



Chairman's Report – September 2024

(Covering period 01st May 2024 till 31st August 2024)

Since our Annual General Meeting on the 26th May 2024, we have been extremely busy over the summer months not only with our continued volunteering activities but with our extensive children's activities and workshops over the summer holiday period.

Website Report

The website continues to be used by both recurring and new members and has become a more dynamic site with more regular changes to content, including a new improved 'Latest News' banner on the home page.

Documents are amended on a regular basis and uploaded, so to keep the information up to date, we have also included some new projects and images which are becoming increasingly popular.

The software which runs the website is now holding a substantial number of documents and images which are currently being sorted into folders to make it easier to select for future use.

Redundant documents are slowly being removed to free up storage space.

Recent statistics show a definite increase in people looking at the website via mobile devices and we will be spending a bit more time on improving the mobile website as each one is designed separately to suit the difference between Landscape (Laptop) & Portrait (Mobile).

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Website General Summary

The most popular way to access the website is via Google.

The website saw 3,477 visits made up as below.

New Visitors – 2,280 – 65%

Returning Visitors – 1,197 – 35%

The top five popular pages are detailed below.

1. Home Page – 80%
2. What is on – 10%.
3. Volunteering – 4%
4. Park Information -3%
5. Contact us – 3%.

Google General Summary

Our Google Profile Page saw 4,564 visits made up as below.

1. Google Maps – Mobile - 2,362 · 52%
2. Google Search – Mobile – 1.456 – 32%
3. Google Search – Desktop – 473 – 10%
4. Google Maps – Desktop – 273 – 6%

Green Flag Report – 2024

Following the formal inspection on 03rd May 2024 we have now received the formal report which indicates a few items which require Harrow Council to action as detailed below, we will be discussing these with the new Parks Strategy and Planning Office & The Grounds Maintenance Team over the coming months (Provisional Meeting scheduled for 18th September 2024).

Desktop Assessment

1. Litter Clearance - To be added to section 3.4 of Management & Maintenance Plan – **Action LBH**
2. Environmental Management - Keep up with environmental improvements and explore further opportunities (Rewilding) – **Action LBH & FoHMP**
3. Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage - Ensure resources available for new posts, land & habitat to maximise Biodiversity Net Gain – **Action LBH**

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4. Community Engagement - Ensure resources available to continue with activities / workshops – **Action LBH & FoHMP**
5. Marketing & Communications - Ensure resources are available to continue with social media improvements – **Action FoHMP**
6. Overall Management - Consider combining the objective section with the action / improvement section this would provide focus and a means to consider evidence of objectives being met and would still retain flexibility – **Action LBH & FoHMP**

Field Assessment

1. A welcoming Place – Consider increased size / additional notice boards at entrances. Consider an arch or signage at entrance to park from Harrow View West development – **Action LBH & FoHMP**
2. Health Safety & Secure - In discussions around budgets and making safe following significant issues identified by inspections or by vandalism etc, it maybe be beneficial to have a budget created for a set amount to cover Health and Safety works to reduce timescales for addressing play equipment/surfacing needing replacement etc by making budget application/approval for such works swifter and more efficient. – **Action LBH**

One of the gates into the play area toward the pavilion is a spring mechanism, with the others prosafe pneumatic gates. As spring mechanisms need adjusting regularly as weather conditions change to ensure within safe guidelines of 4-8 seconds close from 90 degrees, and in order to match the others in appearance would recommend swapping gate for safety, lower maintenance, and aesthetics. – **Action LBH**

3. Well Maintained & Clean - A few branches and other vegetation hanging low and causing obstructions to the paths – look to cut back and crown raise. – **Action LBH**

Some limited graffiti on cricket pavilion and shipping container. (West Harrow Cricket Club) – **Action LBH**

Some weed growth in paths between the PCC edgings and tarmac in need of treatment/removal etc – **Action LBH**

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4. Environmental Management - Keep up with environmental improvements and explore further opportunities (Rewilding) – Action LBH & FoHMP

5. Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage - Ensure resources available for new posts, land & habitat to maximise Biodiversity Net Gain. – Action LBH

Few trees need work or replacement – Action LBH

Consider options to try to reduce the resource intensity of the Orchard by making the cut collect easier. – Action LBH & FoHMP

6. Community Engagement - Ensure resources available to continue with activities / workshops – Action FoHMP

7. Marketing & Communications - Appears the noticeboard sections within the signage may not be large enough for promotion of the various events, so consider additional noticeboards adjacent. – Action LBH

Another noticeboard has a damaged screen needing replacement (Pavilion) – Action FoHMP – Cost for new Notice Board circa £100.00

Ensure resources made available for either additional printing run of brochures or for digitisation suggestion. – Action FoHMP – Cost for reprint of two leaflets x 1000 items each = £500.00

8. Management - Look to continue replacement of street furniture when required to standard bin, bench design etc. – Action LBH

Also to make the site/features more inclusive, look to ensure street furniture including bins are on a maintenance/wear pad immediately adjacent to paths to improve accessibility which is enlarged at least one side for benches so wheelchairs and prams can be placed adjacent to seats. – Action LBH

Consider/explore if arms could be retrofitted to the standard benches to assist people who struggle to support themselves. – Action LBH

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Project Update

Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Temporary Heras Fencing within Flood Basin two remains in place whilst the final remedial works are being completed, In late July 2024 a further inspection was undertaken which determined that the invert levels of the basin and interconnecting pipework is correct, however a further issue with regards to a major blockage was detected and further CCTV investigations took place in early August 2024. The CCTV investigation found two blockages, one within the flood gate chamber and the other within the concrete culvert from Headstone Manor Park towards North Harrow Station. The Blockages have now been cleared w/e 25th August 2024.

The temporary Heras fencing will remain in place until flood basin two has been drained of the excessive water. Once this has been completed the temporary Heras fencing will be removed, and the flood basin regraded and reseeded.

Football Pitches / Event Field

Further inspections of the Football Pitches & Event Field were undertaken in August 2024 and indicated that additional work is still required to bring these areas up to the relevant standards. The Football Clubs have been advised that they will not be returning to use the pitches until Autumn 2025

Yeading Brook Unbound

In early June, ecologists from Roehampton University undertake water sampling to ascertain the extent of invertebrates within the Yeading Brook for inclusion in the final project documentation.

Steve Whitbread confirms that he is leaving Harrow Council at the end of September 2024 but will continue to provide management support to the project until this date.

We were advised that the Yeading Brook Unbound Vision document is ready to be issued, however this document has not been approved by the Board Members, so we have asked for clarification, to date the document has still not been approved by the Project Board despite numerous requests for updates.

The Contractor for Headstone Manor Park has been appointed and will now commence the detailed design and Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAP) application for

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the other yet to be quantified works, to date we have received no further updates with regards to the FRAP application despite numerous requests for updates.

In July, the Crane Valley Partnership (CVP) contact Harrow Council with regards to ongoing management of the Yeading Brook Unbound project following Steve Whitbread's announcement that he is leaving Harrow Council there is the possibility that Harrow Council will appoint an independent third party consultancy to manage the project going forward.

UKSPF – Parkside Way

Works to the Parkside Way Entrance are totally dependent on the completion of the remedial works to flood basin two at present it is unlikely that we will be unable to commence the improvements to this entrance until late 2024 / early 2025. I have a meeting with Debbie Salmon (Ecology and Public Goods Officer) on Wednesday 18th September 2024 to undertake a final review of our proposals

Pinner View – Green Grid Funding

We have been successful in our application to Harrow Council for improvements to the Pinner View carpark, this will create an attractive entrance for users and enhanced biodiversity. The vast majority of the existing planting will be removed and reused as part of our rewilding projects around the park.

This work will be undertaken in collaboration with Harrow Council's Grounds Maintenance team, with works scheduled to be undertaken in late October 2024.

Hedgerow Laying - UKSPF Nature Recovery Project

We have been successful in our application to Harrow Council for the laying of over one hundred metres of hedgerow adjoining the new football pitches and cricket pitch No.2, This project will be led by Luke Farnsworth (Nature Recovery Ranger) and undertaken by South of England Hedge Laying Society (SEHLS) it is anticipated that works will commence in November 2024.

Rewilding Projects

Our Rewilding Projects continue with general upkeep to the two new hedges (Children's Playground & Parkside Way Allotment boundary) along with the Maureen

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Smith Wildflower Garden & Yeading Brook Grove (bulb planting). The relocated plants from Pinner View will be added to the earth mound to the Green Gym and John Hollingdale Grove.

Summer Activities overview

Over the last few months, we have undertaken / participated in the following.

CPR / First Aid Training
Wednesday Wander – June, July, August
Water Monitoring - June, July, August
Metros Running Club Summer League Event
International Yoga Day
Pinner Park School Summer Fayre
Book Sale x 2
Headstone Village Show

FoHMP Children's Activities

Bird Box workshops x 2
Storytelling x 2
Badge Making workshop
Clay Modelling
Marbling & Stamping workshop
Pond Dipping
Tie Dye workshop

In total 205 places were available across the nine activities via our Eventbrite Page with 175 places being booked and 175 attending, (65 individual families attending the workshops), however the Clay Modelling, Marbling & Stamping, Pond Dipping & Tie Dye workshops were oversubscribed, and we could have filled a further forty places. (Conversion rate 85%) – **The Costs to provide these activities came to £360.00 and were covered by our general fund raising at Events and Book Sales**

We have undertaken a review of the events and have decided that in future we will split the events into two sessions of fifteen families rather than the one event of twenty-five families. This will mean that the events are easier for us to manage and that we can have more families in attendance.

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The popularity of these events has seriously depleted our crafting items, and we will be looking to request funds to be released to enable us to provide a full programme of free events in 2025 (This item is detailed later in this report)

FoHMP Children's Activities in collaboration with Headstone Manor & Museum

Pond Dipping & Craft Workshop

In total twenty places were available for this workshop with twenty places being booked and only two attending. With five places being cancelled on the morning of the event. (The bookings for this event were managed via Harrow Arts Centre). We will be scheduling a meeting with Sara Sarf (Learning & Engagement Officer) to review this matter prior to our next collaboration event "Halloween Craft Workshop" (Conversion Rate 10%) – Meeting scheduled for 18th September 2024

Upcoming Events / Workshops – September till December 2024

We have the following events planned for the remaining months of 2024.

Wednesday Wander: -

September – Wetland & Flood Defence Scheme

October – Bird Watching

November – Natures Harvest

December – Christmas

Bat Walk – 11th October 2024: -

Family Event – 18.30pm till 19.30pm – Eventbrite 50 Children & 25 Adult Tickets

Adult only Event – 20.00pm till 21.00pm – Eventbrite 25 Adult Tickets

Power Tool Training – 23rd & 24th October: -

We will be hosting the Power Tool Training for Volunteers in collaboration with Harrow Council

Vedicca Yoga Diwali Celebrations: -

Date to be confirmed

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Halloween - 31st October & 01st November: -

Children's Craft workshop in collaboration with Headstone Manor & Museum 4 x Events with 15 Child Tickets per event (This Event is Sold Out)

Duck Pond Market – 08th December: -

Details TBC

FoHMP Christmas Celebrations: -

Date to be confirmed

U3A (Nature in Harrow) Christmas Walk- 19th December 2024: -

Tour of the Wetland & Flood Alleviation Scheme

Vedicca Yoga Christmas Celebrations: -

Date to be confirmed

Wetland Phase 3 (ZSL)

Following on from the successful Wetland Monitoring projects in 2023 & 2024, we have been asked by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), to undertake another series of water monitoring to be used as a benchmark assessment with two other wetland monitoring projects at Newton Park West & Chinbrook Meadow Wetlands.

The Water Monitoring will commence in September 2024 and continue until February 2025

As part of this project, we have applied for and been successful awarded funding from EMPOWER (Thames21) which will provide us with a second set of water monitoring equipment.

We have also applied for funding from The Smart Water Catchment to also booster or funds for ancillary items relevant to water monitoring, the closing date for this fund is the 02nd September 2024 with successful applicants being advised w/c 16th September 2024.

Children's Activities 2025 – Budget Request

Following the success of the Summer Events, we have now commenced planning for 2025, we anticipate that we will have approx. 600 Children and their Parents attending the activities and workshops.

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February Half Term – Mother’s Day Flowerpots & Bug Hotel Workshop (60 Places)

Easter Holiday – Easter Trail & Craft & Pond Dipping & Craft (50 places)

May Half Term – Pebble Pets & Nature Crafting (50 places)

Summer Holiday – Storytelling, Nature Crafting, Pond Dipping, Marbling & Stamping, Tie Dye, Clay Modelling, Pond Dipping (335 Places)

October Half Term – Nature Crafting, Halloween Workshop (50 places)

Day	Date	Activity	Time Session 1	Event Size (Number of Children)	Time Session 2	Event Size (Number of Children)	
Thursday	20th February 2025	Mothers Day Flower Pots	11.00am to 12.00pm	15	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15	
Friday	21st February 2025	Bug Hotel Workshop	11.00am to 12.00pm	15	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15	
Thursday	10th April 2025	Pond Dipping & Crafting	10.00am to 11.30am	25			
Friday	11th April 2025	Water Monitoring					
Thursday	17th April 2025	Easter Treasure Trail & Crafting	10.00am to 11.30am	25			
Friday	18th April 2025	Good Friday					
Thursday	29th May 2025	Storytelling TBC	11.00am to 12.00pm	25			
Friday	30th May 2025	Peeble Pets / Nature Crafts	10.00am to 11.00am	15	12.00pm to 1.00pm	15	
Thursday	24th July 2025	Storytelling TBC	11.00am to 12.00pm	25			
Thursday	24th July 2025	FoHMP TBC	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15			
Friday	25th July 2025	Marbling & Stamping	10.00am to 11.00am	15	12.00pm to 1.00pm	15	
Thursday	31st July 2025	Storytelling TBC	11.00am to 12.00pm	25			
Thursday	31st July 2025	FoHMP TBC	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15			
Friday	01st August 2025	Badge Making	10.00am to 11.00am	15	12.00pm to 1.00pm	15	
Thursday	7th August 2025	Pond Dipping & Crafting	10.00am to 11.30am	25			
Friday	8th August 2025	Water Monitoring					
Thursday	14th August 2025	Storytelling TBC	11.00am to 12.00pm	25			
Thursday	14th August 2025	FoHMP TBC	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15			
Friday	15th August 2025	Clay Modelling	10.00am to 11.00am	15	12.00pm to 1.00pm	15	
Thursday	21st August 2025	Storytelling TBC	11.00am to 12.00pm	25			
Thursday	21st August 2025	Nature Crafting	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15			
Friday	22nd August 2025	Preparation for Headstone Village Show					
Monday	25th August 2025	Headstone Village Show					
Thursday	28th August 2025	Storytelling TBC	11.00am to 12.00pm	25			
Thursday	28th August 2025	FoHMP TBC	1.00pm to 2.00pm	15			
Friday	29th August 2025	Tie Dye	10.00am to 11.00am	25	12.00pm to 1.00pm	25	
Friday	03rd October 2025	Bat Walk	6.30pm - 7.30pm	75			
Thursday	30th October 2025	Halloween Crafts	12.00pm to 1.00pm	15			
Friday	31st October 2025	Halloween Crafts	10.00am to 11.00am	15	12.00pm to 1.00pm	15	
Thursday	25th December 2025	Christmas Day					
Friday	26th December 2025	Boxing Day					
Thursday	01st January 2026	New Years Day					
Friday	2nd January 2026						
				505		130	

We are also looking into providing activities for the Squirrels, Beaver’s, and Cub’s at 6th Harrow Scouts

To enable the full programme of events to be undertaken we have put together a budget sheet detailing the expenditure required to cover the costs of materials and equipment.

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The Budget cost is Circa £475.00 of which Circa £100.00 will be used on equipment, there is an opportunity to slightly reduce these costs if we purchase now as many items are reduced as suppliers look to reduce their stock items. The proposal is to order all next year's material & equipment by the end of October 2024

Tennis Courts

The Tennis Courts fencing (two sides) will be replaced commencing on Wednesday 04th September 2024 with works expecting to be completed by the 13th September 2024 (weather permitting).

Hay Cuts

The annual Hay Cuts across the Borough are due to commence on Monday 02nd September 2024 with works completed by Friday 13th September 2024 (weather permitting). We have received the cutting plans and have requested additional information from Harrow Council as it only indicates Flood Basin 1 being cut. This still leaves The Sedimentation Ponds, Wetlands, & Flood Basin 2 to be determined

Event Applications

Harrow Council have now decided to start enforcing the charges for events within Parks across the Borough albeit discounted by 80% for non-commercial activities. I have contacted Harrow Council and have received confirmation that Friends Groups are exempt from the application fee / hire charges. Harrow Council have yet to confirm whether our Health & Wellbeing groups will be charged going forward. If these charges are applied this could seriously affect the Health & Wellbeing activities provided at the park (Example Mind Angels x 18 events x £16.40 + VAT (application fee) equates to £354.24).

Volunteering

From the 01st April to the 31st August 2024, we have contributed 2776 volunteering hours (equates to 1.54 full time members of staff) with a financial value of £31,757.44.

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