

**Edible Landscapes London (ELL) General Meeting**  
**Friday 15th July 2016**

**Present**

Trustees: Alex Sylvester, Carrie Anker, Chris Speirs, Gemma Harris, Jane Howson, Jo Homan, Nick Turner, Richard Vials, Sarah Bush, Vanessa Morris

Members: David Reid

**Apologies**

Lucy Nacson-Jones, Lorena Vila

**Next Meeting**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October - AGM & General Meeting focusing on ELL's strategic aims, followed by a social activity. Chair – Jane (AGM) Chris Speirs (GM)

**Invitation to trustees, members, leaders, volunteers**

***Note to trustees: If you cannot make the AGM or General Meeting please do send apologies in advance to the meeting Chair***

**1. Actions from last GM in April 2016**

<b>Who?</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Richard	Send details of current comms to Jo, Lorena, Damian, Chris, Jamshid, David, Les and Nick	Complete
Gemma	Close Google calendar	Complete
All	If anyone has an event, use link on Facebook. For any big events, email Jo and she will update on the website.	Ongoing
Jo & Richard	Ask council about option of using a different site and suggest depot option. Plan site with Alex and Les, cc'ing Vanessa, Carries, Lorena and Chris	Ongoing
Vanessa	Go back to TCV and see if there is a potential to work with ELL if they were to be based at the Depot site.	Ongoing
Richard & Alex	Nick to pass on Richard's contact details to Make Sense. Richard to find out more about the offer.	Complete
Sarah & Alison	To take on contact from Jo with Inspire Academy	Complete
Richard & Les	To find out brand name of chalk pens that work	Complete
Vanessa	To make sure blackboard is in greenhouse	Complete
Vanessa	To make signs to promote volunteering opportunities at ELL and recruiting more session leaders	Complete

Jo	Ask Stuart informally about future of site	Ongoing
Nick	To investigate retail of land	Complete
Gemma	To send email with details about FoP forum before meeting on June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Complete
All	Promote session leader roles among volunteers.	Ongoing

## 2. Summary of Actions

Who?	Action	When
Gemma	Share contacts of Friends of Wolves Lane, who attend Friends of Parks Forum	July
Richard, Jo	Arrange visit to ELL, coinciding with school visit or other activity, with Cllr Emine Ibrahim and invite Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Peray Ahmet	July/August
Jo	Arrange meeting with Stuart Hopking for update on status of existing site (Finsbury Park nursery)	August/September
Jo	Arrange meeting with Friends of Wolves Lane	August/September
Chris	Contact Haringey Estates Team on Manor House Lodge Building/Garden Lease.	August/September
Carrie	Update Safeguarding policy	14 <sup>th</sup> October
Chris, Nick	Review ELL policies	14 <sup>th</sup> October
Jo	Share date of next (August) Manor House Lodge gardening group meeting	July
Jo	Following up possible links with Urban Orchard Project	August/September
Vanessa, Sarah, Richard	Draft an advert for new session leaders / key role and consider where to advertise this.	October
Sarah	Email the advert to former ELL student/volunteers to communicate the opportunity to become site leaders, as well as a more key role (once or twice a week)	August/September
Jo	Post session leader role on Team London website	August/September
Sarah, Vanessa, Jo	Organise to flyer the local area/ community notice boards as an activity on a volunteer session	August/September
Sarah	Scrap formal A and B leader differentiation on leader rota	July
All	Session leaders still needed for August	July/August
Jo	Follow up application for Charitable Status	August/September
Nick	Organise social to follow AGM/GM on 14 <sup>th</sup> October	October

## **ELL Site**

Letter with proposal sent to Simon Farrow (Haringey Council), Richard spoke to him in person and asked about the existing site and he indicated that there is still uncertainty. Stuart Hopking (Haringey Council) responsible for Wolves Lane Centre.

Richard has spoken to local Cllr Emine Ibrahim who is interested in visiting the site. Chris suggested to also contact the Cabinet Member for Environment - Cllr Peray Ahmet. Contact details for [Haringey Cllrs](#). Group agreed to arrange visit to coincide with a regular activity i.e. school visit.

Richard proposed that we should continue to pursue opportunity to move into Manor House Lodge, suggesting to split twice-weekly volunteer sessions across both sites. Jane asked about capacity and there was concerns raised about ELL's capacity to manage both sites concurrently. Vanessa mentioned that some volunteers, such as Les, have shown an interest in a weekend/evening session on the site, in future. Chris raised about the cost of lease for the Manor House garden as prohibitive.

Jo mentioned opportunity to meet Manor House Lodge gardening group (who look after the herbaceous border) Jo also proposed a link with Urban Orchard project and it was agreed to progress.

## **Recruiting and Training Session leaders**

There was a discussion, led by Vanessa, on opportunities for recruiting new leaders, following research into ways in which ELL could advertise for session leaders on websites such as Environment Job. Vanessa suggested offering an internship. Similar opportunities from similar organisations tend to be structured, often offering something like training. ELL are already inducting, training and mentoring new leaders, but we could emphasise this opportunity more when advertising for leaders.

Vanessa suggested that any workshops or formal courses that ELL deliver could be made available to regular leaders for training purposes. Richard also suggested that ELL become a host for Duke of Edinburgh students. It was agreed that this would be a good idea for volunteers, not session leaders.

Sarah confirmed there are approx. 8 regular leaders on the rota and raised that session leaders still needed for some days in August but September was mostly covered.

The group discussed ways in which we could offer training to develop session leaders and ways to develop role into an internship. Carrie suggested an intern could shadow an A leader for a period of time i.e. 1 month. It was agreed that we should first advertise for session leaders/ key roles amongst previous ELL students and volunteers, asking if any of them would be interested in a regular position before advertising for an intern externally. If we are unable to find enough people already familiar with ELL for a key-role position, Vanessa, Sarah and Richard would prepare an advert with a framework for an internship, to present to Trustees at the next meeting.

Nick suggested that we should communicate that parents with children are very welcome on site as both leaders and volunteers.

The group agreed that there was no need to keep the differentiation between A & B leaders on the session leaders' rota, as this level of experience was constantly changing, depending on how often the individuals were attending. It was agreed that Sarah (who organised the rota) would be able to use her own knowledge of individuals' experience to pair up leaders, so that inexperienced leaders would always have a more experience partner.

### **Trustees**

Jo proposed that 15 trustees was too many to convene and for everyone to feel they could contribute. As an example, if we have an idea it is difficult to canvas opinion and progress. It was proposed to reduce to 7 who would share responsibility to lead working groups.

Gemma suggested that other organisations have paid employees and trustees are benevolent to help steer the organisation, so our situation is not analogous. Gemma raised that ELL trustees are active. A lot of trustees were recruited from courses and trustees have become more involved as a result. Chris suggested numbers would reduce with natural attrition if we did not replace trustees. Jane raised that application to become a charity is ongoing, so trustees are still theoretical.

It was agreed not to change current arrangements. To progress between meetings, it was agreed that a decision can be made based on those trustees responding to a proposal sent to the group with a reasonable timeframe to reply. It is not requisite for all trustees to respond.

### **Working Parties**

Jo proposed working parties that would meet to progress activity between General Meetings. It was agreed to start with 4 working parties, as below. If you have capacity and would like to join a working party please email others in the group.

Comms - Jo, Vanessa and Nick

Site - Richard, Jane

Training/education/volunteer mgt - Carrie, Sarah, Jo, Vanessa

Fundraising, policy, strategy - Chris, Sarah, Nick

### **Forest Gardening training**

Richard stated it is important we don't lose our training momentum. Chris suggested to discuss overall strategy, aims and funding in next meeting. Jo suggested this could be facilitated using the ['World Café Method'](#)