

Notes from a meeting of the Trees and Views working party

11am 27/11/2017 Lauderdale House cafe

Present: Al Smith & Riccardo Arnone (Camden), Ian Henghes (TAG), April Cameron (FoWP), Shiv (arboricultural expert), Maria Schlatter (TCV)

Apologies: Mark Walters (IdVerde), Eileen W. (DPCAAC) Robin (FoWP) Louise (FoWP)

IanH reported that TAG had reviewed the draft report from this working party, but that it had proved impossible to approve in the form prepared, as the recommendation that policy be prepared for the park taking precedence over that of Camden Council's Tree Department was deemed inadvisable while the park is still in the public perception a Camden park. TAG did however suggest that the draft report be adopted for guidance for Waterlow Park

The map in the report of the signature view towards St Pauls cathedral was discussed and Shiv agreed to investigate getting this formally registered with authorities in order to try to ensure it is protected.

The suggested sites for planting was briefly discussed and it was agreed that Camden would continue to provide proposals for species to plant.

The views in the park naturally change over time. 'Preservation' is probably the wrong approach so much as 'Adaptation'. The view of St Pauls from the sculpture of Sir Sydney Waterlow is a difficult case in point due to the positioning of a number of important trees, some of them still maturing, such as the Dawn Redwood by the lower pond which is set to block the present viewpoint in the years to come. Trimming some lower branches of foreground trees combined with careful management should mitigate against the potential loss of the view.

Photos of changes to views within the park were also looked at especially over the middle pond toward Lauderdale House, a view which was a real feature of the park and has been lost except through tree branches in winter. It was agreed that self-set trees, especially where they are interfering with the growth and health of planted species, might be removed where this helped to re-open such a view. A sycamore growing into a swamp cypress combined with some work on the opposite bank might help with this.

Maria from TCV also said she would liaise with Mark Walters regarding keeping some views unobstructed, such as along the middle pond from the 'top' end where there is a bench toward the bridge with an acer and the spire of the Whittington mental health hospital behind.

Subsequent to the meeting it was discovered that there is a new draft London Plan which has a section about views. The plan can be consulted online at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan> - A search result: <http://j.mp/2AtSdFU> leads to material about key views. At the time of writing Shiv is investigating if Waterlow Park can be added as a key view.

