

Common Growth Steering Group Meeting 10/10/2012

Attendees

Richard
Jim
Claire
Rima
Rich
Darren
Anniek
Alex

Apologies

Andy
Tamsin
Kat
Kayvan

Zuhura

Minutes	Actions:
<p>Steering Group Kayvan to add more names to the googlegroups email group. All of the above names should be included.</p>	<p>Kayvan</p>
<p>Lewisham in Bloom The garden won 3rd prize in the Community Gardens category. Darren went to the awards evening. Apparently the standard of entrants this year was higher than last year, when we received a commendation. During the jury's site visit in July, Darren talked about the permaculture courses, community engagement, children's workshops and features in the garden such as the Herb Spiral. This seems to have impressed the judges. We received a framed certificate. This will be photocopied, and laminated and hung at various places, such as the Hill Station and Library. The frame will be mounted on the gate. Darren and Jim to arrange photocopying, printing and laminating. Anniek to hang posters. We also won £75 of vouchers for Phoebes Garden Centre in Catford. Agreed that money will be spent on materials/plants to built another pond.</p>	<p>Darren, Jim Anniek</p>
<p>Plans for next season</p> <p>Physical Features / improvements Pond - everyone agreed this is a great idea! - will be great for biodiversity in the garden Richard B to make a plan as he has most experience with building ponds. Most materials are already available on site. Richard to select some plants and plan where, how deep etc to build it. Possibly link with existing pond. Area to be cleared of nettles etc. Enthusiasm for running water - aerate the water Rich to research Solar pump Jim to research hydrolic dam -Hydram</p> <p>Pergola - something to grow vines up and create a nice seating area. (rima) Willow arch</p> <p>Decking - to improve access to the garden for wheelchairs and pushchairs and to</p>	<p>Richard B</p> <p>Rich Jim</p>

<p>create a welcoming entrance area. Darren mentioned a project in Dalston Junction where they built similar decking - worth having a look!</p> <p>Darren has many ideas as to how to build up the entrance area with simple techniques, using timber poles and scaffolding boards. Possibly use old wood pallets. Jim can get hold of pallets from his work. Using simple piling techniques to pack the earth and rubble behind to create a level platform at top of the site.</p> <p>Building decking should be a group activity - find volunteers to help with the labour - digging trenches, moving rubble. Need Kayvan to cut scaffolding planks. Nobody else wants to use the circular saw!</p> <p>Darren to advise on what materials are needed. Arranged with Claire to take measurements on Saturday morning.</p> <p>We also want to built a (zig zag) path down the site, as the steep path gets really slippery. This can be built with simple wooden stakes with a scaffold board behind to create steps. Path will define more growing areas.</p> <p>Need to build secure foundation. It was discussed that we might need to pay someone to built this for us.... Cement / hardcore</p> <p>Darren suggested the children's planting area could involve super-hardy plants so children can be free to play in the area, dig things up, replant them etc.</p>	<p>Darren, Claire</p>
<p>Other events/ideas Rima suggested a painting day where we paint the inside of the fence, using donated paints etc. this could be an event for the spring. Rima to consider further.</p> <p>Putting a permanent sign up on Jerningham road was suggested. We can investigate what permission we need to do this ourselves, or enlist the support of local councillors to see if the council would put one up for us.</p> <p>Jim suggested organising a film event for next year. Best time would be late spring when warm enough to be outside, but gets dark early enough? Jim to take forward. Could aim for this film event to be more low key than last one planned. Richard suggested we could do some projection art in the shed. Jim to take film idea forward.</p>	<p>Rima</p> <p>Jim</p>
<p>AGM We should hold an AGM shortly. Possibly a Sunday afternoon, with tea and biscuits. Follow up with Christmas drinks.</p> <p>Courses It was agreed that we would ask Suriya to propose a set of courses for next year. Focus on courses that leave a legacy like herb spiral. Rich to take forward with Suriya.</p> <p>It was agreed that the offer or doing a gardening course by Kat's friend should be</p>	<p>Rich</p> <p>Kat</p>

accepted. **Kat to take forward.** Could involve Vitality tv as well?

Anniek to organise a reading day in the garden – bring your own book and just sit and read and drink tea. Contact New Cross Learning.

Kat's email about involving the kids living next to the garden was discussed. We agreed we would rather support them to do things in the garden rather than outside it as this would be a better place for them to garden. The group were supportive of Kat continuing to engage them but no-one was able to offer their time to take this on. Kat to be told about halloween event which would be great for the kids.

Volunteers/engagement

Discussed various ways to increase participation - eg using local volunteer organisations. Claire noted that there is a distinction between work days, where we need volunteer support to do things, as opposed to our usual open days, where tasks to do are sometimes limited. It was generally agreed that we should seek to widen the network of people who open up the garden, but note that sometimes it is just a case of enjoying the space rather than being busy gardening the whole time. **Jim to develop volunteer strategy.**

We should look to offer people a cup of tea when they come in, then can sit down and have more of a chat, relax new visitors more.

Rima suggested we should find ways to chat more directly with people as emails are often overlooked and are not personal.

Anniek and Rima to design and produce small leaflets we can hand out or leave in local cafes/shops. Try to involve local businesses more generally.

We agreed it would be good if we could be open more often, but this relies on more volunteers. A keyholder list will be made. General policy is not to give out keys to people until they have demonstrated commitment by coming to site at least a couple of times. Kat and Kayvan to be consulted on key holder policy. **Rich to develop list and chat with Kat and Kayvan.**

Accounts

We have still a lot of money to spend before November, when we'll have to report to the council. **Jim to make summary of accounts.** check when deadline for reporting is.

Agreed to spend the remaining money now on materials which can be used later.

Possible expenditure:

More good quality gloves! 10 pairs
- need some good trowels.

Trellises- any materials needed to grow fruit vines along Kayvan's wall.

Fruit trees / stems - Anniek mentioned the 'urban orchard' where we might be

Anniek

Jim

Anniek, Rima

Rich

Jim

<p>able to get free fruit trees from. Anniek to research.</p>	<p>Anniek</p>
<p>More earth and compost. Andy knows where to get free soil, just need to pay for delivery cost. Anniek to email community garden forum to find out about cheap/free soil delivery Is rubble free? It is a waste material.</p>	<p>Anniek</p>
<p>It was mentioned that it's important to keep the fence looking stable and neat.</p>	
<p>It was suggested that the Grow Wild 'shed' money could be spent instead on a greenhouse. This could be a lean-to type or stand alone. In discussing a site for the greenhouse it was agreed that the flat space where the tool bench currently is could be better used. The tool bench can live in a less productive area - maybe where remaining scaffolding boards are currently stored. Jim and Rich to research.</p>	<p>Jim, Rich</p>
<p>Water Claire has spare hosepipe that we can use to fill up the water butts Rich has now built gutters to one side of the shed roof and moved waterbutt under it. We need to find / buy another water butt asap.</p>	<p>All, Jim</p>
<p>Can we put gutter on kayvan's shed and divert it on the garden?</p>	
<p>Richard B: can we invest in some unusual / experimental/ sustainable systems / techniques on how to save water? this will help get attention from the council and local people.</p>	
<p>Old water butt to be turned into tree planter! Maybe damsons or pears? We can grow small fruit bushes around it's base to create productive growing in a small space. Layered garden. Raspberries.</p>	<p>(Darren's idea)</p>
<p>Most of us agreed that we do not want to invest lots of money in installing water mains to the site. So far we have survived without. The garden will just have to adjust to the yearly weather changes - nature has a way of surviving.</p>	
<p>Compost heaps: Need to be turned asap! More regular. Mulching. We agreed that compost can be used again in the beds, as toxic levels are minimal. In general, black bins are for plant waste from the beds, and the timber heaps for weeds such as nettles. Need to make signs above compost heaps to make this system more clear to everyone! Anniek to make signs</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Anniek</p>
<p>Communication We agreed to create an 'induction pack' for newcomers. 1x a4 sheet with basic info such as: History of site and garden</p>	<p>All to comment as to contents</p>

<p>Health and safety info Basic plan of what is growing Our contact details How to get involved - what kind of roles...tasks. Anniek to make.</p> <p>We agreed a protocol as to how email addresses will be passed on. They should not be left on site, but taken home, the details emailed to commongrowthuk@gmail.com. The paper should then be shredded or composted. All to note and follow protocol.</p> <p>Need to update risk assessment safety issues: pond, slippery surfaces, what to do in case of an emergency?</p> <p>Blackboard / white board. Jim will bring white board to site - to be hung in shed. Need to buy pens! Also magnetic, so can hang up other notices. Board needs to inform people on: General tasks Seasonal tasks Rich to monitor and update tasks list</p> <p>Any other business: Alex's ideas: "plant a tree for more shade in the sunny bits". This was developed into the arch idea.</p>	<p>Anniek</p> <p>All</p> <p>Jim</p> <p>Rich</p> <p>Thank you Alex!</p>
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