



Friends of Lloyd Park Newsletter

Winter 2024-25

Our AGM took place on the 14th of November in the Lloyd Park Cafe

The meeting was well attended and chaired by Owen Williams, pictured below with Jason Perry. Owen spoke about the achievements over the last year and our ambitions for the coming year.

Our Mayor spoke on several issues, including the path that was opened to the playground, the maintenance of Lloyd Park and other parks in the borough. He also talked about a proposal for Padel Tennis courts in place of the Bowling Green.



Our outgoing treasurer, James Cork, reported on our accounts.

The Councillor for Park Hill and Whitgift, Andrew Price, whose ward includes Lloyd Park, and who sits as a non-voting member of our Friends of Lloyd Park Committee introduced himself and spoke about his support for our park and about continuing the good work that Jade Appleton had done before him.

Our MP, Chris Philp, attended and spoke. His constituency includes Lloyd Park, since the constituency boundary changes that took place just before the election. He offered his availability to help us with matters that arise regarding our park and has indeed already followed up on matters raised at the meeting.

The Police Safer Neighbourhoods team attended and spoke, encouraging us to engage with them about issues arising and mentioned that they make themselves available for a cuppa with a copper meeting at the Lloyd Park Café from time to time. Some matters were raised with them at the meeting, including football being played in the street in Lloyd Park Avenue and the unnecessary fast and furious cycling that takes place on the path at the western end of the park.

Alice Owusu-Evans who joined the council as Community and Conservation Team Leader during 2024 introduced herself and spoke about biodiversity in the park. Including issues arising in the areas of the pond and where TFL had used an area of the park for their materials store during work that took place on the tracks in 2024. She also mentioned planned repairs to playground equipment.

Membership Donations, including Coombe Park and expanding our committee

We approved changes to our constitution to make it clear that the Friends of Lloyd Park includes Coombe Park as well as Lloyd Park. To increase the maximum size of our committee from six to nine plus non-voting participation of the local councillor. We approved requesting a £5 annual membership from our members. Where the membership can be individual, associated with an e-mail address. Family, associated with a residential address, for all members of that household. Or organisational, for up to three members of a business or other organisation. This membership donation is voluntary, but we need to ask for it now that we are more active and incurring costs for things such as, a web site, hiring a venue for our AGM and to cover some insurance costs.

If you would like to make a membership donation, please do so by bank transfer or standing order to our account the details of which are:

Account Name:	FRIENDS OF LLOYD PARK CROYDON
Sort Code:	30-98-90
Account Number:	18472268

Please use your e-mail address, your house/flat number and street, or your business/organisational name matching your type of membership as the reference with the payment.

Dangerous Dogs.

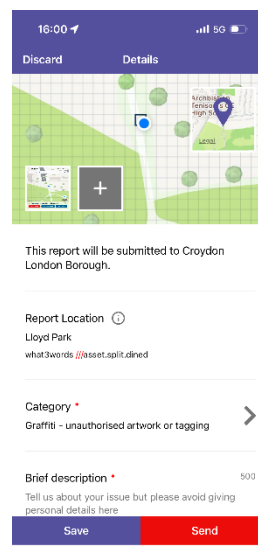
The Magistrates Court case relating to the Kangal incidents in July 2023 took place on the 26th of November 2024 and the case was adjourned for sentencing on the 19th of December and then adjourned while remanded on unconditional bail until a hearing on the 9th of January.

Our Survey

Our winter survey covers a wide range of issues, including dogs on leads, new hedgerows, fast and furious cyclists and new padel tennis courts instead of the Bowling Green. We need your opinions to guide our priorities, please click or scan the QR code at the end of this newsletter to have your say.

Encouraging the use of LoveCleanStreets to report issues in the park

The LoveCleanStreets app available for smartphones now allows the use of what3words to identify the location of an issue, making it much easier to report issues needing attention in parks and we encourage you to report large items of rubbish, graffiti, or repairs that are required in our park. What3words is also available as an app for smartphones and if you aren't familiar with the concept, it uses a unique combination of three words to identify a three-meter square location anywhere on earth. We have already seen this used very effectively for reporting graffiti that needed removing in Lloyd Park.



Bowling Green

Over the last couple of years, the Council has proposed opening a children's nursery on the space previously used as a Bowling Green and then subsequently that the Cherry Orchard Garden centre might be re-established there instead. When the Friends of Lloyd Park surveyed the members of our Facebook Group, some surrounding Residents Associations and the houses identified as the most affected by such changes, the outcome showed a significant majority (90%) in favour of returning the Bowling Green to parkland.

Mayor Perry confirmed at our AGM that an offer had been received to convert the Bowling Green into Padel Tennis courts. However, although a sports use is a better fit with the park, the proposition may not be compatible with covenants attached to the original gift of the park.



Floodlights could conflict with the no lighting objective for parks and noise could be detrimental to residents, particularly if the courts are used in the evenings.

The Friends of Lloyd Park needs the views of our members to guide our interaction with the Council about the proposal. We would therefore very much

appreciate if you would share your views by completing our winter survey by clicking on or scanning the QR code at the end of this newsletter.

The mayor put us in touch with the person responsible for progressing this proposal and he has responded to our questions, so that we can summarise what we know here. To help guide our survey and then in turn the observations we have been invited to make for the Councils discussions with the applicant.

Four outdoor courts have been proposed with floodlights, available for use throughout the day, including before 9am and after 5pm into the evening. The courts being contained within the boundary of the Bowling Green site and with no intention at the Council for any other part of the park to be developed.

The Council has confirmed that a planning application will have to be made for the use as Padel Tennis and for floodlighting. They anticipate an initial agreement for lease to allow for planning followed by a formal long lease – precise duration and break options to be negotiated. There will be opportunity to support or object to the proposal as part of any future planning application.

The council has not considered what assurances to seek during construction or ongoing operation to minimize disruption to the surrounding area and intends to discuss these with the applicant. The Council expects noise and nuisance from the courts will be discussed as part of the lease negotiations and the Council do not expect the noise would differ significantly from the adjacent tennis club. The application does reference acoustic walling within the existing hedge boundary. However, Padel Tennis is played off the walls of the court and the anticipated utilisation of the courts would be higher than for the tennis courts for a viable proposition. The courts will also be closer to residential properties.

The impact on parking in the car park and the surrounding streets has not yet been considered by the council, who plan to discuss this with the applicant.

The Council envisage a positive impact on usage of the café together with wider use and awareness of the general park space. The Council expect to liaise with the tennis club and expect the proposed padel use will work in partnership with, rather than competition to, the tennis courts, supporting wider overall sports participation. The current offer includes some free use of the Padel Tennis Courts for schools and some free introductory lessons.

Complete our member survey, click on or scan this QR Code

(complete by **18/01/2025** to be included in our survey report)

