

Nest 2024 | Town Hall | Minutes

Date: 21 February 2024

Time: 8pm to 10pm (GMT)

Link to join:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88454653487?pwd=jb5rXqdXgdbXvP1ab1RWU5uebM7NGs.1>

Password: Nest

Agenda

[Emily] Welcome, zoom features, good practices and Agenda

[Michael] Preamble:

What is Burning Nest? Space for expression, creativity, chosen family, connection, contribution. It is what we bring to it.

We organise it throughout the year. It's the UK's largest burner in terms of numbers and the longest running. It is organised in Circles. We call the circle's leads link, because it's less hierarchical. The Event link specifically is the person who aids the communication and facilitates between all of the circles.

[Allan] Reports from last year

Last year was the largest Nest so far, and the 4th at the site. We had a larger scale in terms of art and effigy. A wide range of theme camps covering different interests.

The website has been updated to include last year's financial reports, consent feedback and reports. Accessibility guide, survival guide etc. See the public documents page for this. <https://www.burningnest.co.uk/news/public-documents-hub/>

[Allan] Board updates:

Membership: as Nest has grown so much, membership has been considered to reflect the opportunity to have more opportunity to get members to vote on issues and be elected to the board. To have new board members come up. It does mean we have certain liabilities and legal hoops to jump through in order to do this.

Constitution: we're rewriting a constitution, which reflects the language and practises specific to burns and more accessible/readable for the community. It is currently under review by a lawyer from the community. After this it will be sent to other people with official experience in constitution and memberships. Once completed this will allow people to become a member of the organisation, with voting rights for trustees and speaking at AGM. The membership will be

free, and will not include any benefits. It will also not be required for attendance. Being a member is a purely separate thing,

> Q: Why would anyone want to be a trustee of Nest?

It's a way to contribute to the future of Nest. There's a legal responsibility attached to it. Trustees make sure that legal responsibilities are being taken into account so Nest can continue to exist.

> Q: On the membership front would a legal liability even if it's £1 affect your credit score?

No, it doesn't.

Circle Updates

[Roofie] DPW: changes in placement and layout

DPW stands for Department of Public Works. It's essentially the infrastructure your tickets pay for: power, structures, legalities, etc. It's the department responsible for building, for instance.

Applications to apply to DPW are open: if you are interested in building stuff, support with admin or have any other skills that might be useful for build, and are available anytime before the event and the 3 days after it ends, DPW would love to hear from you.

Applications for art grants are open and welcome! Application form has lots of questions about noise and it's because there are some legal obligations that we need to fulfil. Those questions are important to make sure you'll be put in the right place according to that.

Placement will take into consideration noise compliance, need to access power, structure requirements (it's important to know if you need a flat ground or can cope with a more wonky ground).

DPW is asking theme camps and art projects to be really open about changes in placement this year. Placement team will start meeting from next week on and start making decisions. Theme camps applications are open until March 10th, but the sooner we get your application the easier it will be to find a good matching spot for you, especially if you're a big camp with a big structure.

Placement plan can only be released once it's final, but if you have any concerns about your camp's placement please reach out to DPW as soon as possible.

> Q: My main obstacle to getting more involved in preparation is screen-time exhaustion. Any thoughts!? Is it too much to hope, in our age, for any way to get involved that doesn't involve spending more time looking at spreadsheets, on zoom, on Trello, etc?

ABSOLUTELY - In fact joining Roofie's team and being involved in DPW for build and/or strike, or helping the kitchen, or running a ranger shift or welfare shift etc. LOADS of opportunities to contribute during the event that will require almost no screen time in advance.

[CK] Consent

Consent education: being led by Greg B. There will be workshops being facilitated by the consent team, if you want to help get in touch at consentnetwork@gmail.com .

There will be a “consent cafe” located at free camp.

There are two streams in consent: consent and compliance. Both are looking for volunteers.

[Jeanne] Finances

Essentially, we try not to make any money. We sell tickets early to start funding the event and then spend as much as possible to make the event happen. A big chunk of money goes into art grants. There's been an increase in budget for accessibility and inclusion initiatives this year.

> Q: What happens if there's money left at the end of the event?

We try to have a bit of money left for reserve, but the budget is then increased in the next year.

It's also used to pay for things in advance of selling tickets for the next year.

> Q: How are we doing with ticket sales this year?

51 tickets for low income have been assigned and purchased. Another 50 people have been assigned low income tickets but haven't purchased them yet.

375 regular tickets are left to be purchased.

We are at around 500 sold all together.

[Emily] Community updates

- Theme camp applications are live. Deadline for applications is 10th March. Programming will commence shortly after so camp leads please bear that in mind and get planning.
- Site Visit being planned for early April.
- Accessibility resources that are being created for this event- handrail for the hill, radar lock toilets, extra lighting and rangers for the post temple, viewing platform for the effigy burn, rest stops and benches around the glade, best practice document for theme camp leads to make accessible features, Multiple accessibility camping areas, low sensory

impact times in the point. Accessibility transport vehicle trying to happen but lots of hoops to jump through in terms of insurance/drivers/landscaper and being suitable for use. Basic Accessibility map will be produced.

- Families will have the option of camping together in Free Camping and creating their own communal space in the new village. There will also be a host of family centred workshops and time allocated at The Point.
- Inclusion- Newbie, solo and international burners will be able to make their own collaborative/supportive camp in the village. There will be workshops and pre-event social media connections to assist people making these connections in advance. Emily has an idea for 'A Library of Things' so will be asking for donations for any spare practical burn/camping supplies that people have so that we can offer them up for the week to lower income attendees, people flying in etc
- The Point is open for use by all and please contact community@burningnest.co.uk if you have an idea for a workshop or evening entertainment you would like to host inside. Form coming soon. This year we plan for The Point to be a gateway for new burners. We'll organise some dedicated activities pre and during the event, stay tuned on the newsletter and social media channels / signal groups for more information soon.

[Tish, filling in for Treasure] Comms:

- New Burners page (<https://www.burningnest.co.uk/event/new-burners/>): a great first stop for anybody who hasn't been to a Burn or Nest before!
- When keen eyes spot something on the website or on social media that doesn't quite make sense, or if there's a gap of information, please inform Treasure so they can fix it! Best way it to send an email to comms@burningnest.co.uk
- Vols support:
 - social media/community managers answering questions, signposting information (for experienced Nestlings only)
 - content manager. Working with writers to produce articles, and then getting them up on the website. Some editing/project managing experience needed. Experienced Burners preferred but not mandatory.
 - writers. An invitation for people to write about their favourite Burn/Nest related content

[Phoebe] Edge of Chaos:

We really need Ranger volunteers. Security has highly recommended we hire an additional security staff member but there's no budget for that and don't actually need to so long as we are covered with some rangers. Additionally we are looking to recruit site leads, and will be looking for experienced site leads on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the week.

If you want to volunteer, get in touch at edgeofchaos@burningnest.co.uk

> Q: Is there a possibility to be a site lead with reduced mobility capacity? Someone raised an issue about not feeling so safe about being alone in their shift. Is there a possibility to avoid that this year?

Yes, we will look into having more than one site lead per shift to make this more possible, but we need volunteers for site leads. If we do we'll be able to overlap or have more than one on. It's partly a numbers issue. Volunteer folks!

[Patricia] Volunteers:

- We need a temporary Art Lead to step up as soon as possible. Someone with experience in burner organising would be ideal but anyone with passion for assisting the art circle collate and deliver all the beautiful art projects and decor and graphics for the event would be very welcome. Contact Michael or the vols lead to offer to step up.
- Lead roles: if you go to the organising page in the website you can see which ones we are in need of and sign up.
- There will be a call for general volunteers in the next newsletter, so keep an eye for those if you're keen to sign up or get in touch at vols@burningnest.co.uk. Sharing with your friends also helps making sure the form gets to those who want to help but couldn't find a way how last year.

Other topics

> Q: Hi Vis jackets for sole use of site leads/rangers? Solo site lead shifts are dangerous and can we have 2 leads per shift?

Gavin (Ranger's Lead) mentioned that rangers will be using a different type of uniform. They are brainstorming ideas for something visible, but not a high-viz vest. Open to suggestions!!

It was raised that limiting people's clothing choices goes against the principle of radical expression, so we should be looking into creating a different way of making staff identifiable rather than limiting other people's choice of clothing.

More discussions about this and search for solutions will follow.

> Q: There was feedback saying there were issues with rats in free camping last year. I think the answer was that we were going to speak to the landowner. Did we ever find out what had happened?

Apparently last year was a perfect year for rats to breed. The landowners has been notified and has promised to do his best to keep the population down.

> Q: Will there be a water supply to free camp?

It's water project 3.0 this year. And although we're not sure yet, there are plans for improvements and more taps on site. We will add an update once we know more in the newsletter about the Water project.