

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

Full Partnership meeting

Date and time: 15 July 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			
AS1	Alona Sheridan – F/O Mayow Park	JK	Jess Kyle – LBL
AS2	Anne Slater – F/O Chinbrook Meadows, Green Spaces Forum	MK	Mike Keogh – Chair of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, QWAG
DD	Donna Davies – F/O River Pool	MM	Monika Mitchell – Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group
DF	David Ford – Urban National Park Ranger, QWAG	MW	Mike Williams – F/O Blythe Hill Fields
EWD	Eszter Wainwright-Deri – LBL	TR	Tony Rich – Ladywell Fields User Group
GT	Geoffrey Thurley – F/O Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries	TW	Theresa Webb – F/O Forster Memorial Park, Kitchen Buddy

ACTIONS:

- No new actions

Upcoming events:

- **19 July 4-6pm**, Forster Memorial Park, **10th Anniversary Community Picnic**
- **17 July – 9 August**, Nationwide, [Big Butterfly Count](#)
- **21 July at 10:30am**, Blackheath, [Beewalk and Wildflower Survey](#) by Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BCT)
- **23 July at 10:30am**, Fordham Park, [Beewalk](#) by BCT
- **24 July 10.30am – 4 pm**, Beckenham Place Park and Manor House Gardens, [Bumblebee Blitz Day – Lewisham](#) by BCT
- **1 August 10am-1pm**, Ladywell Fields by the café, **LFUG and Thames21 joint engagement event** on Ladywell Nature Recovery Plan and River restoration project
- **6 August at 8.15pm**, Sydenham Wells Park, **Bat walk**, meet by the pond
- **20 August at 10:30am**, Fordham Park, [Beewalk and Wildflower Survey](#) by BCT
- **25 August at 10:30am**, Blackheath, [Beewalk and Wildflower Survey](#) by BCT
- **10 September**, Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, **Bat walk**
- **10 September at 10:30am**, Fordham Park, [Beewalk](#) by BCT
- **10 September at 1:30pm**, Blackheath, [Beewalk and Wildflower Survey](#) by BCT
- **22 October at 10:30am**, Fordham Park, [Beewalk](#) by BCT
- **22 October at 1:30pm**, Blackheath, [Beewalk and Wildflower Survey](#) by BCT

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Apologies: Emily Millhouse – Glendale, Anna-Maria Cahalane – Fourth Reserve, James Allen – LBL, Maggie Leharne – Chinbrook Allotment Orchard, Caroline Cupitt – LFUG, Catriona Ross, Fowsia Kadiye – LBL (Nature Neighbourhood project)

2. Minutes and matters arising

- a. Groups who need support with tools to get in contact with Emily - ongoing

- b. Anyone interested in getting involved with Bee Walks in Fordham Park or Blackheath to contact Emily to link with the Buzzing in the East End team – ongoing
- c. Anyone interested in getting involved with the Environmental Visual Evaluation (EVE) Tool project, contact Emily
- d. 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
- e. All to email AS via greenspaceslewisham@hotmail.com if you want to be added to the mailing list and/or Whatsapp for the Green Spaces Forum - ongoing
- f. Let EM know if you would like your organisation to be linked on the Rivers & People website - ongoing

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 Highlights – see BARS excel and slides attached.

- a. Purple emperor recorded in Hall Drive Community Garden
- b. Jersey tigers, gatekeepers in Mayow Park
- c. **Big Butterfly Count starts this week until 9th August**, spend 15 minutes recording butterflies and moths and send in your records. More here: [Big Butterfly Count](#)
- d. Hedgehogs sightings in Ladywell Fields and near Sydenham Wells Park
- e. Lime hawkmoth caterpillar in Brookmill Park
- f. Peregrine falcons sightings (2 adults and 2 chicks) in Sydenham
- g. **305** events, **1,546** adults and **1,404** children engaged, and **1,065** volunteer hours delivered

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

4. Kenneth White Legacy Award 2026

- a. Thank you for everyone who applied and who voted on the applications! We received **13** applications and **17** votes. The total amount asked for was **£5,021.71**. The available funding is **£2,500**.
- b. LBL proposed to increase the council's contribution to be able to fund all projects that received 5 or more votes (7 projects) for a total **£2,772.11**
- c. The Partnership agreed to **fund 7 projects this year. Congratulations!**

Organisation	Project	Amount	Votes
Friends of River Pool Linear Park	A camera for the ongoing monitoring of Water vole and Mink.	£229.98	8
Wild Rangers	Create a community wellbeing garden which will combine food growing, wildlife habitats, and support environmental education and outdoor wellbeing initiatives.	£250	8

Friends of Chinbrook Meadows	Install 3 new small bird nesting boxes and 3 bat boxes and bulbs to enhance biodiversity. A family planting event.	£207.91	7
Friends of Hatcham Gardens	To protect and enhance the wildflower meadow at Hatcham Gardens.	£699.16	6
The Baring Trust	Equip volunteers with tools for volunteer tasks at Sydenham Cottages NR and create an Acoustic Tree Listening Programme using acoustic and contact microphones.	£398.66	6
Taylors Lane Allotments	Install two small ponds in the allotment site and waterbutts to help top them up	£486.40	6
Fourth Reserve	Install a bird bath and 8 blue tit boxes to encourage blue tits to nest on oak trees to prevent the return of Oak Processionary Moths	£500	6
Total funded		£2,772.11	

NOT FUNDED			
Organisation	Project	Amount	Votes
Knapmill Way Allotments	Improve the orchard and wildlife areas including the pond.	£350	5
Forster Park Friends Charitable Incorporated Organisation	Installing a large bug hotel, hedgehog boxes and planting native bluebells. Leading two family sessions and providing a self-guided activity trail.	£520	5
Trewsbury Road Allotment Society	Installing a dead and a living hedge to improve the site for birds.	£445	5
Friends of Dacres Wood 1	Increasing the range of plant species in the pond.	£250	4
Hall Drive Gardening Group	To turn an unkempt flower bed into a climate resilient gravel garden.	£420	3
Friends of Dacres Wood 2	Installing a camera trap to better understand what species live in the reserve.	£294	3
Total applied for		£2,279	

5. Problems/issues raised and discussed

- No problems/issues sent in ahead of the meeting
- Brief discussions about trees and that some are suffering and stressed due to the heat and drought in many parks

6. Partner updates and discussion

- TR (LFUG)

- i. Suspected Kingfisher nest in the middle field
 - ii. Hedgehogs going through Malyons Road,
 - iii. Issue with tennis coaches parking in the nature area – Glendale is aware
 - iv. Ladywell Nature Recovery Plan is being prepared, the draft will be consulted on **1 August at the café** (10am-1pm)
 - v. New café opened in June
 - vi. Thames21 river restoration project also ongoing and the proposed design will also be presented and consulted on **1 August**
 - vii. Issues with secondary channel and discussion about possible solutions
- b. **MM (SWPIG)**
- i. Peregrine Falcons seen over Sydenham Wells Park, suspected to nest in Crystal Palace
 - ii. New sign installed by Froglife by ponds
 - iii. Stag beetles spotted and lots of butterflies
 - iv. **Bat walk 6 Aug** from 8.15pm
- c. **TW (F/O Forster Memorial Park)**
- i. Kestrels and swifts seen in the broader area
 - ii. Gatekeepers, marbled whites and lots of other butterflies and other invertebrates seen
 - iii. Enable healthy walks and gardening clubs are ongoing
 - iv. Glendale is very helpful with watering the trees and plants
 - v. New orchard is doing well
 - vi. **Community Picnic on Sunday** to celebrate the Friends group's 10th anniversary
 - vii. Some trees are suffering from the heat and drought
 - viii. London in Bloom judging happened
- d. **GT (F/O Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries)**
- i. Butterfly transects are conducted, lots of marbled whites and meadow browns, some skippers and speckled woods
 - ii. Agreement with Bereavement services to hold back cutting the areas where butterflies are
 - iii. **Bat walk on 10 September**
- e. **AS1 (F/O Mayow Park)**
- i. The new pond installed by Froglife was lined originally but dogs damaged the liner so liner was removed and it is now as an ephemeral pond that dries out in summer
 - ii. Orchard trees and other trees in park including veteran trees are suffering from the heat and drought
 - iii. Jersey Tiger and gatekeepers seen in the park, and mullein moth caterpillars
- f. **AS2 (F/O Chinbrook Meadows)**
- i. Used the new microscopes at various events to engage families
 - ii. Wetlands look great
 - iii. Red kites, buzzards and kestrels occasionally seen above park
 - iv. Doing the Bumblebee monthly surveys along the BeeWalk transect

- v. Chinbrook Allotment Orchard: carrying on with monthly volunteer sessions; working on ponds and fruit trees

g. DF (Urban National Park Ranger, QWAG)

- i. Thanks to Emily, Jess and Eszter for the events and surveys recently at Bell Green Pond, River Pool Linear Park and Northbrook Park
- ii. TFL trees are not being watered, discussion about using grey water to water trees
- iii. DF is acting chair of F/O Sutcliffe Park in Greenwich, organising events and activities

h. DD (F/O River Pool)

- i. Staying away from the river due to the pollution incident
- ii. Temporary bridge taken out from the river, planned opening of the new bridge is end of August

i. MW (F/O Blythe Hill Fields)

- i. Lots of watering to help the newly planted trees and plants establish
- ii. The community garden looks great because the planed species are drought tolerant. Watered them last year to establish and this year no watering and they are still thriving
- iii. New pond was installed and it is being topped up to avoid it drying out, lots of wildlife already
- iv. Large group of volunteers and they keeping comms via a whatsapp group which seem to work

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

a. EM updates (Glendale, sent in writing):

- i. 18 conservation sessions
 - Insect Week - Our insect week transect in Linear Park had us identify over 100 insects! (also special mention for the bonus froglets and toadlets at the pond!)
- ii. Weekend wade- had a great wade with LFUG bringing people into the river in the park
- iii. Schools galore! Everything from soil science, habitats to the older children removing Himalayan Balsam in the rivers with me!
- iv. Lots of lovely species spotted this quarter, including the Hornet Moth to the right

b. JK updates (LBL):

- i. Nature's Gym.
- ii. Schools
- iii. 3RCU started with a lovely walk on 27th June
- iv. Green Flag and London in Bloom judging – in total 28 Green Flags awarded in Lewisham, see press release here: [Green Flags still flying high in Lewisham's parks](#)
- v. Visit to the Beaver Project in Ealing
- vi. Bid to Green Roots for Burnt Ash Pond

c. EWD updates (LBL):

- i. Long-horned Bee (*Eucera longicornis*) found nesting in Grove Park LNR by Penny Metal. Only known nesting location in London!
 - ii. Northbrook Park wetlands project won the susdrain SuDS Award 2026 in Regeneration and retrofit: urban large-scale category
 - iii. Major river pollution incident in River Pool – EA and TW still investigating and providing regular updates. **The EA also highlighted how invaluable incident reports are in helping them to respond quickly to potential pollution events. Please report anything out of the ordinary to the EA as soon as you can, either via their hotline 0800 807060 or online at www.gov.uk/report-water-pollution.** (also see attached factsheet)
 - iv. Council's Climate Staff Network secured some funding to plant bulbs and plug plants in front of Laurence House and the Town Hall and install some bird and bat boxes.
- d. **Nature Neighbourhoods project update (sent by Catriona Ross in writing)**
- i. The first project Board is scheduled for 22nd July at Creekside Discovery Centre.
 - ii. Following the Board meeting, the project team, Catriona and Fowsia, will make contact with Friends groups, community groups and local forums to introduce the project and invite collaboration. Opportunities will be identified for Fowsia to spend time getting to know the groups by attending volunteering activities and community events throughout the summer and autumn, helping to build relationships and gain a better understanding of neighbourhood/group's interests and priorities.
 - iii. Any questions in the meantime please email the team NatureNeighbourhoods@lewisham.gov.uk

8. AOB

- a. Discussion about Riverfly monitoring in Chinbrook Meadows
- b. Outfall Safari was conducted this year along the rivers

9. Next meeting: 7 October 2026 at 4pm (MS Teams) – TBC