



JANUARY 2010 FOSP NEWSLETTER

A report on November's open meeting and proposed sale of park land

As many of you who may have attended the open meeting in late November know, the Friends were concerned about the possible sale of the northwest corner of the park. We did not feel that a sale was a viable option both because our research showed that it violated the covenant on the land as part of its sale from Charlotte Sullivan to the Council more than 100 years ago and because there was no guarantee proceeds from the sale would be ring fenced for South Park improvements. The open meeting provided an opportunity to discuss this and other issues related to the last master plan design for South Park with the following highlights:

- * Attendees unanimously voted against any sale of property and encouraged Friends to pursue alternative funding options
- * Priority improvements remain as toilets, changing rooms and improved field surfaces (and their continued maintenance)
- * Community agreement was solidified that we still need an overall plan for everything from remedial work to basic improvements to desired improvements so efforts that could span as much as 10 years would be coordinated; a plan is also necessary to obtain funding
- * A concern that funding being provided by schools, which have a high proportion of local children attending, for park improvements could result in decreased access for local residents was raised; the Friends will ensure that general access to improved facilities will remain a condition for any funding agreement, as has been the case to date

The Friends reiterated that it opposes just a few, yet critical, elements in the current version of the master plan design. Amendments to Design Option 4 that we support include situating toilets, and possibly a café, on the site of the original refreshment room adjacent to Clancarty Lodge; and we're launching efforts now to explore alternative uses for Clancarty Lodge if we were able to find funding for its restoration.

Support our campaign to receive percentage of proceeds from potential Castle Club sale

Following the open meeting, the Friends began almost immediately to pursue one alternative funding option: To direct a percentage of sale proceeds of the Castle Club (estimated to be in excess of £3 million pounds) to the restoration of Clancarty Lodge and other South Park improvements. Although the Council's intention is to devote all



sale proceeds to paying down the council debt, we still believe there is a strong moral case for some of the money to be used for the benefit of the immediate locality

The Castle Club is the building at the west end of Daisy Lane. Charlotte Sullivan, who owned and sold the land that is South Park today to the council for use by local residents, and her parents, established the building as a school in 1856 for ragged children. Most recently it was used as a youth club. As it was the Sullivan family's intention that their gift should be for the benefit of the immediate Fulham community-and perhaps not the current much enlarged borough-the Friends think that an appropriate tribute to the Sullivan family's charity is to redirect a small share of the sale money to improvements in the local area that will continue to serve our area's youth for years to come.

If you agree this is a good funding option for improving South Park, please join the campaign and email your council members to let them know what you think-and be sure to copy the Friends on your email at info@friendsofsouthpark.org.uk.

Parsons Green & Walham Ward - Nick Botterill, Mark Loveday, Frances Stainton

nicholas.botterill@lbhf.gov.uk

mark.loveday@lbhf.gov.uk

frances.stainton@lbhf.gov.uk

Sands End Ward - Stephen Hamilton, Jane Law, Ali de Lisle

steve.hamilton@lbhf.gov.uk

jane.law@lbhf.gov.uk

ali.delisle@lbhf.gov.uk

Join a task force examining play areas and options for Clancarty Lodge uses

The Friends are putting together two small task forces. One will examine alternative use of Clancarty Lodge, with an eye toward ongoing revenue-producing opportunities. The other will examine how to enhance play areas for a wider age range of children in South Park. If you would like to participate in one of these groups, please email your interest or any questions you may have to info@friendsofsouthpark.org.uk. We anticipate the groups to meet approximately once a month from February through June of this year and work closely with the Council.

Renew your membership in 2010

Thank you to everyone who supports the Friends of South Park with your thoughts, time and subscriptions. Annual subscriptions in 2009 were essential to our success in



protecting and improving our park. They helped pay for research on land conveyances; they helped us get the word out about open meetings; and they helped committee members attend important community meetings. Individuals/families contributed a range of amounts, from £5 to £12-averaging just £1 a month. We encourage you to renew your annual FOSP membership this month at £10. Feel free to bring your subscription, cash or cheque, to the open meeting or mail it to FOSP Secretary, 20 Beltran Road, SW6 3AJ.

FOSP takes lead in setting up H&F Friends group forum

Chairman Anthony Williams attended the inaugural meeting of the London Green Spaces Group Network in Tottenham on 10th October on behalf of the Friends of South Park. The meeting was attended by Friends groups from 17 London boroughs. The Network is sponsored by the Greater London Authority to encourage groups to share experiences and discuss issues together with the aim of helping to improve all London's parks and green open spaces. A strong recommendation at the launch was to establish local forums in each borough. FOSP took the lead in our borough and a Hammersmith & Fulham Friends Group Forum has already been set up. Eight of the nine friends groups so far established attended the first meeting on 4th December when communications with the Council was agreed as a problem area for all groups. The forum is informal and intends to meet quarterly.

We hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting on Mon, January 25 a 7:00 at Thomas's School on Hugon Road! Our agenda follows.

Apologies for Absence

Approval of Minutes of Inaugural Annual General Meeting on 27th January 2009

Annual Report

Member's questions

Membership

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts

Election of Officers and Committee for the coming year

Any Other Business