



Parks Community Feedback from sites. 3rd questionnaire

Have you progressed?

Feedback from 8 sites

Friends of Wandsworth Park, Friends of Woodcock Park (Brent) , Friends of Cherry Tree Wood (Barnet), Friends of Turn Moss (Trafford), Friends of Central Park (Peterborough), Friends of Latchmere Rec (Kingston),

Meadow Orchard, Volunteer managed (Haringey)

Dukes Meadows Trust (Hounslow)



3 Green Flags



5 management plans



Community Green Flags?



INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUR GROUP?

Range is from 30 to 528 people involved with average of 243
(218 at last survey)

FOR HOW LONG?

Range is from
250 hours to
3,000+ hours
of volunteer
input PA.

Average is
1026 hours
(last year
1683 hours)

What are your group interested in?

Area of interest	Number of groups
Nature conservation, Strengthening community cohesion	7
Health and fitness, trees, grounds maintenance, shrubs and flowers	6
Dogs infrastructure R & M, Sports,	5
play facilities, increasing usage,	4
Other – supporting the bowls club, permaculture. Beekeeping, well-being, land care, people care, cycling, children's activities, COVID, Orchard Management, food growing	1

Welcoming?

Category	Average score
How welcoming for new people attending your meetings?	7.5 (7.38) (7.33)
How welcoming to get actively involved in your group?	7.1 (7) (7.3)
Extent to which your group welcomes new ideas and proposals for organising	6.1 (6.75) (6.8)
Extent to which your group welcomes ideas and proposals for new activities and events	7.3 (7.38) (7.38)
1= not at all welcoming, 9= extremely welcoming Scores in brackets are for Jan 2020 and Feb 2019 respectively	

Your membership profile compared to users profile?

Characteristic	Average score	Number of DK's and N/A's
Age	2 (2)	(0)1
Gender	2.75 (2.5)	0 (0)
Class	1.75 (2)	4 (4)
Ethnicity	1.67 (2.25)	2 (3)
Range of interests	2.33 (2.33)	1 (1)

1= Not very representative, 2 = Fairly representative, 3 =Very representative. Figures in brackets from Feb 2020

Stakeholder	Number of groups you told us you have a relationship with (communicate, cooperate, work with)
Site contractor,	6
Parks service, sports clubs, local councillors	5
Local TRA's, café, gardening group (us!) , schools	4
Parent Toddler group, dog walkers	3
Local scouts/guides	2
Other (synagogue, police, library friends, tree group, nursery, hospice, traders Assoc, trustees, football club)	1

Rating of maintenance and repair at your site

Descriptor	Average of all ratings and range
Regular	4.75 (4.57) Slight improvement
Responsive	4.9 (4.56) Improvement
Effective	4 (4.36) slight deterioration
Informative	3.88 (4.5) deterioration
Collaborative	4.5 (4.79) slight deterioration
<i>. 1 = no maintenance, 9 = excellent maintenance. Figures in brackets from Feb 2020</i>	

Incidence of vandalism

Descriptor	Average rating	Feb 2020 rating	range
Regularity	5.25	4.71	3-7
Severity	6.16	4.16	2-8

1 = situation is terrible, 9 = no problem at all

Comments: Tree damage from personal trainers and children playing on trees, proliferation of fires, more site trespass when locked

Anti social behaviour

Descriptor	Average rating	Last year	Range
Regularity	5	4.14	2-8
Severity	4.9	4.38	2-9

1 = situation is terrible, 9 = no problem at all

Drug dealing and drug usage, loud parties, motorbikes, break-ins

£££ (excluding from PCUK)

Average amount generated	Range	Sources	Spent on
£7,039 (£6,718 Feb 2020)	£0- £21,500	Local authority (various but CIL important), Co-op community fund, local housing trust, events, RHS, Tree council donations, site hire fees for training, membership fees, Heritage of London, Tree Council, asset rentals, Postcode Lottery	Pond, raised beds and bulbs, Natural play equipment for Children's Nature Zone, Setting up an initial course of Tai Chi rubbish bins, drinking fountains, plants, events, , willow area, nature trail, new path, noticeboard, volleyball equipment

Dukes Meadows generated £155,500 including from rents, a farmers market and café rent and big areas of expenditure included Park repair and maintenance, gate restoration and planting an avenue of trees.

**Feedback about your effectiveness
and progress in the last 2 years?**

A bit better	4
A lot better	4

Feedback about effectiveness

- we have grown in confidence and realised that if you don't ask you don't get so we ask at every opportunity
- The development of a MP suggested by PCUK is the key to us contributing to the management of the site more
- I think very good questions were asked of us which was quite early in our development. We had excellent help with things such as the Constitution, and consultation on a variety of issues,
- We have new volunteers. There is more active work being done. Responsibility on site for maintenance and upkeep is more shared
- We are able to get assistance from the next door cricket club to provide us with water in the all important growing season
- we found the experience of interacting with other groups and PCUK to be a very valuable experience. We did acquire new valuable tips and advice.
- The increase in confidence of the group has been assisted by participation in the PCUK project as this has led to an exchange of information and views across groups building on knowledge and experience.
- I think we have thought more about where we are going and what we aim to achieve. We have made some steps towards our aims.

Feedback about progress

- We are growing in strength. The Council have complimented us on our commitment and our confidence and are now working more closely with us
- We have been given the tools and wherewithal through our involvement with PCUK. We are also, now, offering advice and help to other Friends of groups in our area who are struggling and asking for guidance.
- We got ideas from other groups on the Friends days. It was inspiring to think of trying to put democracy for our Rec into action
- There is better and more communication between the volunteers. New volunteers are being welcomed and supported well.
- having a wider context and someone to turn to was very helpful. Being representative of the community and being a group that was easy to join was emphasised at the beginning and this has influenced us
- The networking opportunities have built confidence, knowledge and experience within the group enabling us to be more effective in discussions with the landowner and indeed other stakeholders in the area.
- Some new members and officers and some focus (e.g. improved website/Facebook page) together with new and much more positive relationship with café

Feedback about the Parks Community website

- So useful for anyone starting out. It would have helped us hugely.
- It is really well set up and very easy to follow. The helpful guides are very useful e.g. contacts with other user groups. Interesting and varied case studies. Good links to further sources of information.
- Great resource, attractive, simple and clear. Easy to find information. Inspiring
- Clean, modern, attractive site offering a wide range of practical and useful how to guides. Very much like the strength checker test for groups. Overall impressed by the range of practical advice and support that is available on and through the site.
- There is nothing that I don't like. In terms of improvement that could be made I would just suggest building on what is already there in terms of guides and case studies. It would also be useful to have the ability to ask questions and seek guidance on various matters

Benefits from your involvement in the Project

- Confidence – we now have the belief that we can achieve anything we set out to do
- Tenacity – through not giving up we are now working with the Council instead of against them
- The first interview was very useful because although it was lots of questions , it widened our view of what a friends group could be. Having this wider perspective does inform our activities. The questionnaires consolidate it...we'll miss them. We can always do the health checker!
- The warmth and support have been hugely valuable. We had access to guidance on several things
- More connection with other projects, coming to events and meeting others involved. Sharing information and struggles in managing our projects. There is a lot more respect for each other's efforts to continue what we are doing.
- Great help in getting us to communicate better with each other. Most of all to recognise that we have achieved so much for such a big area and for a relatively small group of dedicated managing volunteers
- It has helped us move forward with plans to improve the site and do more with and for more people
- There is a lot more respect for each other's efforts to continue what we are doing
- Learning from the vast array of experience available across Friends Groups throughout the country.

Final thoughts

- Without mentoring we may have eventually focused on a management plan but possibly at a much later date. Advice has been critical to us getting to the stage we are at.
- We appreciate enormously what we have received in our early years
- Overall PCUK has been a great boost to our collective self esteem as a project. The chance to talk about our project made us value its uniqueness even more.
- The pandemic has certainly brought about a realisation of the importance of local Parks, particularly Brent which has a lack of green spaces.
- A way to maintain the linkages developed, probably through the website will be great but also developing mechanisms such as Borough and regional wide groupings which can physically meet post COVID will be essential.
- Covid has left us all challenged this year and we've managed to still be effective and advance projects we've undertaken
- The conferences at Lordship Rec bringing people together were most beneficial Although zoom/other computer linkages are good it does not allow for the serendipity that you get when you meet face to face and can throw out and exchange ideas.
- It's been a real pleasure working with you, sharing Lordship Rec/Haringey, learning so much and having the opportunity to meet some wonderful people.