



## **Friends of Murray Park and Whitton Dene Park**

**AGM 13 January 2025, 8pm  
White Hart Inn, Kneller Road, Twickenham**

### **1 In attendance:**

- Louise Cole
- Jack Dempsey (chaired the meeting)
- Lynda Hance
- Jacque Jordan
- Michael Young

No apologies received

### **2 Report on activities in 2024**

#### **FOMP – Whitton Dene Park**

In 2022, we applied for and were awarded a grant of £52,184.10. The grant was to cover improvements and enhancements to Whitton Dene Park.

The works from the Thriving Communities Grant application were completed during 2024 and the required grant monitoring forms have been submitted to the Council. The works included:

- Clean up park borders including cutting down of old trees and vegetation.
- New Bench
- Fence repairs
- New signage board
- New dog agility equipment

The improvements have been well received by the community who overlook and who use Whitton Dene Park.

FOMP continues to enjoy a positive working relationship with Hounslow Council and FOMP will consider further grant applications to continue improving the space for local residents.

We hope that in 2025 we will be able to recruit a second WDP representative to join FOMP.

#### **Dog show**

FoMP organised a dog show in Murray Park on Saturday 15th June 2024.

Judges included a local vet, a local dog trainer and local dog groomer. There were 5 categories to enter; best girl, best boy, best puppy, best rescue, most obedient and overall winner. Prizes were donated by the local pet shop, a local dog walking company, FoMP and a local artist who donated a free portrait as a raffle prize. The local dog walking company also helped with volunteers to help run the event.



A local DJ helped to compère the event, and during breaks between categories entertainment was supplied by a singer. Food and drink were available to purchase from a local mobile catering company.

A staff member from Habitats and Heritage was present to help and this covered the insurance for the event.

It was very well attended by the local community with approximately 60 dogs being entered in the competition. It was supported by the council who would like to see FoMP run the event on an annual basis.

### **Park inspections**

Members of the FoMP committee have met with staff from the Parks team on a quarterly basis to conduct an inspection of the park. We have identified repairs needed, trees to be planted, a new bench needed (which has been installed along the north end of the park), and an additional picnic bench in the play area.

We have discussed the wildflower area in the triangle south of the hall. In its first year it bloomed nicely, but has suffered the last few dry summers and has become an area now taken over largely by nettles. The chestnut paling fencing around it is unsightly and ineffective.

We have lobbied the Parks Team to grass this triangle over and create a new wildflower area to the lower land north of the hall, which we believe would be more sustainable as it benefits from more shade, is generally damper, and is subject to much less use by children and dogs.

### **Trees**

The Parks Team continues to consult us well over what trees to plant and where in the park. We have been very pleased at the number of trees planted in 2024 and are continuing to plan for more in 2025. The large trees were given a mulch ring to help them thrive. The oak in the play area was stress tested and thankfully is ok.

Murray Park and its trees have significant historical significance. We are keen to have the trees individually labelled to educate park users about them.

### **Consultation re football and catering**

The council recently carried out a public consultation regarding introducing football matches to Murray park. The result was in favour of re introducing and the parks team in conjunction with grounds maintenance contractors are now pushing ahead with pitch preparation and drumming up interest from local sports clubs.

### **Hall**

FOMP, with the help and guidance of professional advisors, has been liaising with the council for a number of years (since 2018) regarding taking over the management of Murray Park Hall in order to provide a public cafe, toilets, and a space for members of the public to use/hire.



Comprehensive plans were drawn up and presented to the council, however, unfortunately, the council has shown very little interest in working with FOMP and pursuing these plans. We are very disappointed and are concerned for the future of Murray Park Hall.

Instead, a temporary mobile catering concession has been organised which will be on site Saturdays/Sundays as soon as the football is up and running. Whilst the catering provision is on site a toilet accessible from the exterior of the hall will be open and available for the general public.



### 3 Treasure's report

#### Friends of Murray Park Accounts from 1/1 /2024 to 31/12/2024

Notes:	<b>HSBC Bank account</b>	
1, 2 & 3	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£ 18,448.47</b>
	<b>INCOME</b>	
	Lottery (Get Lucky Local)	£ 40.00
	Dog Portrait (Madip Nat)	£ 41.00
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 81.00</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
	Bank Charges	£ 60.00
4	Park Run sponsor refund (Mr L J)	£ 500.00
5	Dog Show expenses (net of income)	£ 244.00
	Committee Expenses	£ 96.02
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 900.02</b>
	<b>INCOME minus EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-£ 819.02</b>
	<b>Cash at bank balance</b>	<b>£ 17,629.45</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 £5k of the current balance is ringfenced grant money for history/information boards for the park
- 2 £10k is held as contingency in the hope of getting the lease on the hall for associated costs
- 3 £1k is held for a project to label the trees in the park

4 In 2019/20 we were in the process of establishing a junior park run, but this was a victim of covid and, as with many other park runs, no longer has public appetite. We had promises of grants which we have since declined, and a previous cash donation that we refunded this year.

5 Dog show expenses include £180 worth of entry fees for 60 contestants



#### 4 Amendment to constitution

The following amendments were proposed and agreed:

Existing	Proposed
<p>“Whitton Dene Open Space” the area known as Whitton Dene Open space situated in Whitton in the London Borough of Hounslow; all references to Murray Park shall be deemed to include Whitton Dene Open Space</p>	<p>“Whitton Dene Park” the area known as Whitton Dene Park situated in Whitton in the London Borough of Hounslow; all references to Murray Park shall be deemed to include Whitton Dene Park</p>
<p>Membership of the Group</p> <p><i>This section started at paragraph 5 with no contextual introduction</i></p>	<p><i>This paragraph is to be inserted prior to point 5:</i></p> <p>The Group is not required to have formal membership. It operates to benefit the local community situated around Murray Park, Whitton Dene Park and the users of both parks. If the Committee decides it would be practical or beneficial to introduce a formal membership scheme these conditions shall apply:</p>
<p>30. The Committee shall cause minutes to be made of the proceedings at its meetings and for the minutes of the full Committee meetings to be available to all Members. Minutes of sub-group meetings may be requested by Members from the individual subgroup. Copies of all minutes will be placed on the Group’s website once approved.</p>	<p>30. The Committee shall take notes of action points or cause minutes to be made of the proceedings at its meetings and any formal minutes of Committee meetings shall be placed on the Group’s website once approved.</p>
<p>40. The quorum for the AGM shall be eight Members or the number of current Committee Members, whichever is the lower, present in person at the time of commencement of the business of the meeting.</p>	<p>40. The quorum for the AGM shall be eight Members (if a membership system is in place) or the number of current Committee Members, whichever is the lower, present in person at the time of commencement of the business of the meeting.</p>
<p>48. Any expenditure exceeding £50 shall require the written consent of</p>	<p>48. Any expenditure exceeding £50 shall require the recorded consent of</p>



<p>any two of the Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary except where a greater amount is part of a project or activity that is budgeted for and approved and monitored by the Committee.</p>	<p>any two of the Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary except where a greater amount is part of a project or activity that is budgeted for and approved and monitored by the Committee. The persons consenting to expenditure shall not be from the same household.</p>
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## 5 Election of Committee

No nominations for additional Committee Members were received.

In compliance with the Constitution, Lynda Hance and Michael Young stood down from the Committee.

The following were re-elected to the Committee:

- Louise Cole
- Jack Dempsey (chaired the meeting)
- Lynda Hance
- Jacque Jordan
- Michael Young

**The meeting closed at 20:45**