

Friends of Belham (FOB) Committee Meeting
Date: 20 January 2020

Location: The Victoria Inn

**Notes taken by: Hannah Cleaton-Roberts,
secretary**

Attendees:

Eve Petcher (Co-chair)
Adam Scott (Co-Chair)
Natacha Clarke
Marq Bailey
Harriet Bailey
Cathy Sophocli
Louise Murray
Shaun (Treasurer)
Caroline Thomson
Stephanie Thomas
Fleur Johnson
Abba Newbery
Aine Mannion
Hannah Cleaton-Roberts – HCR (Secretary)
Julie Misztal
Ginnie Kelly

Friends of
Belham



Introductions

In the light of the committee being new, introductions were done around the table.

1. Lost property and secondhand uniform

Tom Turnham has asked if the FOB could take on sorting out and returning the school Lost Property to its owners.

General opinion was that this was the responsibility for the school. There was agreement that lost property is a little out of control but several people said that during their own searches, many of the items were named and that someone who worked at the school was more likely to know who the child was. There was also talk that if lost clothes were always brought back to the child in class and parents only went looking for lost items when prompted to, there is less incentive for the student, but mainly the parents, to look after their items and to go into the lost property box and look for it.

Nonetheless many agreed that it should come from the school to ask for parent volunteers to search through lost property, lay out unknown items (with the school advising which days it would be happening) then FoB could take away what is left at the end of the half term.

We have also agreed to hold more uniform sales but to not actually sell the items anymore but to have a donation box and let people take what is needed and pay what they think is fair.

There was some discussion of what to do with worn out / stained yellow polo shirts, that don't resell and probably can't be recycled (as polycotton). It was agreed that we should encourage the children to think up creative ideas for re-using these tshirts. Ideas in the meeting included: "mucky tops" for nursery children doing painting; bunting; dishcloths; rugs....

2. Swim Hats

The school has requested that FOB fund swimming hats in house colours. The cost would be £754. This was approved by those present.

3. School disco

HCR organising. Volunteers needed – Eve, Adam and Julie confirmed that they would be available to help. HCR to send Whatsapp call for further volunteers.

HCR asked if anyone had suggestions for dealing with the single use plastic derived from 1000 crisp packets. Louise said that her work had a Terra Pack for crisp packets. HCR to liaise Louise.

DJ Trev offers Fog and Snow. General feeling was that Fog might find it hard to locate children. Snow might be tricky to clear up but could be considered a given. Glitter bombs were definitely out.

4. Quiz

AS organising. General consensus was that a raffle was not necessary and not held last year, rather there was a "stand up and sit down" extra round. AN suggested a joker card purchased for a fee which when played would enable double points for a particular round.

AN organising food. Volunteers needed to serve.

It was agreed that prizes were generally alcohol – a case of bottles for the winning table.

5. Bags for schools

Alessia is organising this.

6. Golf day

Paul Munro organising.

7. Easter Egg hunt

Cathy offered to help source eggs. Lettsom Gardens are delighted to host the event.

8. Cake Sale – 13 March

Ginnie is organizing and Year 4 are the helpers.

9. Survey results

It was noted that only 34 responses had been received and so this should not be considered a representative sample, however all points should be considered. The main committee explained how they were giving consideration to all the points raised.

Free events:

The most common suggestion in the survey for what FOB could be doing better was about having more “not for profit” events that built community rather than raising funds. This was supported by those in the room. The most popular suggestions in the room were:

- a picnic in Peckham Rye, e.g. in the Arboretum
- Hiring the Dog Kennel Hill adventure playground, using FOB funds.

There was a lot of support for the adventure playground idea and it was suggested that perhaps this should be held in September so as not to compete with the already scheduled summer activities e.g. camping, fun run, summer fair.

Expense:

There was some feeling that e.g. the fair was expensive. Suggestions on how to make this more accessible to all were

- Have more free activities (cracker making was the only one at the Christmas fair)
- Entry to the fair could give you a voucher for one activity
- Reduce price of sweetie jars (NB an alternative for jars may have to be found at next fair)
- Free face painting

Giving back to the community:

Several survey respondents said and several in the meeting agreed that it would be good if FoB events and funds engaged more with the wider Peckham community, and if FoB funds could be targeted in some cases to school families in greater need, if lack of money was preventing full participation in school life (e.g. sports kit, trips). This will require discussion with the school to identify appropriate channels for any targeted funding. The current constitution of FoB is limited to ‘advancing the education of pupils in the school’ so fundraising for external causes requires specific notification before an event.

In the survey and the room it was raised that joining Peckham Citizens has been investigated in the past, but it was unclear if FoB or the School would be the appropriate entity to join, and that this idea should be looked at again.

Adam and Eve to discuss when meeting Tom Turnham on 3 Feb.

Fundraising v spending:

There was survey feedback, and strong feeling in the room, that there should be more of a clear link between fundraising and spending, and more visibility on what the funds raised are being spent on. It was thought that the Friends’ Friendly should include a regular / weekly summary of funds raised v spent. Visual (if possible) communication re successful spending should be posted on the notice boards.

There was agreement that specific fundraising for specific causes was well received – not only fundraising e.g. for the Lane, but also for specific charities. As above any fundraising for charities other than FOB would need to be specifically flagged but one

suggestion was whether the kids in the year group that helps with the cake sale could have the opportunity to discuss and vote for a charity that receives some of the money from the cake sale?

Eve and Adam are meeting with Tom Turnham on 3 Feb and will discuss the strong need for the FOB to see the monies it has raised being spent. Currently there is a mismatch between fundraising and spending, partly because of the huge success of the last year's fundraising. However we need more guidance from the school on where and how these funds can be spent. The feedback survey has generated numerous ideas that will be put to the school.

10. Update on the Lane

Harriet gave an update on the Lane. The idea came originally from the Air Quality Group (a subset of FOB) for a green screen to improve air quality in the playground. It evolved into something bigger and after the huge fundraising success which was the Fun Run last year, it was possible to pay someone to design the Lane. After much hard work the design has been implemented with hard landscaping and planting. The Lane is currently closed due to safety issues with the guttering on the façade of the school, however this is giving the new plants a chance to bed in.

Harriet is intending to run monthly garden volunteering days to take care of not just the lane but also the planters and planting around the playground. There was talk about holding these on a Saturday and possibly simultaneously holding a uniform donation sale.

Funds remain in the dedicated Lane fund, which gives a comfortable buffer to support future expected costs including ongoing maintenance, upkeep, replacement of plants, and signage on what plants are there.

11. Update from the Air Quality Group

Marq gave an update on the goals of the Air Quality Group, which are primarily to push for

- widening the pavement on Bellenden Road outside the school
- Getting rid of the bus stop.

After much bureaucracy and liaison with the school, TFL and the Council, the key recent developments are as follows:

- TFL have agreed to move the bus stop. Not much of a win as it might sound as moving it may well open up further consultation. The Air Quality Group have ascertained that under the TFL guidelines the bus stop could easily be abolished without breaching distance limits.
- TFL have acknowledged that the pavement is too narrow.

In addition Harriet explained that since the school got a bronze award under the "TFL stars" programme last year, we are eligible to apply for child-shaped plastic sandwich boards to place near the bus stop to raise awareness.

Furthermore the Air Quality Group have won a grant to hold a public meeting about the Bellenden road traffic bottleneck, date tbc.