



Meeting Description:	
<b>Meeting Name:</b>	St. John's Society Bi-Monthly Committee Meeting
<b>Date:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
<b>Time:</b>	20:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Brookmill Pub / Zoom <a href="https://bbc.zoom.us/j/99734759528">https://bbc.zoom.us/j/99734759528</a>
<b>Chair:</b>	Paul Middleton
<b>Minutes Taken:</b>	Paul Middleton / John Wood
<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	22:45
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> November @ 20:00

Attendance:			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Paul Middleton (PM)	Yes	Sean Coughlan (SC)	Yes
John Wood (JW)	Yes	Coleen Blackburn (CB)	No (apologies)
Anastasia Saward (AS)	Yes	Tom Lomax (TL)	No (apologies)
Nick Blomstrand (NB)	Yes	Kim Thundercliffe (KT)	No (apologies)
Christine C (CC)	Yes	Claire Hallam (CH)	No (apologies)
Rosie Garthwaite (RS)	Yes		
Bernd Rossmanith (BR)	Yes		
Alma Tischler Wood (AT)	Yes		

Item	2024 Performance Objectives	Status
1	Recruit 4 new members	100%
2	Establishment of the Brookmill Local Nature Reserve (BRLNR) friends' group	100%
3	Submit 2 funding proposals / Establish new income streams / methods	30%
4	Deliver Green Conversations as per plan	100%
5	Establish sustainable streets forum (awaiting results from Darren Gotch)	20%

Item	Description	Agenda Items	Comments
1	<b>Chair's intro</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General comments.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Organisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean Coughlan was voted in as a Committee Member.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General updates</li> <li>Ideas for future web / social media content, articles</li> <li>Where to advertise activities</li> <li>Community representation</li> <li>Optimise the planning of events</li> <li>Live streaming of events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New poster detailing YTD activities published during August and it was agreed that this will become a regular publication with the next one planned for the end of 2024, detailing 2H 2024 / 2025 objectives. This will be published on six monthly intervals from then on.</li> <li>It was suggested whether the Brookmill Pub would allow a dedicated information board for SJS communications to be published. This is to be understood further, as this would provide an excellent additional mechanism to locally communicate our activities.</li> <li>It was noted that much of our communications may seem one sided and therefore we should focus on a more consultative approach wherever possible. We need to review this and understand what methods can be used in order to do this. A good example raised is for the provision of a suggestions box and also the work that is being pulled together in reference to the BIG street survey – all will enable better visibility.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting to be conducted with Ashmead School PTA to introduce them to the St Johns Society and present the various activities that are ongoing. This will focus on Friendly Gardens upgrade plan and rain gardens with the aim of receiving feedback.</li> </ul>
4	<b>Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lewisham Amenity Society</li> <li>St Johns and Brookmill Road Character Appraisals</li> <li>Individual Planning Applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We received an update from the Lewisham Planning Conservation officer that they are still awaiting funding to be confirmed to begin the procurement of consultants to undertake the Character Appraisal work.</li> <li>The workaround proposed for mid-late Sep with the planners, councillors and BRCAS has therefore been delayed.</li> <li>AS and NB have been reviewing and submitting comments on recent planning applications.</li> <li>As statutory consultees for both conservation areas we are now receiving emails from Lewisham Planning notifying us of new applications</li> </ul>
5	<b>Trees and Greenery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees and Plants (General)</li> <li>SJ's Garden</li> <li>Renovation projects / Parks / Parklets</li> <li>Rain Garden maintenance</li> <li>Guerilla Gardening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STFL trees to be planted in Oct 2024 in the following locations: 117 Albyn Road, 32 Strickland Street, 43 Strickland Street and 50 Ashmead Road.</li> <li>SJ's Tree Forum is still being discussed but slowed down by the lack of support from Lewisham Council. This needs to be driven to conclusion with a positive outcome for the community ensuring improved visibility whilst reducing anxiety.</li> <li>A design and funding to be identified to improve SJ's garden with a focus on reducing anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>Land adjacent to SJ's station is in discussion with Network Rail and depending on the outcome, suitable designs and funding shall need to be understood moving into 2025.</li> <li>Friendly Gardens redesign / renovation plan has been submitted to the Council and further consultations are ongoing with the community incl all schools within the local area for feedback and data collection.</li> <li>An Oct/Nov date to be identified for the end of year Thornville rain garden maintenance/pruning etc. This will be communicated once agreed.</li> <li>Continuing to identify locations to support guerilla gardening. This has been extremely successful on Albyn and this should now be replicated on other streets where there is appetite by residents. There is a plan to install planters at the top and bottom of Ashmead, which it is hoped that this will deter fly tippers. We should consider a social media campaign promoting this as it is clear to see that many areas within St Johns are also doing this and together we can share ideas.</li> <li>AT reported guerilla planting progress including installing containers with plants (some currently fixed to the paving bricks). We reminded NB that he'd suggested asking Lewisham Council to remove bricks from certain areas where pavements were widened as traffic calming to allow further opportunities for planting and these could be a prelude to full rain garden status.</li> <li>JW's article on Bikes &amp; Biodiversity's criticizes councils for shameless stupidity which is to be published in the Sublime magazine. This should be shared with the community.</li> <li>JW mentioned Lewisham's reply to his complaint about Glendale's expensive removal of moss from playground Next Greening Conversations evening on 28th October 'Bikes &amp; Biodiversities'. This will address Lewisham's failure to mention mosses in its Biodiversity Policy.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Pooling, Drainage and Flooding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUDs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings are continuing with Marcus Gayle and consultations will be communicated to discuss the SJ's regreening / SUDs initiatives during Q4 2024/Q1 2025. This is part of the BIG St Johns Street Consultation which is in development and again will be properly communicated as the plans are drawn up. Should further information be required speak to PM and or NB.</li> </ul>

7	<b>Transport and Road Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Streets</li> <li>• School Streets</li> <li>• Zebra Crossings</li> <li>• Traffic Calming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic tubes are now back in St Johns and we are awaiting an update from Darren Gotch (Council) on future improvement works which also include: Albyn School Street rollout and the Friendly Street zebra crossing.</li> <li>• Further discussions to be had on traffic reduction and calming initiatives across the area.</li> </ul>
8	<b>Fly Tipping and Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tipping</li> <li>• Litter Picking</li> <li>• Dog Waste</li> <li>• Bins on Friendly Street</li> <li>• New waste bins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tipping to be monitored and residents advised to utilise the app 'love clean streets'. It was also suggested that we should also use the app for overflowing bins to enable some form of data collection across our area.</li> <li>• A different approach was suggested for litter picking with the aim to make this more effective to all. This shall involve individuals within SJS wearing a SJS Hi-Viz and organising their own individual litter picking or and to be considered zoned areas where SJS individuals create their own localised groups at a day and time suitable for themselves. Photos of this should be shared on social media to support this initiative and thus share with the community.</li> <li>• Dog waste is an issue within SJ's and options / discussions ongoing. A wider discussion to be held on this subject.</li> <li>• New eagerly awaited bins that have been requested from the Council are still a 'work in progress' and are being chased up with the Council. An update shall be hopefully obtained ahead of the next meeting. (hopefully they will have been installed by then).</li> <li>• It has been widely observed that Glendale are failing to pick up bins (JW suggested sending regular pictorial reports of full bins to 'love clean streets' App, so that data is logged / visual). This was supported as an action and could also apply to reporting vehicle idling / failures / poorly observed actions by Glendale in general. On this point it was suggested that it is now time to hold a meeting with the Council and Glendale so that feedback can be fed back to try and improve the current situation.</li> <li>• A review of how do other boroughs deal with waste was raised and this information will be interesting to try and understand on what changes could be discussed with the Council (funding related however).</li> </ul>
9	<b>Pavements and Accessibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of asphalt pavements</li> <li>• Lift access to SJ Station</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen Penfold has formally contacted the Council re the recent spate of poor quality pavement works across St Johns and formal response was received. This was in relation to the removal of perfectly good paving slabs with asphalt replacement which in many cases across pavements within St Johns meant that asphalt was laid right up the tree bases, starving the trees of water and nutrients. This now requires further review and discussion on what action should be taken. If for example residents have to undergo rigorous planning consent to their properties living within a conservation area, then the same should be expected of the council and their contractors for work carried out within the same area. This is an example of differing standards and extremely poor leadership and must be questioned.</li> <li>• St John's Station Access committee has now been established with leadership from Stephen Penfold. This involves multiple community and committee stakeholders and the next meeting is planned in Oct. Regular communications will be shared.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Arts and Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murals</li> <li>• Ghost signs</li> <li>• Graffiti management</li> <li>• Maroon Plaque Scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornville Street Raingarden Mural is being discussed with Network rail and a design is currently being reviewed internally.</li> <li>• We shall review the potential of initiating a renovation project for historical street signs termed as ghost signs within St Johns. This can be a subject for 2025/26.</li> <li>• The maroon plaque scheme to be relaunched to commemorate the St John's residents who assisted the survivors of the St John's crash of 1957.</li> </ul>

11	<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review a list of funding opportunities that can be identified.</li> <li>Agree funding schedule so we are clear on what, why and when we need to submit in order to be well positioned for success.</li> <li>Funding needs to consider day to day running of SJS and identified / agreed projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A draft funding plan should be brought to the meeting in Nov for 2025.</li> <li>This funding plan should focus on what we want to fund, is it realistic, expected timelines, and then we can identify suitable grants/ funders.</li> <li>SJS communications should clearly illustrate the need for donations, whilst not compulsory attendees to events should be made aware that however small the donation, it all helps and supports what we are able to offer to the community.</li> <li>Donation card reader now working and QR code within reach. We need to understand why certain QR codes seem to not work after 24hrs and rectify this, so that we have a direct link to our SJS funding page – always.</li> <li>PM suggested hybrid funding bids e.g. art—&gt; biodiversity. This could be a powerful combination when assessing which bids we can go for. This is to be explored ahead of our next meeting.</li> <li>AT suggested circulating funding deadlines before we decide on spending plans. As we have no dedicated fundraisers, members are more likely to be motivated by time pressures than specific funding opportunities.</li> <li>In regards to murals, Network Rail have no money and as such we should explore suitable arts and or together arts/biodiversity funding opportunities. These have been shared with the Soc.</li> </ul>
12	<b>Collaboration with other community groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FOFG</li> <li>Florence Road</li> <li>Brookmill Park</li> <li>Brookmill Road</li> <li>BRLNR</li> <li>Brockley Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing meetings as needed have been held with other society groups to reinforce community support and sharing of ideas.</li> </ul>
13	<b>Future Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mondays @ 7:30pm</li> <li>Venue: Brookmill Pub and/or Zoom</li> <li>22/4/24, 17/6/24, 16/9/24, 11/11/24</li> <li>AGM 2025: 3/2/25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee meetings block booked at the Brookmill Pub</li> </ul>
14	<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct 31<sup>st</sup>: SJ's Social (BM Pub)</li> <li>Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: SJ's Social (BM Pub)</li> <li>Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: The BIG SJ's Christmas Raffle</li> <li>Dec 24: Advent Windows / Carol Singing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work on marketing flyer / social media</li> <li>Work on marketing flyer / social media, JW/AT will check out Deptford Community Choir as starter for Xmas Dec 13th at Brookmill</li> <li>LB unavailable to support this year and as such we need to agree who / dates and if agreed to move forwards. PM will review with residents on Ashmead Road if there is appetite to support this too.</li> </ul>
15	<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A space for people to raise issues they would like to deal with ASAP, general ideas or agenda items for the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments</li> </ul>

#### Actions:

Item	Category	Actions	Who	When
1	<b>Finance and Funding</b>	Donation tin and sum-up machine to be brought to all events.  <b>General:</b>  Note we should consider that our posters and other communications should maybe state 'donations are welcome	PM/CC  Info	Oct/Dec

		<p>to support ongoing initiatives' or words to that affect. Worth a discussion so we are all comfortable with that.</p> <p>Consultation should be sort within the community on what they would also like to see within St Johns.</p> <p><b>Identified Projects:</b></p> <p><b>Mural/s = £5-10K (2024/2025 project)</b> Funding Options which should be progressed in Q4 2024 for 2025 if time allows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowd Fund?</li> <li>• Network Rail?</li> <li>• Not Thames Water (they are hopefully involved in bigger commitments to support the local area right now)</li> <li>• Other: <a href="https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/uk-arts-grant-funding/">https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/uk-arts-grant-funding/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>St Johns Garden = £5-7K (2024/2025 project)</b> Funding Options which should be progressed in Q4 2024 for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowd funding</li> <li>• National Garden Scheme</li> <li>• Kew Grow Wild</li> <li>• The National Allotments Gardens Trust (NAGT)</li> <li>• Groundwork</li> <li>• National Lottery Climate Action Fund</li> <li>• Hubbub</li> </ul> <p><b>Guerilla Planting = £1-5K (probable 2025 project)</b> Funding Options which should be progressed in Q4 2024 for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowd funding</li> <li>• National Garden Scheme</li> <li>• Kew Grow Wild</li> <li>• The National Allotments Gardens Trust (NAGT)</li> <li>• Groundwork</li> <li>• National Lottery Climate Action Fund</li> <li>• Hubbub</li> </ul> <p><b>Rail Land = Circa £10-30K (probable 2025/26 project)</b> Depending on outcomes, discussions, design and scope of work, these are some potential funding options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Garden Scheme</li> <li>• Kew Grow Wild</li> <li>• The National Allotments Gardens Trust (NAGT)</li> <li>• Groundwork</li> <li>• National Lottery Climate Action Fund</li> <li>• Hubbub</li> </ul> <p><b>Ghost Signs = £XK (2025/26 project)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to review scopes and funding</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/uk-arts-grant-funding/">https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/uk-arts-grant-funding/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>2025+ Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare SJS funding plan</li> <li>• Prepare project funding / bids plan</li> </ul>	<p>AT/Others</p> <p>Who would like to own this project?</p> <p>Who would like to own this project?</p> <p>Who would like to own this project?</p> <p>PM/All</p>	<p>Sep/Dec</p> <p>Sep/Dec</p> <p>Sep/Dec</p> <p>Sep/Dec</p> <p>Nov/Dec</p>
2	<b>Recruitment</b>	Continue to look at our own networks / neighbours and recruit a friend to join.	All	Sep/Dec
3	<b>Planning</b>	Conservation Area reviews for Brookmill Road and St John's ongoing and being coordinated by Senior Conservation and	NB/AS	Sep/Oct

		Design Officer. Further updates to be communicated on this subject.		
4	<b>Fly Tipping and Waste</b>	<p>New bins that have been requested and approved to be confirmed. Email sent on 16/09 to Council representative. A realistic timeframe to be understood.</p> <p>Litter picks for 2024 have now come to a close and a change in how we undertake these will be tried moving forwards. SJS members to submit their sizes to RG who will distribute Hi-Viz jackets. When individual litter picking occurs, ensure photos are communicated for social media purposes and try and engage with neighbours within the area. Most importantly be careful and take care.</p>	<p>RG</p> <p>RG / All</p>	<p>Sep/Nov</p> <p>Sep/Dec</p>
5	<b>Trees and Greening</b>	<p>Ownership of the land adjacent to the station is now confirmed and that it is owned by Network Rail and further communications being pursued to agree next steps.</p> <p>Scheduling of quarterly weeding and general maintenance of Thornville rain garden to be communicated and advertised on the website events page.</p> <p>Tree Forum to be pushed forward with the Council and STfL.</p>	<p>RG</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p>	<p>Sep/Nov</p> <p>Sep/Nov</p> <p>Sep/Dec</p>
	<b>Pooling, Drainage and Flooding</b>	Consultation, process and question set under development to support the identification of new SUDs locations	NB/AM	Sep/Dec
6	<b>Arts and Culture</b>	<p><b>Murals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree mural design</li> <li>• Mural works schedule and costings</li> <li>• Approval from Network Rail - if they fully agree to a mural on their property and if they are, then we need to, understand if Network Rail will fund this and if not, then we can review some of the following: <a href="https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/uk-arts-grant-funding/">https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/uk-arts-grant-funding/</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ghost Signs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan to be developed and understand from other areas on what they had to do to tackle this / obtain funding.</li> <li>• Let's try and get more information to allow us to discuss this subject at the next meeting, then we can plan into the 2025 plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maroon Plaque:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the application. <a href="https://libraries.lewisham.gov.uk/digital-content/lewisham-heritage/maroon-plaques">https://libraries.lewisham.gov.uk/digital-content/lewisham-heritage/maroon-plaques</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>AT/Others</p> <p>AT/Others</p> <p>SC</p>	<p>Sep/Dec</p> <p>Nov/Dec</p> <p>Oct</p>
7	<b>Transport and Road Safety</b>	<p>Continue to work with Darren Gotch on sustainable streets and support with community consultation where needed.</p> <p>Obtain and update from the Council on what improvements will be rolled out and when.</p>	PM/NB	Oct/Dec
8	<b>Pavements and Accessibility</b>	<p>Reduction of asphalt pavements letter sent to the council from Councillor Stephen Penfold to be followed up</p> <p>Lift access to SJ Station - Rail Users Group in the process of being established and first meeting to be held in Oct (date being confirmed)</p>	<p>PM/NB</p> <p>PM/NB/JW</p>	<p>Sep/Nov</p> <p>Oct</p>
9	<b>Events</b>	<p><b>Green conversations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• 2025 schedule and content to be developed</li> </ul>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>	<p>Sep/Oct</p> <p>Dec/Jan</p>

		<p><b>The BIG SJS Christmas Raffle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm date – Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Agree the plan to sell tickets and when.</li> <li>• Design flyer for both social media and info board.</li> <li>• Add to website events page.</li> <li>• Prizes already obtained (need to confirm validity): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Talbot Pub £50 voucher</li> <li>○ Brookmill Pub £50 voucher</li> <li>○ Hortiz £30 plant / candle voucher</li> <li>○ Marcella £50 voucher</li> <li>○ KJ Supplies £80 voucher</li> <li>○ Art donation (Tom)</li> <li>○ Art donation (Alma)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To be obtained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Everest Curry (Nick)</li> <li>○ Isla Ray (Nick)</li> <li>○ Further items to be provided such as bottles of plonk / soft drinks / Anything worthy etc (All)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>SJS Community Social</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oct 31st</li> <li>• Inform Brookmill Pub of our plan</li> <li>• Design flyer</li> <li>• This shall occur every 4 months and should be added to the website events page. (3 x a year)</li> </ul> <p><b>Rain Garden Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of year rain garden maintenance works to be confirmed</li> </ul> <p><b>SJS Community Social + Raffle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design flyer and identify a date for a community social. This will occur every 3 months and should be added to the website events page. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</li> </ul> <p><b>SJS Christmas Advent Windows and Carol Singing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify who can lead this within the community and ensure added to the website events page.</li> </ul>	TBC	Sep/Oct
			All	Oct/Nov
			TBC	Oct
			PM	Oct/Nov
			TBC	Dec
			TBC	Dec
10	AOB			