

Friends of Belham (FOB) Committee Meeting

Date: 2 March 2020

Notes taken by: Hannah Cleaton-Roberts,
Secretary

Attendees:

Eve Petcher (Co-chair)
Adam Scott (Co-Chair)
Julia Parfitt
Abba Newbery
Natacha Clarke
Cathy Sophocli
Caroline Thomson
Ginnie Kelly
Abba Newbery
Hannah Cleaton-Roberts – HCR (Secretary)
Laura Ford
Giles Hardy
Shaun Kirby (Treasurer)

Friends of Belham



1. Plastic Free Peckham

Laura Ford and Giles Hardy gave an update on their work for Plastic Free Peckham, and there was a discussion on how FOB can continue to reduce single waste plastic and waste at events. One of the things they talked about was whether the Belham would be interested in being a “Plastic Free School”. (NB if The Hamlet were also to become a Plastic Free School then this would make them the first Plastic Free Trust). This would require various steps from the school, e.g.

- all children would need to write to an MP
- The school would need to organize a community cleanup
- They would need to interview the chef and agree with him to make three changes to reduce plastic.

Plastic Free Peckham had previously discussed this with the Belham but were of the impression that there was not enough time / resource within the school to drive this forward. It would need sponsorship from a teacher and it was acknowledged by all present that there were significant demands on teacher time already. However it was the view of the FOB members present that this would be a great thing to do if possible. **Action:** FOB committee agreed to raise Belham being a Plastic Free School with the LGB at the upcoming meeting.

There was also a discussion about whether the school could be used as a drop off point for terracycle recycling. Eve explained that the school had expressed willingness to act as a drop off point but did not have resources to store large amounts of recycling. It was suggested that FOB commit to taking accumulated recycling to a major drop off point e.g. JAPS for crisps, supermarkets for batteries etc. **Action:** Eve to raise with school.

Suggestions for minimizing waste on an ongoing basis – Giles stressed that we should always think “REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE”. There was a suggestion of using the school plates for catered events. A key point was that the plastic free route was often less convenient, and what was often needed was the change in mindset which would acknowledge that a bit of extra effort might be required to do the better thing. **Action** – Laura said she could supply a list of plastic free suppliers; Hannah to follow up with her.

Abba suggested that it would be good to track and publicise the improvements we have made in this area – e.g. improvements on last year. 300 paper cups saved at the disco, 500 crisp packets recycled.

2. Disco and quiz debrief

Disco – general view that it was a success, best DJ yet. Suggestion that for the next disco we run reception on their own, to minimize overcrowding. Agreement that one disco a year was plenty. Suggestion that buggies be brought through the side door straight to the back bar, for future discos, if possible.

Quiz – was awesome, and the food was great.

3. School spending feedback

The school had provided a list of spending ideas. For completeness these are included here:

Things that FOB have already agreed to pay for:

- Science equipment for the garden - £400
- Classroom games for wet play – £600
- Library books for classrooms - £2,100
- Extra Stage £ 1000 I need to check the exact amount
- Recorders (class music provision) - £2996.4
- Drums (class music provision) – 1035.48
- Extra before school practices- £500 per term (on a one year trial)
- Swim hats for the gala - £786

Here are the things that school would like:

- Theatre trip for the whole school - £2000
- More plants & pots - £300
- Coaching for children – conflict management - £2000
- Reading passport books (more per class) -- £1200
- Lighting for the hall – Circa £5000
- Props for performances (inc but not just Yr 6 show) - £1500
- Licenses for performances £500

There was a discussion about this and all items were considered reasonable except the lighting for the hall, in relation to which some questions were raised, in particular: would it take up much needed space in the hall, would the spending include upgrade of the sound system, how often would it be used and would the children be able to get involved in lighting shows. **It was agreed** by a vote that we should go back to the school to give them a go ahead on all the spending apart from the lighting, where we would get more detail on these points (plus a more specific quote) for discussion at a later date. **Action:** Eve to go back to school with agreement on the spending and request for further info on the lighting.

4. Peckham Citizens

It was raised in our survey and in person to the committee that paying for the school to join Peckham Citizens could be a good use of FoB funds, and could work towards the greater community focus that a number of survey respondents raised. Peckham Citizens (PC) is the local branch of Citizens UK, a charity which organizes communities to act together for social justice and the common good and their campaigns on issues like the Living Wage have had a huge impact. The School and FoB have met with PC in the past, but it hadn't resulted in the school joining up. Membership of PC would have to be led by the school and will be successful and reach across the student body if the school puts active citizenship at the heart of school life.

Adam recently had a meeting with Claire Arkwright, the community organiser for Peckham Citizens. If FoB paid for the school to join PC, this would be £1000 p.a., possibly more depending on the amount of time required by the school for Claire or other organisers to come in and work with the staff and pupils. Adam explained that he had raised this with the school who seemed positive and are meeting Claire Arkwright to discuss it further. If the school moved quickly it could be possible for some Belham pupils to attend a Mayoral Assembly in late April when 7000 London Citizens members will gather in the Copper Box Arena to grill the mayoral candidates. **ACTION:** await response from school if they want to be a member of Peckham Citizens, and what the funding commitment would be for FoB. Then present it to FoB committee and reps for a vote

5. Website

Liz Cohen has asked for feedback on the website, since nobody has responded to the call for feedback in the Belham Buzz. General view in the room is that the website is great. It was agreed that we could cascade feedback requests via the whatsapp groups. **Action:** Eve to coordinate

6. Cake sale

All in hand, school have agreed to tables in reception playground as well as main playground. Adam/ Hannah to consider whether we could also do a second hand uniform table.

7. Easter Egg hunt

Again, all in hand. Eve to check with Michelle re trestle tables.

8. Fun Run

Following on from the meeting with the school, the school have suggested that big fundraising events could be around reading and promoting the love of reading, a ball park plan being to generate money so that each classroom can develop book areas, with organic libraries in corridors, author visits etc. It was quickly agreed by those present that the Fun Run could raise money for this specific cause and the tag line "Run to Read" was suggested.

Natacha gave a status update on the Fun Run and the following points were noted:

- Pat Murray is looking into St John's ambulance

- FOB committee to help Natacha set up Just Giving page just before the Easter holidays
- 14 volunteers (minimum) will be needed and Natacha would like help securing volunteers.
- Natacha is looking at getting sponsorship for the medals and booking the same warm up guy as last year.

It was agreed that it might be good to encourage the “fun” aspect of the fun run and with “Run to Read” as a theme it might be an idea to have fancy dress as your favourite book character etc, with prizes for costumes as well as for speed.

9. Summer Fair

General agreement that 4th July would be the preferred date and that a theme around football and Europe would be right on point as it would coincide with the Euro 2020 quarter finals.

Ginnie suggested a stall to sell children’ own made crafts.

Action: Eve to confirm the date with the school

10. AOB

It was noted that the bus stop outside school has been removed, a great victory for the Air Quality Group after months / years of tireless work.

Next meeting was scheduled for 31 March.