

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 15 October 2025, 16:00-18:00

Location: MS Teams

Purpose: Strategically plan, share, support, monitor and promote biodiversity protection/enhancement and nature conservation volunteering in Lewisham

ATTENDEES			
ASh	Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park	EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL
ASI	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Lewisham Green Spaces Forum	GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
CC	Caroline Cupitt – Ladywell Fields User Group	HS	Henry Stenning – Horniman Museum
DoD	Dona Davies - F/O River Pool	JA	James Allen – LBL
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger	JK	Jess Kyle – LBL
DaD	David Davies – Ladywell Fields User Group	RA	Roman Aspeek Bloor – F/O Brookmill Park
EM	Emily Millhouse - Glendale	RC	Robert Cole – Septimus Works

ACTIONS:

- All to send What3Words locations and basic details (e.g. type, material, other comments) of bird/bat/other boxes in their sites to EM/EWD/JK to be added to the Lewisham database
- Anyone who needs hedgelaying advice or support can reach out to Robert Cole
- All to let Maggie know if you have plant pots to donate or drop off at Chinbrook Allotments
- EWD to follow up with Network Rail regarding Hither Green Station works - done

Upcoming events:

- 17 October, 10am – 3 pm, Northbrook Park Wetlands, [Volunteer session with Thames21](#)
- 25 October, 5:30pm, Riverdale Sculpture Park, [Bat Walk with Citizen Zoo](#)
- 31 October, 11am-1pm, Chinbrook Meadows, [Volunteer session](#) focusing on boardwalks by tennis court
- 31 October, 12pm-3pm, Northbrook Park Wetlands, [Family-friendly event with Thames21](#)
- 2 November, 10:30am, [Tree and River Walk with Paul Wood](#)
- 22 November, 11am-1pm, Chinbrook Meadows, [Volunteer session](#) focusing on the new wetlands on the Bromley side
- 4 December, 11am-3pm, Chinbrook Meadows, [Volunteer session](#) with Froglife and Glendale focusing on the pond near Chinbrook Road entrance

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Felicity Arknell – F/O Gilmore Road Park; Subo James – Florence Road Residents Group; Jorella Andrews – Albion Millennium Green; Monika Mitchell – Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group

2. Minutes and matters arising

- a. All to send What3Words locations and basic details of bird/bat/other boxes in their sites to EM/EWD/JK to be added to the Lewisham database – ongoing
- b. Emily to send around FIT count methodology – FIT count finished for the year so EM to circulate methodology again next year when it starts

Google group reminder: Feel free to share information with the whole partnership (e.g. events, questions) via the lewishambiodiversitypartnership@googlegroups.com email. Please note, if you reply all to an email your response will go to the **whole group** so please **check the recipients** of your email carefully to avoid sending unintended emails to the group.

Facebook group reminder: Please remember to advertise your volunteering or other events in the 'Nature volunteering in Lewisham' Facebook group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1645622559109140>

3. Biodiversity Partnership Summary Report and Highlights – see BARS excel and slides attached.

Please continue to send in your records so we can add them to our summary statistics! Thanks!

4. Problems/issues raised

- a. Fourth Reserve: Anyone aware of grants for surveys?
No suggestions were made but a good range of funding opportunities are listed on the [Parks for London funding page](#).
- b. DF: Hither Green Station concerns, area destroyed by the tunnel on the Springbank side, unclear if it will be restored. **EWD to follow up with Network Rail.** - Done

5. Partner updates and discussion

a. DoD (F/O River Pool)

- i. Kingfishers are very active along the Pool River, a young and adult bird
- ii. Pollution incident, reported to EA and TW, investigations ongoing, EA/TW came out quickly; brief discussion about oil collection rolls and if not properly anchored they will be washed downstream

b. CC/DaD (LFUG)

- i. Pollution reported in Ladywell as well
- ii. Watering new hedge
- iii. Focus now on middle fields and the grass which struggles. EWD provided advice
- iv. RUSS development in Church Street, garden looks great, living roofs, worth a visit, it is publicly accessible
- v. Keen to have an overarching biodiversity plan for Ladywell

c. ASH (F/O Mayow Park, Sydenham Garden)

- i. Built dead hedge around new pond, waiting for rain to fill up the pond
- ii. Bird and bat boxes from 2024 Kenneth White were put up
- iii. Scrub clearance by the orchard with Glendale's help
- iv. Sydenham Garden roof surveys done, interesting to see changes

d. DF (Urban National Park Ranger)

- i. Manor Park river related activities, recorded pollution going in the river, road sign in the river – Emily will remove during the session with Trinity students; the café is working in the park, and the room can be used
- ii. Working in Woodyates Road enclosure
- iii. Repurposing dilapidated Sutcliffe Park bug hotels into new bee poles

e. HS (Horniman Museum)

- i. Connectivity within the site and with habitats surrounding the museum, e.g. encouraging hedgehogs
- ii. Trail cameras in Nature Trail, interesting to see the species using the site
- iii. Nature + Love project is in full swing, and work started on the new café area and updates to the exhibition

f. RA (F/O Brookmill Park)

- i. Still working on the pond, trying to dredge it, maybe draining and dredging it, looking for a better pump
- ii. Also working on creating a sustainable planting bed in the park

g. RC (Septimus Works)

- i. Hedge layer, promoting environmental and habitat benefits of hedge laying and bringing back this traditional method
- ii. Worked with Fourth Reserve, Hilly Fields Friends group and various places around London
- iii. Happy to give advice and help where he can, trained volunteers and rangers
- iv. Difficult to source stakes and binders in an environmental way
- v. Brief discussion about hedgelaying as a potential solution for subsidence issues. By laying the hedge the canopy is significantly reduced and the trees focus on regrowing the branches and leaves rather than root growth so should help with subsidence issues.

h. ASI (F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Greenspace Forum)

- i. Volunteer events coming up on 31 October, 22 November and 4 December, see details above and on the [website](#)
- ii. Working on the ponds in the park
- iii. Greenspace Forum meeting on 14th October, Anne offered to summarise information from Biodiversity Partnership meeting and positive news to share with the Forum

i. GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)

- i. Work session coming up with Nature's Gym on 22 November

6. Lewisham updates (see some photos on the slides)

a. JA updates (LBL - BPP):

- i. We've had volunteers reed cutting in the lake, updating management plan for the lake;
discussion about reed cutting, advice is to cut it just above or below water line so it doesn't come back as quickly the following year

- ii. We found a Brown long eared bat during our autumn batbox survey, new bat boxes were installed last year using the Environmental levy from events in BPP
 - iii. I've been out of BPP helping lay a hedge in Blythe Hill Fields
 - iv. Taster day for the Young Darwin Award students
 - v. Attended European ranger congress in Romania
- b. EM updates (Glendale):**
- i. 18 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Forster Park Wildlife Triangle Project – replacing ornamental shrub bed with wildlife-friendly features and plants, showcasing what people could do at home in their gardens (e.g. bug hotels, hoverfly lagoon, stag beetle loggeries)
 - Cleared the weir in Ladywell Fields and the eel tiles further downstream, seeing adult and young kingfishers
 - Beginning a hedge-laying project in Mountsfield Park
 - ii. Ongoing Bird Surveys in the parks, it has been wonderful to spot the kingfishers so often!
 - iii. Delivered talks around the borough – Healthy Walks, Alzheimer's group
 - iv. Rivers & People won the Thames21 Top Pickers award for the second year running – interesting to see the difference in litter across parks
 - v. School art projects in the parks increasing
- c. EWD updates (LBL):**
- i. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**
 - Public consultation started on 30 September, deadline for comments **29 October**
 - Two parts:
 - a. locations identified for nature recovery: [London's LNRS Local Habitat Map](#)
 - b. the strategy (referred to as the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities): [London Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Statement of Biodiversity Priorities](#)
 - Feedback, comments to be made here [Have Your Say Today - London LNRS - Commonplace](#).
 - ii. Successful Northbrook Park Wetlands launch event on 14th October with local school children, Rivers and People and T21 volunteers, local groups and councillors involved
 - iii. Rain gardens created and planted in Dacres Wood LNR
 - iv. Open day and bids submitted for Burnt Ash Pond restoration and SUDS
- d. JK updates (LBL):**
- i. The big news is that we were successful in our £840,000 bid to the NLHF! I have been working hard at putting all the paperwork together on this. Two new staff will be starting later this year to deliver the project.
- Summary of the project:**
- Nature Neighbourhoods will transform Lewisham's green and blue spaces by improving access, reducing inequality, and increasing community engagement, especially for underserved Black, African, Caribbean, and

people who are disabled by societal barriers. Over three years, we will identify challenges, find solutions, and co-create activities that reflect residents' diverse needs, including citizen science, habitat management and outdoor learning. We will also create a digital map of unmapped greenspaces and establish a Community Grant Fund to support local initiatives that improve access and biodiversity. By collaborating with other greenspace landowners, community groups, and schools, we will build capacity for the long-term sustainable management of greenspaces to ensure they are climate resilient, promote nature recovery and maximise health and well-being for residents. Our goal is to develop a new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, including a future funding strategy, that builds lasting partnerships to ensure the longterm, inclusive stewardship of Lewisham's natural heritage.

- ii. Green Flag success for all of the sites we applied for (Grove Park LNR, Devonshire Road LNR, Dacres Wood LNR and Garthorne Road LNR).
- iii. Fingers crossed for the same success in London in Bloom!
- iv. Successful Open day at Burnt Ash Pond (more on that from Eszter)
- v. And of course, schools and volunteering

7. AOB

- a. [Bat walk on 25 October](#) and [Tree and River Walk](#) on 2 November at Riverdale Sculpture Park. Tickets and info via the links above.
- b. 31 October – Family-friendly event in Northbrook Park organised by Thames21

8. Next meeting: 21 January 2025 at 5pm (MS Teams) – TBC!