

Friends of Finchley Way Open Space

Newsletter: February 2020

On Saturday 15 February 2020 at 2.00 pm and Wednesday 19 February at 2.00 pm the Friends of Finchley Way Open Space will be holding a litter pick and vegetation clearance on The Green Field.

There will also be a tour of the "wild" areas of The Copse and The Orchard.

This is the start of our plan to protect and enhance the site for the people of Finchley and the wildlife that lives there.

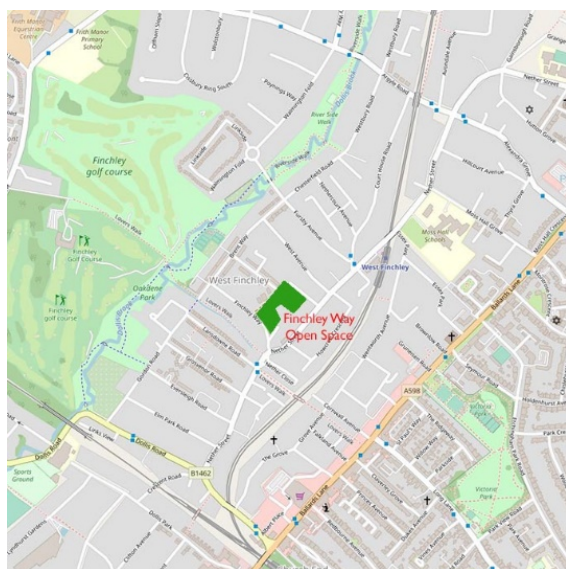
Please wear boots or stout footwear and gardening gloves. Barnet Council has provided pickers, shovels, brooms and some gardening gloves. If you have them please bring secateurs, loppers or pruning saws. (No power tools allowed.) Check in with our committee members (who will be wearing Hi-Vis) who will explain what to do.

Accompanied children are welcome to come along to help and have fun. We have some (very) small gardening gloves for them.

An update on what's been happening:

Thanks to everyone for their support.

Here is a map of the local area highlighting the site.



Friends - We now have nearly 60 Friends on our mailing list. If your family, friends and neighbours want to get involved, they just need to email the group at fofwos@gmail.com

The Friends' committee - The Committee held its first meeting on 27 January 2020. The Constitution was signed and the Vision and Objectives agreed. If you would like to see these, please email fofwos@gmail.com

We also discussed possible uses for the site, taking into account email comments and discussions at the wider Friends meeting on 17 December 2019. A plan is being put together for discussion at the next Committee meeting later in February.

Unfortunately Nicky Devlin has resigned as Treasurer due to pressure of work. Richard Bartholomew has agreed to take on this role. His fundraising role will be taken over by the Chair (Suzanne) for the time being, although we would like some assistance.

We still need someone to join the Committee to lead on marketing and publicity, both traditional and social media. If you're interested please get in touch.



Trial vegetation cut before the big event.

Funding - Before we can do too much work on the overgrown part of the site we need to conduct an ecology survey and then to have some clearance work done by professionals with heavy machinery. We need to fund raise for this.

We are putting together applications for funding from Barnet council. We are also looking for other funding sources for this work.

We also need funding for a website to cover the hosting and other incidentals.

If you or your organisation can help with fundraising or you would like to make a donation, please email fofwos@gmail.com

Suzanne and Alan will be going along to a meeting at Barnet council on Crowdfunding to explore how this can help us fund necessary works.

Mapping - A photo survey of the boundaries has been undertaken and an aerial survey is planned to be completed before the tree cover is too dense.

We are still awaiting information on the boundaries and ownership from the council.



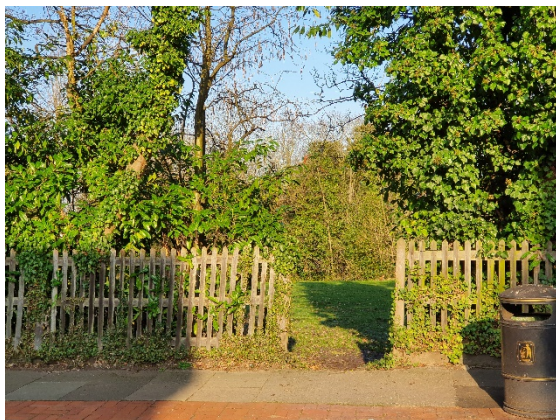
We found an old pump in The Orchard - it didn't work!

Contact with LB Barnet - Alan and Suzanne met the LBB Green Spaces Officer for the area on 15 January. We have submitted an "Adopt a place" plan and are waiting for sign-off. This will mean that we are covered by Barnet's indemnity insurance and agrees what the Friends will do on the site and the necessary support from the Council. The officer said that we could litter pick on the site and do some tidying-up work on the Green Field in the meantime.

Other local groups - We continue to make contact with other local groups to publicise the Friends group and garner support.

Alan and Richard Bartholomew (Treasurer) met with Dianne Murphy on 8 February. Dianne is Chair of Darlands Conservation Trust and a trustee of the London Wildlife Trust. During a tour of the site she gave some useful advice and ideas that we will build in to our plans.

Alan and Suzanne attended the quarterly meeting of the Barnet Green Spaces Network. The exchange of experiences is proving useful in developing our plans.



The entrance from Finchley Way after a partial clearance.

Contributions - If you would like to contribute information, photos or articles to the newsletter, please email fofwos@gmail.com

Facebook page - We now have over 20 friends signed up to our Facebook page. If you'd like to join and contribute please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1385689341590473/>



Another view of the pump. Anybody have any ideas about it?

Privacy Statement - we take your privacy seriously and do not pass on contact details to third parties. If you would like to see our statement, or if you would like to be removed from our contact list, please email fofwos@gmail.com



Our proposed Logo