



The Barnes Fund
SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY OF BARNES



Walsingham Lodge
SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY OF BARNES

The Barnes Fund and Walsingham Lodge Trust

Environmental Policy

The Directors of The Barnes Fund Trustee Ltd, recognise that, in carrying out the purposes of The Barnes Fund and Walsingham Lodge Trust, they can – and in some areas, should – take account of the environment.

In particular, when considering how best to meet the Charities' Objects, we understand that:

- as the charities are set up with a view to the long-term, we have particular *reason to take account of sustainability*, and the need to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- as the charities are stewards of assets set up for the benefit of the local community, we need to live up to the expectations of that community in terms of environmental action if we are to *maintain a positive reputation*;
- that there are steps we can take to promote environmental quality which simultaneously have direct, current benefits in terms of *individual poverty reduction and/or wellbeing*; and
- that there are specific *legal responsibilities* that we have in terms of minimising the environmental impact of our activities.

More specifically:

- We know that our activities, especially the property at Walsingham Lodge, have a direct impact on the environment. Subject to meeting our Charitable Objects, managing and reducing our direct environmental impact is a key priority.
- We also know that we can play a part by encouraging the organisations we fund through The Barnes Fund grant giving programme to adopt and act on their own environmental policies, and by providing information to individuals in receipt of grants to help them to reduce costs and live in a more environmentally friendly way
- We have financial and property investments where we can make choices and/or encourage others to make choices that help to reduce environmental degradation.

And we recognise that while we have already taken some practical steps to do this, there is much more that we can do.

This policy aims to address the following:

1. Our Environmental Vision
2. The principles we will follow

At the end of the document we have included a list of the practical steps that we have taken to date and the ideas that we have for the future. These include establishing some measures against which we can assess progress. We plan to update this section at least once a year, and to publish the measures once they exist and then our performance against them.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY OF BARNES

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The Barnes Fund
www.thebarnesfund.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 200103

Walsingham Lodge Trust
www.walsinghamlodge.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 200103-1

The Barnes Fund Trustee Ltd
Corporate Trustee to the above charities Company Number 10873803
Registered address:
Tudor John Nightingale House, 46-48 East Street, Epsom, Surrey, United Kingdom, KT17 1HQ,
Limited company registered in England and Wales.

Our Vision

is to have a positive impact on the environment in general and, in particular where we operate in Barnes, for the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Our Principles

We will comply with all regulatory environmental requirements.

In addition, subject to meeting our charitable Objects, as guardians of the fund for future generations, we will learn, collaborate and act so that we:

- Consider the impact of and, insofar as affordable and practical, work to reduce our direct carbon footprint in all our decisions,
- Measure our impact where this is feasible and monitor our progress so that we know where we can make the most significant changes and are able to report on progress insofar as practical
- Not just work to reduce our negative impact on the fauna and flora around us, such as the birds, animals and plants, but purposefully look to improve biodiversity and sustainability at Walsingham Lodge
- Favour suppliers that help us achieve our environmental principles
- Where we can, work with and encourage the organisations that we help to fund to adopt sound environmental aims and policies
- When considering our investment policy and choice of fund manager(s), take account of the environmental impact of the companies we invest in insofar as we are permitted to
- Update this policy annually and regularly publish what we have done and what we intend to do

Date: November 2024

Practical Steps taken to date – November 2024

The biggest direct impact we can have is at our almshouses at Walsingham Lodge. Here are some of the actions we have already taken there:

- All properties have been re-assessed and given an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of C.
- A survey of roof and wall insulation has been undertaken.
- A further survey of wall insulation has been undertaken which found the almshouses to have a good level of insulation.
- Adopted a heating policy which includes turning the heating system off in Walsingham Lodge in the summer months. This has reduced gas consumption.
- Piloted replacement of radiators in one Walsingham Lodge flat to review impact on energy consumption.
- The revised Residents Handbook includes an environment section which gives tips on ways to save energy (and reduce fuel bills). Residents have been encouraged by the HSO to undertake energy saving measures.
- SWLEAP (South West London Energy Advice Partnership) attended a resident tea and provided residents with the opportunity of an energy audit which has been taken up by a number of residents.
- Barnes Community Gardeners have worked with residents to increase sustainable gardening practices.
- Undertaken an initial review of options for the laundry facility, in terms of energy efficient appliances that will last longer and a potential maintenance contract.
- Installed LED lights throughout the garden / exterior
- Installed LED lights and movement sensors throughout common parts
- Moved to use only peat-free compost.
- Encouraged and provided for resident composting
- Renovated the greenhouse and encouraged residents to use it to grow flowers and vegetables
- Replaced external paths as they become due for repair with a covering made from a sustainably sourced, recycled tyre product
- Started to adapt sustainably sourced products as internal areas come due for renovation – so far applies to new flooring product for common parts, and bathroom panels in individual properties
- Obtained an environmental audit from *Habitats and Heritage*¹, and registered our interest in the LBRUT Solar Together London Group and investigated a range of grant schemes, which we have typically not been eligible for given the properties are EPC rated C.
- Welcomed Barnes Community Gardeners to Walsingham Lodge to support a gardening club for residents (part funded by TBF)
- Due the above measures there has been a reduction in energy consumption, evidenced through regular meter readings taken by the HSO.

In addition, in our grant making, we:

- Provide underlay when awarding a carpet grant
- Use Richmond Furniture Recycling Scheme when awarding a furniture grant
- Have switched to supplying higher-rated electrical goods to increase energy efficiency as well as durability. (AAA in the short-term, but terminology has changed in April 2021.)

¹ Habitats & Heritage is a result of the merger of Environment Trust and South West London Environment Network (SWLEN).

- Signpost energy grant applicants to Citizens Advice Energy Scheme and SWLEAP home audits via the referral agency.
- For organisational grant applicants, encourage those applying for a revenue grant to adopt and act on environmental policies.

And operationally, we have converted our filing system to Sharepoint and reduced paper printing of charity documents.

On investments, we have currently chosen CCLA as our fund manager. They state their approach to climate change as follows:

We view climate change as the largest threat to our planet, ecosystems and communities, as well as a being a critical issue for long-term investors. We also recognise that the transition to a low carbon economy presents investment opportunities. For these reasons we have long supported efforts to limit global temperature rises to substantially below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

As investors we have a duty to manage our financial exposure to climate related risk and to maximise the opportunities arising from the low carbon transition for our clients. We do this in five ways. First....., we conduct an annual review of the major risks and opportunities associated with climate change. Second... we seek to avoid investing in the companies, in the most exposed sectors, who are not properly preparing, or are not able to prepare, for the transition to a low carbon economy. Third, we engage with our holdings (ie companies we invest in) to support them in addressing and mitigating the risks that the low carbon economy poses to their business. Fourth, we seek to promote proactive climate regulation and legislation through interaction with public policy makers. Finally, we seek to.... dedicate capital to accelerating the low carbon economy.

Practical steps considered for the future

Further ideas and actions we are considering:

At Walsingham Lodge::

- On the property overall, work with relevant organisations to measure our carbon and waste footprint uncovering the areas of highest environmental impact, so that we can prioritise our actions in order to make the biggest difference and set a baseline from which we can measure our performance
- Investigate energy suppliers and where practical move to renewable energy sources
- Use environmentally sound building materials and install better insulation as we upgrade our properties
- Replace laundry machinery with AAA rated alternatives
- Employ local tradespeople where feasible to reduce travel
- Flora: Increase biodiversity in parts of the grounds by eg creating a wild flower meadow in between Viera Gray and the leasehold bungalows
- Eliminate non-organic pesticide use in the gardens - at present we still use a standard non-organic product on the lawn to kill weeds/moss and provide feed, and on pathways to kill weeds.
- Replace the small number of diseased trees we have lost following our recent tree survey with different varieties to add to the biodiversity
- Create plots for resident vegetable gardening
- Fauna: Encourage bird life with bird boxes and bird baths and create a safe-haven for hedgehogs

For our Grant Giving Activities:

Require those applying for capital grants to take the opportunity of major works to review how and whether they can reduce carbon footprint / improve biodiversity