

TATE MODERN MINUTES – COMMUNITY GARDEN STEERING GROUP MEETING
Meeting held 26 April 2007, 6.00pm in the Meeting Room

Present: Synthia Griffin (Chair) (SG), Peter Graal – BOST (PG), Joseph Bonner (JB), Francois Tarris (FT), Colin Brewer (CB).

Apologies: Adam Bakkar (AB), Edith Slee (ES), Brenda Vel (BV), Carole Wright (CW), Michael Osbourne (MO), Laura Ivill (LI).

1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minor corrections were made to the last meetings and re-circulated to the group.

SG

Volunteers Policy – PG reported to the group that this hadn't been finished but would be circulated to the group in advance of the next meeting.

PG

Gate Repair - SG has followed up the repair to the spring action mechanism of the gate. The repair had been requested and paid for in November 2006 and needs further investigation by the facilities team AMEC. Arch – PG to circulate plan for the design to the group.

SG

Shelter/Bench – the design had been modified to accommodate at least 10 people (by raising the height of the shelter and length of the bench), which is the maximum in the allotted space for the shelter.

PG

PG to continue to arrange inductions for the group at forthcoming maintenance sessions. FT has been inducted.

PG

2 OPENING/ACCESS

SG reported to the group that feedback from Security Control, BB Rangers and visitors to the garden had continued to be positive with the system working well. The security team are currently pressing the entry button for too long, and this causes difficulty closing the gate once in – SG to discuss with Security team.

SG

It was agreed that the access policy would be reviewed once the garden was open and usage was monitored and adjust if necessary. FT/JB suggested that if usage was low in Autumn/Winter different strategies could be explored to encourage residents to visit and expand the current community engagement programme.

Risk Assessment – PG to follow up with Dennis Ahern a risk assessment of the garden in advance of the opening and to discuss the entrance/exit points for visitors once in the garden.

PG

3 PENDING STRUCTURAL WORK PROGRESS UPDATE – GARDEN DESIGN, MOSAIC DESIGN, BUILD, POND, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mosaic – SG briefed the group on the progress of the mosaic. Jane Higginbottom (Mosaic Artist), Tam Giles and Edith Slee led the mosaic workshop, 31 residents (mixture of families/senior citizens) attended. A further 5 days were spent installing the mosaic. An appraisal of the different structural elements in the garden would take place once the garden has been opened and all planting complete.

Pond – Current work by the London Wildlife Trust to re-contour, deepen and enlarge the pond is taking place due to be complete by 27/04/07, with gravel in the bottom to help make pond life visible. A steering group volunteer day will take place on 29/04/07 to plant marginals around the pond/reconfigure the soil. FT & PG are sourcing bolders from the Thames shore to give a visual distinction to the edge of the pond.

Shelter & Benches – Arthur De Mowbray is currently working on this to be completed imminently. The benches will be made using Red wood (from a dead tree).

SG reported that budget planning was currently underway to confirm how much was remaining to spend on the garden. Plans for the planters, composting, further bench around the pond and arch were on hold until sufficient budget has been confirmed. Increased spending on the pond and other logistical items such as skips had led re-evaluation of the available budget.

PG to present options for a solid/opaque covering for the existing gates at the next meeting.

PG

4 FUTURE EVENTS (PARENTS & UNDER 5'S GARDENING CLUB – WED MORNING ONCE A MONTH, GREEN SPACE MAPPING – 28 APRIL, GRAND PREPARATIONS – 19 MAY, GRAND OPENING – 20 JUNE)

SG outlined to the group the forthcoming events planned in the garden (as above), in advance of the opening.

5 FORMAL OPENING – JUNE 2007

SG updated the group on the progress of plans for the garden opening in June 2007. It will be a two tiered event (Families – 4.00-5.30pm, Garden Party 6.00-8.00pm).

A marquee will be situated outside of the garden, with both gates open to provide a route through the garden. Food will be provided by the Bengali Women's Group.

Families – Michele Furier will lead activities in the marquee with families creating bunting which will be hung in situ in the garden. A seasonal Almanac documenting the progress of the garden will be available for those attending either parts of the event.

Garden Party Event – Opening Speeches with Nicholas Serota, Helen Firminger to MC, steering group member Edith Slee etc. London Wildlife Trust have been

approached to give insight into the insects in the garden.

6 AOB

FT mentioned that updating to the website to reflect new events needed to take place. SG explained that this had been actioned with Digital Programmes, Tate but as yet hadn't been updated. SG to follow up. FT & JB offered to contribute towards collating factual/pictorial documentation of the garden to build up an online archive.

SG

Arch – PG to finalise design with Arthur De Mowbray and share with the group.

PG

HSBC Trellis - PG to follow up sourcing heavy duty trellis for the perimeter wall neighbouring HSBC once budget is confirmed.

PG

7 DONM

Steering group meetings:

Thursday 24th May - Board Room Level 3