



St Johns Society and Friendly Gardens Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: 13/05/2026

Time: 20:00 – 22:00

Location: Brookmill Pub, SE8

1. Who Was There:

Nick Blomstrand (NB), Christine C (CC), Rosie Garthwaite (RS) , John Wood (JW), Sabine Pusch (SP), Kim Thundercliff (KT), Anastasia Saward (AS)

2. Who Couldn't Make It:

Paul Middleton (PM), Alma Tischler Wood (AT), Sean Coughlan (SC), Sebastian Bowden (SB), Freddy Tennyson (FT), Karun Vinayagam (KV), Jo Hemmings (JO), Claire Hallam (CH)

3. New Members:

Volunteers: Abbie, Lynn, Una (these are all on various St. John's soc whatsapp groups)

4. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

approved

5. Agenda:

a. Finance

- Current balance: £16,323.43 - first half of the green roots fund £15,667 to pay for the work on the Brookmill roundabout rain garden. Plus the regular donations and the plant sale. Further funding to be generated throughout 2026. Further bids and opportunities to be progressed during 2026.

b. Achievements & Activities

- **Friendly Gardens:** PM has been dealing with the improvement project - Ethan (Lewisham Council) is working on designs and cost estimates to enable work to be awarded to a contractor for phase 1. Jordan (Lewisham Council) has been in discussions with Thames Water and they are preparing for the installation of the two drinking water fountains and SJS will receive an update during May. CC has been working with Glendale and new soil has now been provided. Once designs and construction works have been confirmed, then a social media update will be issued to the community to keep everyone up to date with activities.

- **Bins** - If it's in the park it's Glendale. Write to: Lewisham@Glendale-services.co.uk
Send photos. If in the streets especially by the Station and by Ashmead School, then report via the 'Love Clean Streets' app.
- **St. John's garden** – will ask for an update from Karun.
- **St. John's station woodland.** A survey is happening on 20th May which will supply information that FT and SB can use to progress the next stage of the design and scope. An opinion survey has been done, but needs more responses. Karun is doing a poster with a QR code to encourage people to fill it out. The push on the socials got loads of responses, but Freddy wants more. RG - lets give people an update and the questionnaire feedback to be used in socials.
- **St. John's station** step free. Stephen Penfold is still involved but we'll need to chase the new councillors to get it moving. This needs to be progressed given the work initially expended so we do not lose momentum.
- **New green councillors** Arrange a meeting with them to introduce ourselves and engage with them about the topics we are concerned about. We look forward to better representation and a more democratic process. Step free access to the station, the station Woodland, bins, charging cable gullies for electric cars, planning - conservation area character appraisal for the two conservation areas here, greening, SuDs, obtaining funding, healthy neighbourhoods - skip lorries damaging the bollards, skip lorries speeding to get up the hill, pavement parking, e-bike parking (geofencing parking areas for the e-bikes - follow-up on Council proposal for e-bike parking bay installation within St Johns Station carpark which is planned in Q3 2026).
- **Brookmill SUDS project** design to replace the roundabout has been finalised and GR have transferred half the money to enable works to commence. Engagement sessions to be planned with Darren Gotch (Council) to plan the next steps and ensure alignment to initial plan and schedule. Social media comms to be planned and community engagement to ensure this project reaches residents.
- **Ashmead School**, Lewisham Rd. entrance. We're still working on trying to develop a planting plan. Glendale has put some more soil under the trees. Planting needs to occur during May/June, so that the plants have time to establish. Note that plants used need to be drought tolerant where possible. Is there a possibility that a small grant from the school could be obtained for the purchase of plants? Could SP review and update on this?
- **Three new pedestrian crossings** were delivered on Friendly street, Brookmill Rd. and Florence Rd.
- **Graffiti removal** on the stone house wall on Lewisham way - still graffiti free!
- **A Rail Plaque** to commemorate the 1957 St. John's rail crash will be put up later in 2026 (exact date TBC) alongside another talk about the crash on the anniversary on December 4th at the Arthouse (TBC).

- **Spring Plant sale** SP & CC to run in the church garden with Becks from Ashmead. We've had quite a bit of interest. CC to bring a float.
- **St. John's T-shirts & Tote Bags** - let's get some made and see if they sell! Who is leading this and by when?
- **E-bike parking** - need to set up geofencing for ebike parking in the area. Monitoring of this shall occur during 2026 and updates shall be communicated to the community. Follow up with Council on e-bike parking bay installation within St Johns Station carpark.
- **Volunteers** - We've recruited a few new people who are keen. They are listed at the top of this document and we're communicating with them via our Whatsapp groups.
- **Watering team** has been organised for the new trees in Friendly Gardens and reminder to be sent out on socials to ensure we keep residents aware that they need to water new trees planted on the streets. If there is a WhatsApp group for this, then this needs to be communicated, so that we can increase the membership to spread the word.

c. Planning

- NB ten members of the community commented on the two draft character appraisals. Sian and Steve (former councillors) supported our feedback and position and we still didn't have any response or even acknowledged our comments.

d. 2026 Activities / Forward Planning

- Website management SP to have a look at helping with it.
- Brookmill park would like to collaborate - we need to instigate a meeting to understand opportunities in working together.

e. General Outlook

- Sunny with occasional hail.

If members and the residents of St Johns would like to make a regular payment to support our work the bank details are as follows:

- Bank Acc: Natwest
- Acc Name: St Johns Society
- Sort: 600001
- Acc No: 36364606

f. Next Meeting

- TBD and SP will check with the Brookmill Pub for a date around the middle of July, 8pm @ The Brookmill Pub (upstairs)

g. End