
From: Karen Beare [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 October 2022 13:01
To: Nora-Andreea Constantinescu
Subject: 2022/1665/P Fitzroy Park Allotment Community Shed

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Dear Nora

I have been in recent communication with Deborah Schneebell-Morrell about the proposed Allotment community shed and would like to send an email of support in my personal capacity as a local resident, not as Chair of the Fitzroy Park Residents Association.

As a courtesy, I met with them on site and Deborah walked me through their proposals and, more recently, Deborah has explained the adjustments they are making to respond to the Council's suggestions as the planning process evolves. Their excluding a composting toilet near the Fitzroy park carriageway was very welcome with the hope they might one day be able to located one in a potentially less intrusive location.

I have personally supported this initiative from the outset. I was aware that FPAA has historically supported a number of inspirational community initiatives that will be enhanced by their having a small Community Shed such as:

1. Listening Space at the Caversham Group Practice in Kentish Town where they run a patient gardening group. It is a practice that had led the way in 'social prescribing' and an inspirational doctor, Dr Jane Myat (also a plot holder) has inspired other craft-led groups, stitching in the waiting room, story walks, in and around the neighbourhood and cooking projects.

2. The Story Garden at the British library run by Global Generation , a very well established social community enterprise run by Jane Riddiford.
<https://www.globalgeneration.org.uk/story-garden>

Both these groups, along other interested parties, have had meetings with the City of London where they discussed ways in which more small groups, including some more vulnerable people could engage with the Heath to support the therapeutic effects of being in the natural world, such as cold-water swimming, forest bathing, story walks etc..... . The hope is that the Allotments can join a network of little satellites of green spaces where people from these sorts of groups can meet and engage with others in similar situations and the natural landscape.

The social prescribing model for general practice is gradually gaining momentum and in May 2019 Dr Jane Myat and a representative of FPAA organised an exhibition at the BMA about the therapeutic value of making things with our hands. They focussed on Spoon carving. This initiative turned into a touring exhibition which has provoked a lot of interest from medics who realise that they can prescribe a craft, rather than a drug, as it might have profound healing effects.
<https://bmalibrary.blog/2019/05/21/out-of-the-woods-event-at-bma-house/>

In my opinion this small Community Shed is a very welcome addition to our area and represents a wonderful community amenity. The positive motivation for this Community Shed is proven given the projects and groups the FPAA have historically supported. I wholeheartedly support this application.

Thank you.

Karen Beare

