



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

BRIGHTON & HOVE GREEN SPACES FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date / Time – Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 6pm

Virtual meeting using Zoom

ATTENDEES	
Alan Cooke	FO Craven Wood
Carol Springgay	Eastbrook Community Gardens
Dominic Furlong	Roundhill Green Spaces
Judith Taylor	Palmeira & Adelaide Garden Fund
Bernadette Skinner	Ovingdean Community
Amanda Oglive	St Nicholas Green Spaces
Rosemary Friedel	Keep the Ridge Green
James Newmarch – Committee	Brighton and Hove Wildlife Forum & FO Brighton Greenway
Elsbeth Broady	FO Brighton Greenway, London Road Station Partnership & Level Community Forum
George Dean	FO Palmeira & Adelaide
Louise Arnold	Friends of Beacon Hill
Maureen Winder – new Committee Member	Level Community Forum
Jim Govens	West Hill Community Association
Melanie Davis- Committee	Friends of St Ann’s Well Gardens
Alan Moon - Committee	Friends of Hove Park
Cliff Munn - Committee	City Park Rangers & St Peter’s Churchyard Volunteers
Vivienne Barton- Committee	City Parks Rangers Volunteer
Debbie Pryer - Committee	Stanford and Cleveland Community Garden
Sally Cranfield	Friends of Blakers Park
Sue Korman	Friends of Blakers Park
Juliette Hunting	Brunswick in Bloom
Michael Creedy	
Mike Dixon	FO Vale Park
Sally Wadsworth	Benfield Wildlife & Conservation Group
Rosemary Friedel	FO Green Ridge – Keep the Ridge Green
Sue Batey	Three Cornered Copse
Hugh Woodhouse	FO Patcham
Paul Campbell	CityParks Park Projects & Strategy Manager
Mark Syrett	CityParks Projects Officer

APOLOGIES	
Clare Millet-Hopkins	Woodingdean Wilderness
Penny Hudd	Plant Your Postcode / CPRE Sussex
Gill Wales	Regency Square Gardening Group

1. Welcome by Chair Cliff Munn

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

The names of those from who apologies were received were read through.

3. Matters Arising from previous AGM

Brighton & Hove Tree Strategy Consultation - a draft document has been published worthy of close scrutiny and was due for public consultation in 2020. It details the future strategy for trees across the city and in its current form has significant implications for the future of street trees in situations where pavements are narrow. The draft tree strategy can be viewed at [https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000823/M00009507/AI00075618/\\$20190930111810_020276_0066604_BHCCTreeStrategyworkingdraft9.docxA.ps.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000823/M00009507/AI00075618/$20190930111810_020276_0066604_BHCCTreeStrategyworkingdraft9.docxA.ps.pdf)

Update from Paul Campbell (15/2/2022) – ‘The 2019 Tree Strategy is to be superseded with a new Tree Planting document, that our Arboricultural team is currently working on. This will better reflect the challenges and opportunities for the city’s trees going forward. At present, it is not clear as to how this will be consulted on in the future’.

The Forum will circulate details on this as soon as they become available - **ONGOING**

Volunteer communication with the Council - A number of examples were discussed re the poor responsiveness of B&H City Council officers to requests from volunteer groups. Also where groups working on Council owned but not CityParks managed sites go for help. The Chair requested that facts associated with recent specific examples of this be Emailed to the Forum at bhgsforum@gmail.com – **DISCHARGED**

Special Trees - Vivienne Barton asked members to let her know about any special trees in their neighbourhoods. The trees may be special because of their great age, height, girth, beauty or historical, cultural significance. She has been working with local volunteers to identify some of Brighton and Hove's great trees, 50 of which have so far been uploaded on ticl. <https://ticl.me/Brighton/headlines/13814/view>
DISCHARGED

B&H CityParks Volunteer Leader training and accreditation was discussed (see Chairman’s report). Any groups who work on CityParks managed sites and have members who would like to apply for this training, should Email CityParks at Cityparks.volunteers@brighton-hove.gov.uk - **DISCHARGED**

Forum to set up and area specific meeting for volunteer groups from East side of the City. **DISCHARGED**

Group Contact Details - All member groups were asked to check their contact details on the Forum website at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/friends-of-groups/> Any request for update to be Emailed to the Forum Secretary at bhgsforum@gmail.com - **ONGOING**

4. Chairman's 2021 Report

The Chairman's 2021 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. A copy can be found at Appendix A of these minutes.

5. Treasurer's 2021 Report

The Treasurer's 2021 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. The financial summary for 2021 can be found at Appendix B of these minutes.

6. Election of Officers

The following nominations were officially endorsed by being seconded with a show of hands:

Chair and Secretary

Cliff Munn – CityParks Ranger Volunteer, Lookerer & St Peters Churchyard Volunteer.

Treasurer

Vivienne Barton – B&H City Council Tree Forum Rep. CityParks Ranger Volunteer

Committee Members

Melanie Davis – Community Works Green Spaces & Living Coast Rep, FO St Ann's Well Gardens

James Newmarch – B&H Wildlife Forum & FO Brighton Greenway

Alan Moon – Friends of Hove Park

Debbie Pryer – Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden

Maureen Winder – The Level Communities Forum – **Newly Elected**

The Chair welcomed Maureen Winder and thanked her for agreeing to join the Forum committee.

The AGM formalities were concluded.

7. Presentation from Mark Syrett of the CityParks Projects Team

Mark updated those present on the tree planting projects with which he is involved with a number of member groups. Both Mark and Paul Campbell took a number of questions from those present which were answered to their satisfaction. Direct contact was offered to those whose questions required further action. The chair thanked Paul and Mark for their contribution to the meeting.

7.1 Linked to a question on Ash Dieback, Chair to invite Chris Sumnall who is the new B&H City Council Ash Dieback officer to the next Forum members meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.05pm

Appendices A and B follow:



2022 AGM – 15th February 2022 – Chairman’s Report for 2021

The Forum was launched in October 2017, it is fully constituted with a membership currently sitting at 90 groups (75 of which are site specific). All member groups have been validated, their details can be found on the Forum website at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/friends-of-groups/> This continues to be recognised as the ‘go to’ location for quality information on our city’s green space volunteer community.

The primary role of the Forum is to provide a communications hub for Green Space volunteer groups actively working in the city’s parks and green spaces.

Key activities through 2021 include:

1. Covid-19 continued to have a big impact on the activities of member groups, especially in the first part of 2021. Groups faced varying levels of lockdown with many not being able to work at all. Some groups are only just returning to their voluntary activities.
2. The Forum has liaised closely with B&H CityParks throughout the year who work through us for communications out to green space volunteer groups.
3. Our Website, Facebook and Twitter Pages remained active. With the website ‘Resources’ pages carrying useful information, including details of Covid Risk Assessments.
4. We continued to support the local initiatives on Dutch Elm Disease prevention. The DED spotters guide is hosted on the Forum website.
5. Around 45 groups are now working more independently as a result of volunteer leadership accreditation. Accredited groups do find it easier to gain help and support from CityParks. Volunteer Leader courses (plus associated First Aid training) are back up and running.
6. The Forum has strong links with Community Works and the ‘Living Coast’, committee member Melanie Davies represents the green space volunteer community with them.
7. The Forum delivered Newsletters in April and September. We continue to get good feedback on our Newsletters, particularly the individual group updates. We will approach groups again to request their input for our Spring edition.
8. On 18th May we ran our first regional members meeting for groups located to the East of the city. Notes can be seen on our website Resources page.
9. We’ve held all our committee meetings using the Forum’s Zoom account. This has been very useful but we are now intending to resume face to face meetings.
10. Our member database was audited, committee members made contact with members groups, updating their details where needed.
11. On 16th November we held a face to face members meeting with presenters Michael Blencowe from Sussex Wildlife Trust, Paul Campbell & Mark Syrett from CityParks and Sarah Dobson from the UNESCO Biosphere. Notes from the meeting can be seen on our website Resources page.

12. A positive collaborative partnership was built with Paul Campbell and Mark Syrett from the CityParks projects team. With a number of member groups working with Mark on the Urban Tree Challenge and tree planting bids. This is continuing into 2022.
13. Committee member Vivienne Barton worked with the CityParks projects team to produce 'Special Trees of Brighton & Hove' and 'Special Trees of Stanmer' leaflets. A 'Great Elms of Brighton & Hove' leaflet is in production.

Challenges for the coming year:

- To continue the collaboration with CityParks and improvement of communications between member groups and B&H Council.
- To agree our Forum strategy for the coming year, hopefully with our first face to face committee meeting for some time.

CHAIRMAN (Cliff Munn)..... Date: 15th February 2022



Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum

Income / Expenditure 2021

1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

INCOME

Community Works Payments	£800
Total Income	£800

EXPENDITURE

Member Meeting (16 th November)	£426
Expenses & Travel	£57
Zoom	£172
Office Equipment & Stationary	£66
Website Management	£95

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£817
--------------------------	-------------

INCOME VS EXPENDITURE	£17
------------------------------	------------

TREASURER (Vivienne Barton)..... Date: 15th February 2022