

# Lee Manor Community Garden Group Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 7:30-9:30pm  
at 9 Lenham Road SE12 8 QN

## Minutes

**Present:** Karen Pollock (Chair), Charlie Acton (Secretary), Ralph White (Treasurer), Claire Troy, Dan Griffin, Andrea Hughes

1) **Apologies for Absence** – none, the whole committee was present.

### Business

#### 2) **Minutes of the last meeting (29<sup>th</sup> April)**

Agreed.

#### 3) **Finances**

Ralph summarised the income, expenditure and current balance – the total income for 2011 was £1989.38, and the residual balance is £138.90.

Ralph and Karen will meet to produce a 1-page finance summary for the AGM.

#### 4) **Review of Community Garden in 2011**

It was felt by all present that 2011 had been a very positive year where lots of enthusiasm was shown and a great deal was achieved. Dan proposed a vote of thanks to Karen for her efforts, which was unanimously approved.

Karen reviewed the figures of gardening sessions, open days, volunteer community gardeners and visitors over the year:

- 225 community gardener sessions / visitors (152 Gardeners, 73 Visitors)
- 13 gardening sessions
- 2 open days:
  - Open Day with the Lee Manor Society Plant Mart (May)
  - Capital Growth Edible Gardens Open Day (September)
- Garden group figures:
  - January 2011 – 22 people
  - December 2011 – 56 people

## Reflections on 2011 in the garden and thoughts for 2012:

Who	What went well	Potential Improvements
Claire		Fruit trees – round edges / in pots (KP – limiting factor is water for pots)
Andrea	The year went very well, we always had lovely food	More stuff along sunniest fence – blue berries (KP- strawberries in jars?) More eco-projects e.g. bug hotel, plastic bottle greenhouse, cold frame Funding for storm kettle?
Karen	A successful year. We started with a derelict site and ended with an abundant edible garden with many gardeners participating and visitors.	Bird/ bat nesting places – invite London wildlife Trust over to run session to make bird + bat boxes (AH – Nature’s Gym may run a session too, will ask)  Affinity Sutton – opportunity for partnership/development on food growing on estates.  Ideas for other crops to grow? Can look at getting catalogue to decide on crops. Can everyone have a think about what crops worked well in 2011 and what didn’t, and what crops we should grow in 2012 – to be discussed at the gardening session on 5 <sup>th</sup> February Also need to decide on crop rotation (and move signs) at Feb gardening session.
Dan	Thought the year went well	Liked idea of extending roof to harvest more rainwater and extend sitting area. Use trellis to grow grapes.
Andrea & Dan		Expand to a second community garden? Possible links with Leybridge Estate / Manor Park?
Charlie	Great progress made	As above, use back wall for fruit trees / bushes (KP- possible consolidation of the builders bags) DG – can we plant trees? – RW against terms of lease
Ralph		Need to keep an eye on the integrity of the raised beds (e.g. the screws) – gravel is leaking out. KP – have walk round at Feb session to spot / plan maintenance jobs Already have a large area of palettes; it would be good not to take up too much more space. KP/RW – use half/third size of palettes for bug hotel? (AH – shady spot would be fine for bug hotel) We have a rolling lease from LBL - in Sept it would be good to start negotiating renewal (expires in Feb 2013) RW/CT - Could mice have been the pest on the cabbages last year?

## **5) Funding for 2012**

### **Funding from the Lee Green Assembly, Mayor's Fund**

We have gained approval for this (thanks Karen) - £740. After we've discussed garden plans at/after Feb gardening session, we can confirm what the money will be spent on. RW to confirm when the funds are transferred into the bank account.

**Sales income:** For 2011 this was £84. The LMS Plant Mart is on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012. LMCG will have an open day and small stall in the community garden selling vegetable plants/seeds.

### **Other options**

AH has passed Community Garden funding details from LB Lewisham onto KP/RW. Committee to decide on whether to apply to this fund during the next 6 weeks.

### **Garden Group Members / Visitors**

It was decided previously that we do not currently need to charge gardening group members. General agreement that it is preferable not to, but suggested opportunities for funding to include:

DG - Donations tin to be available at gardening sessions & open days  
RW - opportunities to sell seeds/plants to members of the public to be taken  
CT - offered to sell some of her marmalade (accepted, thank you)

## **6) Planning for the Community Garden in 2012**

### **Dates of Gardening Sessions**

It was agreed that there were advantages to having fixed times - agreed as 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays in month for first 6 months. Also to be an Open day to coincide with LMS PlantMart. The dates for the next 6 months are therefore:

- Sun February 5<sup>th</sup> - gardening session
- Sun March 4<sup>th</sup> - gardening session
- Sun April 1<sup>st</sup> - gardening session
- Sun May 6<sup>th</sup> - AGM and gardening session
- Sat May 19<sup>th</sup> - Open day and sale / Lee Manor Society Plant Mart
- Sun June 3<sup>rd</sup> - gardening session

Gardening sessions will generally run from 10:30am - 12 noon.  
Ralph will put these dates on the website and KP to inform the garden group.

Ralph will also put the previous minutes of committee meetings on the website as PDFs.

**Crop ideas for 2012 growing year** - discuss at February gardening session.

### **Other events:**

- Capital Growth Big Dig - this event in March seems aimed at large growing sites with open ground. Karen will include a link to the Big Dig when she sends a reminder about the February meetings.

- Sydenham / Fringe to Chelsea Flower Show – KP has received an email about this. KP to reply asking whether the LMCG openings on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June can be part of the fringe. KP will report back to the committee.

### **Volunteer scheme**

Ralph thinks the current scheme operation works well and looks professional (with the form to record attendances and capture contact details of new attendees). This was agreed this will continue during 2012.

### **Flyers**

Dan suggested could we have a flyer for people to take with them (from open days / CG events) to show friends and spread the word. RW offered to print these. Suggested the printing costs could go into LB Lewisham CG funding bid (to cover stationery). Could put them into schools, Sainsbury's, pubs (The Northbrook) etc. To be taken forward during the year.

### **7) Any other business**

Should the community garden consider expanding? KP – we should focus next mainly on forging links and supporting other organisations/gardens. Keep track of other horticultural progress and see if we can assist in any way e.g. LBL/Glendale idea of setting up a growing space in Manor Park and developments relating to Affinity Sutton / residents plans to grow food on local estates.

It's ok to put compost in the composter, but no (supposedly compostable) bags please.

Ideas for fundraising - Do calendar for this year from last year's photos? Can send to special website who create these.

Ralph is looking at Project Dirt, facility for advertising, can get onto distribution list.

We now have an e-mail address ([leemanorcg@gmail.com](mailto:leemanorcg@gmail.com)) and the garden group distribution list is now held on this system (thanks Ralph). KP – we'll use this distribution channel as much as possible for LMCG communications.

All – thanks to Karen and all other who contributed art to the LMCG art board entitled "In the edible garden" (with a big green "G") now up at Leigate shopping centre. This is part of a community mural with other local groups. Artists included Joyce, Lily & family, Luke and Jamie and Charlie (thank you).

KP – thank you to the whole gardening group and to everyone on the committee for all their hard work, support and enthusiasm during 2011 when a new community garden was created from a derelict piece of land.

### **8) Next Meeting**

LMCG Annual General Meeting on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May (10:30am - 11:00am). A gardening session from 11:00 - 12:30 will follow the AGM.