



NEWS

Only 10 weeks after a group of us first got together, the 'Friends of Latchmere Recreation Ground (FOLAR) was formally established at our launch meeting on 30th November. A big thank you to everyone who came along and took part in the consultation on that cold November evening.

Alongside our launch we held our first community consultation. It's not often we get the chance to sit down with neighbours and think about how we could enjoy ourselves on our rec. And what a diverse group we were! We were multigenerational, we had sports people, a disability worker, dog owners, Little League, gardeners, an ecologist, event organisers, a builder, an architect, an accountant, a project manager and many more. We certainly made the most of the opportunity to think together! Ideas flowed and it was a hugely creative session. But, while new things were wanted, people also valued much about the rec as it is currently and didn't want to lose that.

Our hope was to create a warm community feel where people's ideas were listened to and valued. We want to make this a rec for all and it is important to hear the quieter voices which we feel our facilitators and the written feedback enabled us to do.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST CONSULTATION

The most frequently mentioned item was a cafe, followed by a pavilion, ecological projects, trees and planting, a wide range of activities and events. self closing gates, a path around the edge, security, and a range of activities and events. People wanted to keep the sense of green open space, the opportunity for children to play football, the excellent space for dogs to exercise.

Many very talented volunteers emerged from that meeting. We have established working groups, reflecting the themes that emerged. Members are now working away, researching your ideas to contribute to the plan for the whole rec.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Consultation Our motto is 'rooted in the community' and to live up to this we are planning consultation during the day to give people who aren't free in the evening an opportunity to contribute also. When the consultation is complete we will develop a plan and consult again, always aiming to meet the needs of users of the rec.

Pilot Tea Kiosk/ Cafe It would be so nice to get a cafe or kiosk going this spring! Enthusiasm for this is high, but, of course, it will be a long haul before we have a new building for a cafe. So, we are exploring the possibility of piloting a small kiosk for summer

2018 and are in negotiations with the council. Fingers crossed!

Ecology and Horticulture Working Group While major works await the master plan, the group is looking for some quick wins for this summer. We have been promised 50 shrubs by the Mayor of London's Office - all native species which will support birds and other wildlife. We will need some volunteers from the community to help with clearing and planting. ID Verde, the contractor, who look after the rec will supply the tools. Maybe our first community project is emerging! Details anon.

Activities and Events Working Group This group is exploring the possibility of having a Family Fun Day in spring 2018 and are researching a Sunday 2K Park Run for children .

WHATS HAPPENING ON THE REC?

Dogs and their owners have been enjoying the rec daily despite the miserable weather. Many of our dog walkers do put dogs on leads when children are nearby and we are most grateful to them for that. We can support them by making sure gates are closed so that dogs don't run out onto the road.

The overdue playground renovation has been completed and the playground has been busy even on cold days.

The Little League season is well underway and Saturday saw a stunning goal or two, I hear.

Fitness activities There are regular activities on the rec. We have two bootcamps, yoga, and some personal trainers. Links to these will be available on our website soon.

If you would like to advertise an activity please let us know. Email address below.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many volunteering opportunities. If you would like to talk through what is available at the moment email: info@foliar.net

TALK TO US

If you would like to become a Friend.... email: info@foliar.net

Or like us / befriend us on Facebook Friends of Latchmere Recreation Ground

Facebook: Friends of Latchmere Recreation Ground
Website: www.folar.net
Twitter: FoLaRKT2
Email: info@foliar.com