



## **The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground**

**Meeting:** AGM, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

**Venue:** Roger Spiers Room, Azelia Hall, Beckenham

### **AGM Apologies**

Sarah Snook  
Dr Michael Doble  
Mark Amis

### **AGM Attendees**

Cllr Christine Harris (Kelsey and Eden Park Ward)  
Dave Cook  
Chris Phillips  
Terry Guntrip  
John Backway  
Tim Nicholls  
Brenda Knight  
Desmond Knight  
Stephen Sale  
Peter Fookes  
Sarah Phillips  
Patrick Olliffe

#### **1.0 Minutes of the AGM 3.12.2024**

1.1 These were approved. Proposer: Dave Cook. Seconder: Cllr Harris

#### **2.0 Reports from the officers**

##### **2.1 Chairman's report**

The Chairman thanked the officers and committee members for their continuing support and massive contribution to the Friends and the Recreation Ground over the last year.

The other main points of the report were as follows:

###### **2.1.1 Paddling Pool Fundraising and Project Update Report**

The chair recognised the huge effort made by Sarah Snook and her team towards fulfilling our objective to replace the old paddling pool. Sarah had provided the following report which was read out at the meeting:

*Our JustGiving fundraising page went live over the summer and has already raised £4,260. In addition, a recent community fundraising event has generated a further £390, bringing our current total to £4,650.*

*Over the coming weeks, we will be promoting the page more widely through Facebook and beginning outreach to local businesses. Our aim is to reach £5,000 by Christmas, which would represent 10% of our overall community fundraising target of £50,000.*

*Looking ahead, we are planning a series of community fundraising events throughout 2026 to help us achieve that target. Support from local businesses and from community-led fundraising will be essential. At present, our fundraising is being carried out by a very small team of volunteers, so any additional volunteers, new fundraising ideas, or independently organised fundraising efforts would be greatly welcomed.*

*We are pleased to report that the council is fully supportive of the project. Although they do not currently have the funds required, they are applying for a Lottery grant as the landowner to secure the remainder of the project costs. They have been proactive in launching a public consultation and gathering letters of recommendation to strengthen the bid.*

*The initial planning stage is also underway. The council invited expressions of interest from approved water-play construction specialists, and several responded with portfolios of similar projects, recommendations for suitable designs, and broad cost estimates. The next phase will involve developing a site-specific design and obtaining an accurate quote. Based on early estimates, the total project cost is expected to be between £250,000 and £300,000, including all infrastructure.*

*Two key design priorities are full accessibility for all children and a water-treatment system that allows water to be safely reused.*

*Thank you to everyone who has supported the project so far. With continued community involvement, we are making strong progress toward creating an inclusive and sustainable facility for local families.*

The chairman and Sarah Snook had met on site with idverde and Bromley Council officers to agree the way forward on 26.6.25. Consultation on the draft proposals had concluded with nearly 1,000 responses, the vast majority of which were in favour of the new splash pool proposals.

### 2.1.2 Park Toilets

Our preference is to demolish the existing hidden and vandalised obsolete WC block and reactivate the existing WCs by the playground. This continues to be resisted by officers of Bromley Council on cost grounds although the logic of this is not clear because maintaining the existing toilets is difficult and costly.

### 2.1.3 Café

The café lease has been extended for 15 years. This was disappointing to some who hoped for the equivalent of a Daisy Grey or equivalent and it is not clear why others including the Ward Cllrs were not consulted first. This is especially odd because the building itself may not last the distance.

#### 2.1.4 Events in the park

There had been a number of events held in the Recreation Ground, some of them involving the Friends:

18th April Easter Egg Hunt  
22nd June Caz and Steve Duo (bandstand)  
13th July London Concert Chorus (bandstand)  
10th August: Do No Harm band (bandstand)  
24th August: the Sonnet Wind orchestra (bandstand)  
6th and 7th September: Soultown  
20th September Charity Summer fun day  
8th November: fireworks

Next year it is planned to hold an increasing number of events in the bandstand

The park had been damaged by vehicles serving the Soultown and Fireworks events.

Despite earlier promises by Soultown of part of ticket sales contributing towards the paddling pool replacement, this failed to happen and a one-off donation of £200 was received from Soultown. The committee has resolved to negotiate a fairer arrangement with the Soultown organisers next year.

The fireworks committee have said that they will meet in early January 2026 to discuss how the money raised at the fireworks event will be donated to local charities.

The chairman said that there should of course be a pre-requisite of contributing towards the Park when events are held using the park for the purpose of making commercial profit or large sums of money for other causes.

#### 2.1.5 Bench Action Day

The chairman thanked Dave Cook for organising the bench action day on 20.8.25. Six benches were prepared and decorated which means that about a third of the park benches have now been restored. The chairman has commented to idverde that any replacement or new memorial benches should be match the originals with iron brackets and teak boards. This type of bench constitutes around 90% of the benches on the Recreation Ground. Id verde (Joanne Smith) has said that this is similar to the "Eastgate" type of bench currently available.

#### 2.1.6 Football pitches and Padel

Cllr Harris has been in contact with Hannah Jackson (Assistant Director of open spaces at Bromley Council). There are two football teams that may be willing to tender for use of the pitches. An update on this is expected in early 2026.

Cllr Harris mentioned that The Park Langley Club may be willing to invest in a Padel court next to the tennis courts.

## **2.2 Treasurer's Report**

2.2.1 The Acting Treasurer presented the attached accounts for the year to 30th September 2025.

2.2.2 The presented accounts will be independently examined in time for the next Committee meeting

2.2.3 The Chairman thanked the Acting Treasurer for keeping our accounts in order which had shown a slight improvement over the year.

## **2.3 Membership Secretary**

John Backway submitted the following report to the meeting:

### **2.3.1 Summary**

- Membership of the Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground (FoCRRG) currently stands at 67.
- Eight new members were recruited during the year, but three members cancelled their membership, making a net increase of five compared to 2024.
- The membership fee remains at £5 per household.
- PayPal remains by far the most popular method of payment for membership, with 87% of members choosing to use a recurring PayPal subscription for FoCRRG membership. The remaining 13% is a mixture of cash and cheque.

### **2.3.2 Activities and events**

- The Friends are grateful to idVerde and Bromley Council for continuing to provide free of charge access to the bandstand on Sunday afternoons for these community performances and for supplying Public Liability Insurance to the Friends for these events.
- For the 2026 season we would like to continue with the summer music programme, but it should be noted that funding constraints mean we cannot pay performers, which has limited the range of performances available.
- Fundraising activities this year have focused on the Paddling Pool Restoration Fund.

## **2.4 Webmaster Report**

Terry Guntrip submitted the following report to the meeting:

During the year The Friends' website has featured updates about the ongoing project to replace the paddling pool and our accelerated fundraising efforts which began in July.

Our Facebook page, along with a separate fundraising specific page, now have over 1900 followers between them and have been utilised as the main medium for attracting donations and keeping everyone updated and informed of progress.

The website also advertised and reported on several bandstand performances which were organised during the summer by The Friends. Our Facebook page and website have both been kept updated during the year with reports, photographs and some videos of the bandstand performances .

We will be advertising, via the website and Facebook, for any performers who are interested to appear at the bandstand in 2026 to get in touch with us.

We also advertised and reported on this year's Bench Action Day, taking place in the park in August, when several benches were given some TLC and looked resplendent afterwards.

We also advertised SoulTown and other events in the Rec. such as the Fireworks.

Six electronic newsletters were distributed during the year informing our membership about the paddling pool project and bandstand performances along with another further newsletter advertising our AGM date.

## **2.5 Events Coordinator**

It was agreed that this post is not necessary as the work is shared by all the committee. The Oddity team have left a lot of their equipment in the sea container which should ideally be removed.

## **3.0 Election of officers**

A request was made for any offers or nominations from the floor for any of the substantive posts on the committee. None were voiced, so voting proceeded thus:

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Chair	Chris Phillips	John Backway	Cllr Harris	Unanimous
Acting Treasurer	Sarah Phillips	Cllr Harris	Dave Cook	Unanimous
Membership secretary	John Backway	Sarah Phillips	Dave Cook	Unanimous
Webmaster	Terry Guntrip	Chris Phillips	John Backway	Unanimous
Committee Members	Cllr Harris Dave Cook Mark Amis Sarah Snook	Sarah Phillips	John Backway	Unanimous
Independent examiner	Terry Guntrip	Chris Phillips	John Backway	Unanimous

#### **4.0 Any other business**

- 4.1 The chairman to circulate dates for committee meetings in 2025.
- 4.2 John Backway said it was disappointing that nobody from idVerde was present at the AGM to hear about the issues raised, and the Chairman will contact Angela Wood to ask about this and whether this was because there was no fundraising and community manager in place.
- 4.3 The Chairman will also ask idVerde about tarmac defect repairs within the park where funding has been provided by Bromley Council.