

WRAYBURN COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Garden & Social Group (TRA committee)

- Meeting: Sunday, 21st August, 2022
- Location: In the Community Garden and locations around Wrayburn House
- Residents attended: David (no.24)
Meera (no.36)
Yuping (no.38)
Haoya (no.38, child)
Rowenta (no.32)
Pascal (no.32)
Larry (no.49)
- Apologies: Jamal & family (no.27)
Lisa (no.9)
Sophia (no.35)
Lee Ann (no.43)

Other residents consulted prior to meeting:
Pauline (no.19) & Peter (no.3) & Jamel (no.27).

Larry introduced the reason for meeting & process for making decisions.

The Garden Group is a sub-committee of the main Board that makes final decisions. The Garden Group can recommend improvements and new greening up around the block to the Board and the Board should respect the Group's recommendations but can ask for more information and refer questions back to the Group.

The reason for meeting on Sunday was to recommend, urgently, what the Board should do with the rotten timber beds in the community garden. Also to make recommendations on where to invest the grant WCO has been awarded for greening up projects around the block.

Recommendations to the Board

1. Rather than making good or replacing the rotten timber beds, take the whole section (along the wall by raised bed) away. Reuse soil and replant raspberry plants elsewhere, if possible, or buy new fruit plants. Soil to go on raised bed to make the grass surface even.
2. New sustainable planting containers are sourced and purchased and placed along the wall, about 4-6. A mixture of flowers & herbs are planted in the new pots. Pots will be large and not wooded. Bench located here.

3. The whole community garden area is jet washed and cleaned up.
4. **Action:** SI to get a quote from Pinnacle and a quote to repaint the remaining flower wooded beds (clean/sand down, with three coats: one seal, second seal, third stain).
5. A child resident suggested artwork on the sides of existing wooden beds. This was supported but may be only on the insides of the community garden. We don't want to encourage graffiti etc.
6. Residents at the meeting would like to be involved and if they do some works themselves then shopping vouchers given as a reward (if cheaper than using a contractor).
7. **Action:** Board to agree to 6.
8. The remaining wooded beds should last another year or two but they will need replacing, section at a time, with new containers. Funds need to put aside for this. In three years the whole community garden will have new containers and all the wooded ones taken away.
9. New soil & compost is purchased and dug into the existing wooden beds.
10. Residents have struggled to water the community garden but have done well to keep flowers, herbs and vegetables alive throughout the drought. However, getting water from the mains water cupboard is not that easy and a resident was put off when a large RAT ran out of the cupboard. An outside tap needs to be installed close to the community garden. In the winter it can be discounted (to avoid frost) and the tap should be in a locked post so that people don't turn on and waste water.
11. **Action:** SI to get quotes to install tap outside. SI to keep chasing up pest control as residents have been rats around and cats are playing with poisoned ones. These should be disposed of and not left around dead.
12. Source & purchase a large water container to store rain water and this can also be used to water plants. Located by the new bike shelters along east side of raised bed.
13. **Action:** Meera investigate and report back.
14. Food compost. This was discussed as a way of feeding the soil. A compost container near to a water container (by new bike shelters) would be well away from residents. By encouraging residents to put waste food in compost container then it means less food going down the chute and ending up in open bins attracting RATS. But would residents use it and would the garden group be willing to 'look after' the compost bin? Yes to both it was thought.

15. **Action:** Meera to investigate compost containers & report back.
16. Along railings outside flats 20-28, flowerbed containers are placed and residents invited to choose what flowers or herbs or vegetables they would like planted and then they do and look after.
17. Vacant area on pavement by no.19: 4-6 large round tubs are sourced and placed along sides. A living wall along the wall. In the middle two square low level containers (2x2 m sq) for mediterranean flower garden and wild flowers. Plants that don't need much water.
18. The Group supports planting of tulips & daffodils and hoping our grant application to Tideway will be successful. The Group should be consulted about exactly where the bulbs will go.
19. A low level plant container by the raised bed by the parking area by no.28. This will add more colour to the main access to Wrayburn and deter students from St Mikes putting rubbish in raised bed bushes.
20. **Action:** SI to write to St Mikes to ask them to clean out rubbish weekly or we ask Wayne to do.
21. Round rose bed by car park opposite Micawber. Once this has a fence installed (a 2nd grant application to Tideway) then more flowers are planted.
22. Entrance to Wrayburn (southside, sunny). This is an ideal location for greening up. By putting plant containers on either side of the entrance doors then it would help to stop people dumping rubbish & furniture. It would make the entrance colourful and welcoming to residents, their guests and visitors to the block. It's been done successfully at other TMOs, e.g Styles House, close to Southwark station. Worth a visit.
23. **Action:** Meera to investigate options and a plant containers with a trellis for flower plant to grow up on.
24. The Group may need help / advice of what particular flowers to plant but we all agreed that David has 'green fingers' and his garden looks lovely.
25. Raised grass area by community garden. Group recommends that soil from the rotten wooded beds is placed to even out the areas where previous soil was removed to make way for wild flowers that didn't take off in 2014/15. The Group you look at what could be planted here, maybe small flowering bushes but low down or small trees that don't grow tall.

26. Large grass area by Bevington St that is now a dog exercise space. We WCO needs to take back control and not allow strangers to allow dogs to poo and not pick up and also damaging flowers. The Group talked about how to deter strangers from exercising their dogs. One option is to lock the gate with a sign saying something like: “In the autumn WCO is undertaking improvement works on the land including revamp the flower beds, planting of wild flowers and play areas for young children. WCO kindly requests that you refrain from taking you dogs into this space and find alternative exercise area for your dog/s.”
27. The Group wants actions to happen sooner rather than later.
28. TRA funding from the Council. The Group should have its own dedicated funds and as we also a TRA then we should receive last 2/3 years back payments.
29. **Action:** SI to chase up and get these funds. Also TRA funds from 2014-16 should be ring-fenced in the accounts and only used for TRA activities and investments that it recommends.