

## **Tate Community Garden Minutes from steering group meeting held on 13/07/05**

### **Present:**

Peter Graal, BOST (PG)  
Leah McNally, BOST (LN)  
Donald Hyslop, Tate (DH)  
Synthia Griffin, Tate (SG)  
Laura Ivill, Local Resident (LI)  
Griselle Tarifa, Bost Trustee (GT)  
Lindsay Webster, Bost Trustee (LW)  
Francois Tarris, Local Resident (FT)  
Edith Slee, Local Resident (ES)

### **Items on the Agenda**

#### **1. Public Access.**

PG met informally with Robin Caig (Southwark Council) and discussed the recent application submitted to the Cleaner, Greener Safer scheme on behalf of the Community Garden steering group applying for funding to develop the garden. It was made clear that the decision not to fund the Community Garden was specifically related to the opening times and the issue of public access not being resolved.

It was suggested that during the latter part of the year, the garden could remain open during a trial period (from 9am -5pm) and that the use of the garden could be carefully monitored and any issues subsequently addressed by the Tate and the Steering group. ES objected to this stating that a high volume of visitors through the space would not be conducive to maintaining the wildlife and that the space would not be secure. She stated that the purpose of the garden was to be a space for wildlife and not huge members of the public and that this had already been agreed in past meetings. GT stated this was never agreed, as she was present in early steering group meetings. She would have objected if this were so. DH stated that there was never an agreement but public access was an issue that needed to be addressed.

FT mentioned that a secure environment could still be maintained especially if there was regular use of the garden by members of the community and school groups. ES mentioned that CCTV would not be an acceptable security measure and expressed concerns about how closely the footage could be monitored by members of Tate Security staff. DH suggested that there was not as yet a CCTV camera on the fence of the garden but that this is a security measure that could be put in place in the future. DH was appreciative of the concerns expressed but stated that in order for public money to continue to be spent on the development of the garden, there needed to be a clear strategy in place so that the space could be made available for members of the local community.

ES suggested that the garden should have a dedicated warden on site for local resident's protection. ES expressed her concerns at the number of school children currently using the Tate north landscape during term time. DH suggested that the garden could in effect be self-policed with careful signage, but that it is unlikely that there be the resources available for the garden to be staffed. ES reiterated her primary concerns regarding the opening of the community garden; that the anticipated high volume of visitors would not be conducive to nurturing wildlife in the garden and the vulnerability in terms of security to the three residential houses neighbouring the garden as well as the Globe would be significant. LW suggested that the existence of the pond, planting of wild flowers and the installation of bird boxes and bird feeders would attract a wide variety of wildlife which could be easily maintained. PG said that both gates should be open so that people could walk through. He also stated that if there weren't any bins and limited seating then people would be less inclined to litter the area and loiter. DH confirmed that the Tate ultimately has responsibility and therefore liability for the Community Garden space and he would need to confirm putting security measures in place that would address the concerns outlined.

**Action: DH to write a letter to the immediate residents neighbouring the garden outlining the security measures that Tate will be putting in place.**

## **2. Future Funding**

PG stated that future funding would depend on the result of Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) decision and feedback in response to the application. PG to report back the rest of the steering group at the next meeting.

## **3. The Pond**

DH stated that the Tate had a document detailing security issues in relation to deep bodies of water, which is available to read. DH and SG to attend a meeting with Brian Gray (Director of Operations, Tate) and the Tate landscapers (ISS Waterers) to talk about maintenance with reference to past problems with the pond at the Tate Britain.

PG mentioned that a Butyl liner was not adequate solution for the pond, as it would need to support the footbridge.

## **4. The Mosaic**

Following a recent forage on the foreshore of the Thames to collect pieces for the mosaic designed PG mentioned that more items would need to be collected in order to complete the mosaic.

## **5. Planting Days**

The short term maintenance of the garden was discussed, DH reported that ISS Waterers would be able to regularly weed (excluding the flower beds) and water the garden.

**Action: PG to organise some sessions to carry out low level maintenance of the garden (such as a weeding) and to circulate dates to the steering group.**

## **6. AOB**

London Wildlife Trust and TV's Linda Barker launched their new urban wildlife campaign 'Wild Up Your Street' at the garden space on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005. The campaign warned that important species in the capital are under threat, including the endangered stag beetle and the declining house sparrow and calls on Londoners to add natural value to their streets by urban wildlife gardening. SG to circulate images.

ES suggested that blackboards could be put up so that people could monitor wildlife in the garden each day, as was done at the Wetlands centre.

## **7. DONM**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005 in the Meeting Room, Tate modern.