting:** The Friends group will meet Ian Baxter (idverde) and mark-out the wild flower and grass meadow area that is to be kept longer to encourage biodiversity and habitat.

6. [Support from Sainsbury's](#)

We are grateful to Sainsbury's who have been donating their non-saleable dying plants to us which we are nursing back to life and planting out in the local area. We have produced a document to thank Sainsburys which includes photos of plants donated and explains how they have supported our local community.

7. [Social media](#)

Looking for volunteers to manage our group social media accounts and raise our profile and ultimately attract more volunteers.

8. [Date of next meeting](#)

Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 7:30pm – To still be on Zoom unless this is changed to meeting in person TBC nearer the date.

A *HUGE* thank you to all volunteers across July and August

Thanks to the Friends Committee of Margaret, Zoe, Helen, Bryony, Tom, Elizabeth, Maria, plus the amazing help from all other local volunteers: Peter, Mark, Gary, Kyle, Mike, Mary, Rhi. Stuart, Alessandra, Susan, Ken, Mence, Lesley, Eyll, Daniela, Miya, Holly, Keith, Karen, David, Bergy, Louise, David Annie, Dan, Per, Tracy.

On behalf of all local councillors, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah expressed thanks to the great work of the volunteers. The Councillor said the group was making a huge difference to our local community. We also received great feedback and thanks from Mark Holmes of LB Merton who said our team were "Truly inspiring".

Thank you also to Coffee in the Wood treating us to coffee when we worked on the High Street.

Volunteer Activity July and August

GARDENING GROUPS:

On 15 July we cut back dead shrubs and weeded the large bed in the Rec behind the tennis courts that backs onto Woodlands Nursing Home. We removed 12 bags of vegetation.

On 31 July we started work on the jungle on the High Street, recently re-named as the High Street Flower Meadow (i.e. the Beds/Green near the bus stop on the High Street at the junction with Byegrove Road, next to Tesco and opposite the library). We removed and dug up the invasive bindweed and cleared the area of rubbish. Although owned by Clarion, the plan is to plant up this area and create a wild flower meadow. On Saturday 28th August, we returned and removed yet more bindweed, pulled out the tall nettles/thistles from the roots, cut back the shoots from the base of the trees, dug up the gladioli bulbs to replant elsewhere next year and clipped back the small hedges along the back border. Our most recent visit was on 2 September, to collect up the grass cuttings as it had been mowed a couple of days earlier. We also re-defined some of the borders and removed yet more weeds and litter.

On 5th August we were back in the Memorial Garden in the Rec. We weeded and cutback shrubs and also cleared an adjacent bed which will now be ready to take more plants. On the 19th we adopted a bush donated by Sarah from the group which we replanted in the memorial garden. We think it is probably *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* (Plumbago or leadwort).

PLUS There has also been some other ad-hoc work where individuals or small groups have self-organized and worked on weeding and tidying-up the Johmad Nursery bed in the high street, the Acre Road Planters, Singlegate Close beds and Myrna Close/Devonshire road Walk through.

RIVER GROUP

On 9 July a group of 9 of us removed 3 shopping trolleys, several bags of litter and a huge amount of Himalayan Balsam, from the River Wandle as it flows to the east of and in front of Sainsburys. This plant may look pretty with large pink flowers but it is very invasive and can choke rivers. We pulled up from the roots and left the removed plants on the bank for them to decompose and allow native plants to grow over.

On 24th we also cleared away a huge amount of Himalayan Balsam, as well as litter, from the River Wandle and the marshy banks in Wandle Park.

LITTER GROUPS

The litter group went litter picking on 13th July meeting outside Sainsbury's and made their way along the bank of the Wandle up to Windsor Avenue. They collected 14 sacks of litter and a car tyre! They revisited this area again on 25th July and 22nd August again collecting several bags of recycling and litter. On 10th August the litter group headed to Myrna Close nature reserve and collected 8 bags of litter from the paths there.