

## DPNF July 21 Report on Greening Projects

**Labelling Street Trees:** work has started on identifying and labelling street trees in the forum area. The intention is to encourage residents, schools and businesses to do this near where they live and work, alongside acting as “tree guardians” to water the tree bags for young trees and notify Camden about disease and damage.

**The Secret Garden** (corner Doynton&Baltimore streets): I supported Brookfield Primary School’s Forest & Outdoors Learning lead, to apply for a PUNL Community Energy Fund grant. Just over £2000 has been awarded so that ‘Wood That Works’ can use recycled wood to repair existing structures and the site can be made safe for children and the wider community. The work has already begun to provide an outdoor classroom, growing beds, recycling, compost, rainwater butts and more.

**Improvement of area outside the Secret Garden, used for ASB and dumping cars:** residents joined together 18 months ago to come up with a plan to improve this area, to make it safer and contribute in a positive way towards climate emergency. The proposal included two cycle hangars, two electric charging points for vehicles, some raised beds and other suggestions. This detailed plan was then shared with the DPNF and ward councillors, with the understanding that councillors would ask Housing to explore this further. I understand that Kieran Waller of Housing would be following up on this. To date there has been no feedback whatsoever which is disappointing.

**Three Point (Snake) Park refurbishment:** our group consulted with locals, and I completed the application for CIL funding to cover some of the costs of a community project to refurbish and make safe the snakes and seating in this heavily used play park. Our ward councillors approved the request for £3000. An update from Camden Council would be appreciated as we cannot proceed without confirmation that the funds are being paid into the DPNF bank account and that we can begin planning next steps.

**Whittington play areas & green spaces:** members of the greening group, along with resident Fabian and support from Maya, have made several visits to all the pedestrian streets and play spaces on this estate over the past 18 months. We have spoken to and canvassed a good number of residents to find out what improvements they would welcome- especially for children. The consensus from us was that (post lockdown) we could support an event with a stall and display to “show & tell” and seek more feedback. Perhaps the 2 residents on our committee, Fabian and Mags could now lead on this?

**Green Corridors, hedging and Estates:** our links with Heath Hands should flourish, as I have received the OK from Karin of HH who is keen to take a stand at the York Rise Street Fair on 12 September, alongside many other greening, growing, recycling and similar groups.

I have received some helpful guidance notes from Pamela (Pomme) Edwards of Lissenden Gardens Gardening Group about how estates’ TRAs could build a relationship with Camden

Council which should enable residents to have window boxes, trees or shrubs in pots, plant native trees and wildflower meadows, and run other schemes to improve biodiversity on their estates or other initiatives.

A key aim is to replace and restore hedging within the Homes for Heroes area of Highgate Newtown (Croftdown, Kingswear, St Alban's roads). This would contribute significantly to increasing biodiversity and green corridors for birds and insects but also to improving the appearance and feel of this historic area. Resident and Cttee member Eileen Wilmott will be leading on this with our support.

**Green links with Highgate Cemetery, Waterlow Park and HNF:** Gustafson Porter + Bowman have won the competition to develop their landscape plans for the cemetery. This will be a gradual phased process and the Greening Group hopes to engage with and learn from them as their ideas take shape, so as to maximise opportunities to increase corridors and routes for insects and birds.

There are further opportunities for liaising with the Holly Lodge estate, Waterlow Park and Maggy Meade-King of HNF about connecting green corridors where our forum areas join up.

**Murphy's proposals, green corridors & the Heath:** I have put Ben in touch with John Beyer (chair of Heath & Hampstead) with regards to potentially compromised views and the poor provision of green spaces and corridors linking with the Heath-despite what has been promised.

**Walkabout:** I would like to encourage all new members and those who are less familiar with the whole forum area to consider a walkabout so that those who know a lot about a specific area, can share their knowledge with others.

Catharine Wells