**The Friends of Arnold Circus Meeting:**

**Leila’s Shop, Calvert Avenue, E2 7JP**

**Wednesday 5th February 2020**

**Trustees Present:**

Leila McAlister, Jenny Bernard (Treasurer), Neil Cummings (note taker), Robin Hatton-Gore, Jean Locker, Brendan McKnight, Andrew Clark (Chair), Angelika Noll

**Also in attendance:** Andrew Willoughby (Head Gardener)

**Missing in Action:** Samson Soboye

**Agenda:**

1. **Apologies**

Alice Herrick (secretary)

1. **Minutes of last meeting (AGM?)**

Not available, and we agree to post them on the website from now on

**ACTION:** Jenny to Brendan

1. **Matters Arising from last meeting (AGM)**

We agree to post these from now on, on our website. Because none of us have them, or can see them…….

**ACTION:** Jenny to Brendan

1. **Gardeners Report**

Currently very well supported by volunteers. A lot is happening and the garden is waking after winter sleep

Newish volunteer Charlie is quietly great, Susanna too.

Lots of planting, new planting from plants recently bought from Provender nurseries near Swanley. Exciting day out.

Plants bought/ donated from Andy and Jean.

There is now power to the bandstand - light, and to the pumps. We are waiting for the pumps to be fitted - they will meet - council and pump expert - later this week/early next.

Alice Bigelow - Head of Parks, very nice, was encountered at Boundary Estate Meeting

**ACTION:** Neil to email Alice Bigelow, to invite for Friday gardening and lobby about fountain.

1. **Finances**
   1. Adam Dant Print - no update
   2. Local businesses- Leila met with Charlie (new trustee and angel gardener). He is keen to coordinate local sponsors, and is well connected
   3. Fundraising - Angelika is keen we develop our strategic plan and our mission statement. This will enable us to contact potential Corporate sponsors.

Andrew talks of a virtual Arnold Circus, and sponsors could pay for the ‘upkeep’ of a quadrant of digital estate - maybe also sponsor birds, bats, trees, plants, benches, etc

**ACTION:** We agree a fundraising sub-group for corporates

Angelica - will coordinate, with Jenny, Charlie, Leila

We need a list of stakeholders, and a stakeholder map

First we need to define who we are and what we want to do (see strategic plan and mission statement) to build and manage relationships. Outreach - like the Film Office,

We need to define our Stakeholders and possible Sponsors, these are two distinct but overlapping groups.

**ACTION:** Andrew to make a Stakeholder map, we will all feed into it.

We discuss a permanent sign for the Circus - announcing our presence and enabling donations, and a possible postcard

**ACTION**: Neil to get a quote, for the sign

**ACTION:** Robin to get quote to make an enamel sign

**ACTION:** Robin to contact Abake to make a postcard

**ACTION:** Jenny to contact Tower Hill Trust

Robin wants a carved wooden sign

1. **Bishopsgate Goodsyard**

Do we want to make a response to the planning application?

We discuss how to object to the current scheme, and if we want to propose alternatives. Difficult to propose alternatives as we don’t have expertise, so agree to object.

**ACTION:** Jean and Robin to draft a letter of objection - mentioning the negative impacts on the gardens, and estate.

**ACTION:** Robin to remove our logo/name from More Light More Power.

1. **Livable Streets Update**

As far as we know the livable streets scheme for Arnold Circus has been approved.

We don’t know when the work will start.

We are concerned about the design, functionality and conservation impacts of the proposed scheme for Arnold Circus.

We want to be involved

**ACTION:** Jenny, write to livable streets saying that we want to be involved in the design of the Circus - we have already sent them our conservation document.

1. **Any other Business**

We discuss if there is any mitigation of ASB, after the change in parking restrictions.

Might be slightly better but it's too cold to tell for sure…

Trade might be suffering - Saturday and Sunday

We discuss attendance of trustees, and decide to remind everybody of their responsibilities.

Dates of all the meetings

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

6th April 2020 - and, henceforth, the first Monday of every second month.

There was no other, other business and the meeting closed at 9pm.