

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 21 January 2026, 17:00-19:00

Location: MS Teams

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

ATTENDEES			
AMC	Anna-Maria Cahalane – Fourth Reserve	GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries
AS	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Lewisham Green Spaces Forum	JA	James Allen – LBL
CC	Caroline Cupitt – Ladywell Fields User Group	JK	Jess Kyle – LBL
DL	Dale Lovelace – Axis CLC	MK	Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, QWAG
DD	David Davies – Ladywell Fields User Group	ML	Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Community Orchard
EM	Emily Millhouse - Glendale	MW	Mike Williams – F/O Blythe Hill Fields
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	TW	Theresa Webb – F/O Forster Memorial Park, Kitchen Buddy
ET	Ernie Thomason – F/O Garthorne Road NR		

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
- All to email AS via greenspaceslewisham@hotmail.com if you want to be added to the mailing list and/or Whats App for the Green Spaces Forum
- EM to send around [FIT count methodology](#) when it starts again as a reminder (also see the link for details)
- All interested to be added to the Green Spaces Forum to contact AS via greenspaceslewisham@hotmail.com
- **ACTION:** Let EM know if you would like your organisation to be linked on the [Rivers & People](#) website.
- All to report mistletoe when seen via the [MistleGO survey](#)

Upcoming events:

- **7 February, 10am:** Brookmill Park, River Cleanup
- **14 February, 10am** (and every second Saturday), Blythe Hill Fields, regular Saturday volunteer sessions
- **20 February, 10am – 3 pm**, Northbrook Park Wetlands, [Volunteer session and family-friendly event with Thames21](#)
- **28 February 11am**, Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, Nature's Gym session
- **14 March**, Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, International Women's Day walk
- **19 March from 4.30pm**, Chinbrook Allotment Orchard, Nature's Gym amphibian survey session
- **19 March from 6:30pm**, Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, Bat walk

- **20 March, 10am – 3 pm**, Northbrook Park Wetlands, [Volunteer session with Thames21](#) (last one)
- **21 March, 2-5pm**, Garthorne Road Nature Reserve, Open day
- **18 April**, Buckthorne Cutting, Fourth Reserve, first open day and National Day of Action for Green Space
- **11th April – TBC!**, Ladywell Fields, River Wade

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Donna Davies – F/O River Pool; Felicity Arknell – F/O Gilmore Road Park; Maria Devereaux - Wildcat Wilderness; David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger; Robert Cole – Septimus Works; Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park; Monika Mitchell – Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group

2. Minutes and matters arising

- 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
- 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>

- Biodiversity Partnership Annual Summary Report and Highlights** – see BARS excel and slides attached. Please also find the report (and annexes) for the Sustainable Development Select Committee meeting about the past 4+ years here: <https://lewisham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=8776>

	EDUCATION			VOLUNTEERS				EVENTS			
	Events	Adults	Children	Events	Adults	Children	Hours	Events	Adults	Children	Awards
Totals for 2024	111	432	3,285	757	3,697	135	13,306.75	117	4,407	840	16
Totals for 2025	314	808	6,587	829	4,687	493	18243.05	373	6,650	1,066	23
Trend	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Nature Conservation Website				
YEAR/SITE	Views	Visits	Posts	Trend
Nature Conservation Lewisham 2024	14,721	8230	19	↓
Nature Conservation Lewisham 2025	13,090	8,145	13	
Rivers and People 2024	3,019	1,491	22	↑
Rivers and People 2025	3,076	1,685	11	

Planning application reviewed/advice given	Number
Totals for 2024	182
Totals for 2025	137
Trend	↓

* London in Bloom – 13
Green flag community – 7 + Green Roots - 3

Surveys	Number
Totals for 2024	161
Totals for 2025	192
Trend	↑

	Hedge (m)	Loggery	Bird Box	Bat box	Bug hotel	Trees	Pond	Living roof (m2)
NC 2024	402	28	6	23	13	3,674	10	0
NC 2025	400	15	16	8	43	259	19	0
Planning 2024	778	14	113	84	21	317	0	2626
Planning 2025	0	0	10	2	0	39	0	1784
Totals 2024	1,180	42	119	107	34	3,991	10	2,626
Totals 2025	400	15	26	10	43	297	19	1784
Trend	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓



Please note the above annual summary numbers might still change slightly if we receive further submissions.

- a. We also discussed on how we could better record and measure **outcomes** as well as inputs. For example, Earthwatch collects data on tiny forest, are there any conclusions yet?

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

4. Problems/issues raised and discussed

- a. **AMC: Gorne Wood Asset for Community Value (ACV) issues**
 - i. [Gorne Wood](#) is an ancient woodland site
 - ii. Over 3 years ago raised >£300k to purchase Gorne Wood site, lots happened since, inc. local plan adopted but the site is still in danger and need safeguarding
 - iii. Currently the land has been put up for sale, despite new and old designations, advertised as potential for development

ACTION: Please contact AMC for more details and information on how you can help.

- b. **CC: Tree selection in London in a changing climate**
 - i. CC summarised the latest evidence published in the report on tree selection by Kew and Urban Tree Lab funded by the GLA and Forestry Commission
 - ii. A lot of our native species and currently used tree species are unsuitable for future climate predictions. The report has a lot of recommendations on the species to plant, only three are native.
 - iii. Need to increase London's tree canopy significantly and consider this evidence on a site by site basis.
 - iv. Also need to consider the soil and soil compaction because that could have a big impact on survival of trees
 - v. ML: the orchard has some 'exotic' tree species, e.g. cork oak, pineapple pine that established well.
 - vi. Opportunity to link the list with people's heritage
 - vii. TW: Natural History Museum researcher is looking at the leaf hoppers on holm oak to gather evidence on what uses holm oak
 - viii. JA: Forestry Commission also updated their report on climate change and species
 - ix. Planting from seeds is another recommendation. There is a useful Tree growing guide by the Tree Council.
 - x. Further details here: <https://www.gigl.org.uk/2025/12/18/the-use-of-data-in-tree-selection-for-the-future/>

5. Partner updates and discussion

- a. **Green Spaces Forum update (sent in writing by AS)**
 - i. The latest Lewisham Green Spaces Forum meeting with Green Scene council officers and Glendale staff was held in **October 2025**. The group has a **WhatsApp group** where issues and ideas are shared. Anyone who is part of a park or other green space Friends group in Lewisham can join.
 - ii. Main issues at the moment:

- Concerns about the ongoing use of glyphosate spray to control weeds, particularly near playground areas
 - Ways to improve reporting, logging and feedback procedures for individuals to Glendale
 - Playground development, sharing and building on past experiences
 - Use of “EVE” park safety assessment tool.
- iii. If you want to be added to the mailing list and/or Whats App please contact: greenspaceslewisham@hotmail.com
- b. DL (Axis CLC)**
- i. Partnership with L&Q, projects in Perry Vale Estate, Lewisham Towers and elsewhere in Lewisham building community
 - ii. Workshops for local residents to understand nature in their open spaces
 - iii. Interested in understanding what is happening in the area and what is necessary
 - iv. CC: Perry Vale gets its name from the perry pear trees. There are still quite a few and they are very valuable for species and there might be some on the L&Q sites. They need special care, CC offered support.
 - v. EWD: Worth checking the Biodiversity Action Plan for priority species and habitats and the [Housing Biodiversity Toolkit](#). Offered support.
 - vi. MK: Hedging around site, stag beetle loggeries, pond installation, swift boxes etc.
- c. CC/DD (LFUG)**
- i. Orchard tree pruning sessions across various sites in Lewisham:
 - Blythe Hill 24th Jan
 - Wildcat 25th Jan
 - Deptford Park 7th Feb
 - Ladywell Fields 1st March
- d. MW (F/O Blythe Hill Fields)**
- i. Regular volunteer session, every second Saturday, 10am
 - ii. Successful Green Roots bid to install bioswales, there will be events as part of the project, dates are coming
- e. ET (F/O Garthorne Road NR)**
- i. First Open day in March
 - ii. Volunteer workday on Saturday
- f. TW (F/O Forster Memorial Park)**
- i. Big Garden Birdwatch with James Newton, 24th January
 - ii. Boggy area in the woodland is filling up nicely
 - iii. Successful wassail, 60 people attended
 - iv. Regular volunteer events – once/month woodland volunteers, sensory garden volunteer events start back in February
- g. AMC (Fourth Reserve)**
- i. 18 April – First open day, National Day of Action for Green Space Awareness day
- h. ML (Chinbrook Allotment Orchard)**

- i. 19 Mar Nature's Gym amphibian survey session
- i. **AS (F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Green Spaces Forum)**
 - i. Rivers and People and Nature's Gym
 - ii. Successful wassail in January
 - iii. Buzzards, Sparrowhawk, Red Kite regularly seen
- j. **GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)**
 - i. Nature's Gym 28 Feb
 - ii. 14 Mar International Women's day walk
 - iii. 19 Mar 6:30pm Bat walk, booking via Eventbrite
- k. **MK (QWAG)**
 - i. Long-standing water pollution near Manor Park finally resolved

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

- a. **JA updates (LBL - BPP):**
 - i. Five winter walks and talks in the park before Christmas as part of the Winter Gardens festival
 - ii. Volunteers planted hedgerow species to fill in gaps in the lake hedge
 - iii. Woodland work, e.g. holly reduction
- b. **EM updates (Glendale):**
 - i. 14 conservation sessions (Nature's Gym and Rivers & People)
 - Great efforts with reed clearance in Folkestone Gardens pond
 - Pathways through Southend Park nature area
 - Improving river access in Manor Park
 - ii. Supporting DoE students in the parks
 - iii. Delivered a fun nature folklore talk for families at Northbrook Park
 - iv. [Rivers & People](#) website has had a much-needed update – now has a partners page where others can be linked. Also please follow R&P on Instagram.

ACTION: Let EM know if you would like your organisation to be linked on the website.

- c. **JK updates (LBL):**
 - i. The two new Officer roles for the **Nature Towns and Cities** bid were very popular. Interviews taking place and hopefully people in post soon.
 - ii. **London in Bloom Success!** 9 Gold Awards, and Garthorne Road NR also won Best Conservation Site in London, Chinbrook Allotment Orchard won the Biodiversity Award and Blythe Hill Fields Best Large Park in London!
 - iii. Green Flag applications for 2026 to be submitted by the end of January.
 - iv. New licences for Forest Schools need to be submitted
- d. **EWD updates (LBL):**
 - i. Presented an update report on biodiversity in Lewisham to cover the period since the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was adopted (in 2021) to the **Sustainable Development Select Committee** (SDSC). Very positive feedback and lots of questions. The report and further details can be found here: <https://lewisham.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=8776>
 - ii. **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

- LNRS is going to be published in early March via this website:
<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/local-nature-recovery-strategy>
- iii. This is the last year of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-26. The new LNRS for London recommends that London boroughs replace their BAPs with a Local Nature Recovery Plan. We will be aiming to prepare the Lewisham LNRP this year which is a 'BAP with a map'. An example of a LNRP in London is [Hackney's](#).

7. AOB

- a. MK: Wild London – watch it if you haven't yet, Hither Green Cemetery included for parakeets, people are coming to Lewisham to see them
- b. ET: See lots of mistletoes in Lewisham. If you see any, please record on the [mistletoe survey](#) by the Tree Council

8. Next meeting: 29 April 2026 at 4pm (MS Teams) – **TBC!**