

The Old Dairy Health Centre

Minutes of a meeting held on Saturday 9th March 2019

- It was a really lively and productive meeting.
- We looked at the plans (thanks again to Diana for leading on these) of what the rear/main space might look like when replanted; in particular where the raised beds might go. It was agreed to go for the option where they are arranged in a square, rather than in a row.

ACTION: Judy, if you can let us know when the raised beds are likely to be delivered, some of the group hope to be able to arrange to come down, at your convenience, to get them in place and get them filled with earth (Ian to lead on getting free compost from Lambeth??)

We also looked at possible plans for the front plots to make them colourful/multi-sensory: By the end of the morning we'd marked out the proposed hard landscaping and raised beds for the rear/main plot and transplanted 2 bamboos to the front plots.

- The group agreed to set up a WhatsApp group, to help with keeping in touch.

ACTION: Rebecca has set this up

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- It was agreed we need someone to oversee/coordinate what gets planted and when/where, to avoid getting in a muddle! Genie kindly volunteered — she would like a brief/guidance (the group can work with her on this at next meeting).
- It was agreed that taking photos to document progress would be a good idea, with a view -- with the agreement of key practice staff -- of interesting local press in the project. This would help with getting local businesses to donate stuff (they could get a mention on any 'launch' press release, be invited to any 'launch' event etc), and also potentially with encouraging groups of the local community to get involved with the garden.

However, the group felt it would be good to do some more thinking about the latter -- e.g.: how would visits, hands-on gardening sessions be scheduled/supervised etc around surgery opening hours; who would 'project manage' growing any long-term relationships etc etc?

For now, the group has agreed that ongoing pictures of work, meetings etc should be taken -- so that 'before' and the 'after' visuals could in due course be made available to local media (and for social media -- see next bullet point).

- Deborah volunteered to take ongoing photos, and to become the group's 'press officer'.

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- Ian flagged up that it would be worth contacting The Dulwich Society's quarterly newsletter re: a possible feature.
ACTION: Deborah to contact the newsletter. (NB: the Society also has a a gardening group, and may be able to lend expertise etc.)
- Rebecca raised that it would be great to do some social media around the project, e.g.: create a Twitter account for it. The group agreed that, if we do want to involve children and young people, social media will be key. Rebecca kindly volunteered to lead on social media activity -- we can discuss content further at the next meeting.
- Melissa and Genie mentioned that there is an upcoming surgery open day (organised by the PPG?). It was felt that that this would be a great opportunity for more patients registered with the practice to find out about the project, potentially get involved etc. (Could also invite local businesses we hope to approach for donations -- Tesco, B+Q etc??)
- Jorge and Val expressed keenness to help with general digging, planting etc — the group thanked Jorge for the lovely primulas he has put in the front plots today.

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- The next group meeting will be on Saturday 4 April, if that works for practice staff etc. All welcome, even if they haven't been involved to date. We'll look in more detail at what we can start to plant in, what we might need to approach local businesses to donate etc (e.g.: water butt? Bench?) And do some more gardening!

ACTION: Moussa kindly offered to bring a wheelbarrow, to help with moving any bigger plants etc.