

## Meeting: Friends of Hilly Fields


### Minutes of Meeting 11 March 2014

Present: Rachel Mooney (Chair), Tom Moulton (Joint Secretary), Wayne Dyer (Glendale), Luke Shacklock (Glendale), Ruth Meaney, Keith Ward, Symon Knightswood, Colm McCormac, Maura Rafferty, Helen Naylor, Claire Styles, Val Master, Bridget Lycett Smith, Christine Moores, Mike Keogh, Andrea Carey Fuller, Linda Doyle.

Apologies: Andrew Harper, Helen Mercer

1. Minutes of Last meeting – agreed
2. **General Maintenance and Park Furniture**  
The following issues were discussed:

Issue	Details	Date noted	Completed and date
Cycle racks	13 additional racks installed. Fred stopped another 8. Non were required, having had new racks earlier in year. Highways Department responsible and they installed without informing GreenScene.	10/12/13 John Thompson has told them to remove them all.	DONE
Sign at tennis courts	Requested possibility and price for sign as at Telegraph Hill Park Re: not hogging courts.	First request by email 21.01.13 Followed up on 17/06/13 and 11.6.13 meeting 10-9-13 meeting 10-12-13 meeting	supply price for a sign as Telegraph Hills but with Hilly Fields would be £145.
Grass cutting	timing	On-going	
Benches – failure to consult with Friends over style, position or plans for bespoke park bench	More benches this time not even complying with criteria that Greenscene (unilaterally) approved in September 2012.	On-going since 1 Oct 2007 12/12 meeting, Fiona Gavin confirmed she would consult over positions. 11.6.13- noted no consultation. 10.9.13 noted that a bench costs about £500 which is paid to Glendale	Discussed at Meeting with Greenscene. JT agreed that no more would be added for foreseeable future.
Litter bins	Inappropriate for level of litter and given activities of foxes and crows	10.9.13 FRIENDS researching bin options.	

<p><b>SKANSKA</b> <b>Lighting new columns in park.</b></p>	<p>Initial enquiry May 2013. Follow up: 10.9.13</p> <p>Requested whether they could be on Sensor so only turn on when needed.</p> <p>Also a feeder so that the basket ball hoop could be lit to extend hours of play.</p> <p>Requested if there was an option for grey.</p> <p>Later requested whether the signage for park could be printed on them.</p>	<p>Via Skanska contact not Lewisham. Greenscene don't seem to have any say.</p> <p>Only information given is that they are black and taller than existing and it is a PFI.</p> <p>No response to queries re sensor activation, lighting of basketball hoops to extend hours of play,</p> <p>No consultation on less obtrusive colour, only black</p> <p>No reply re if signage could be printed on them.</p> <p>John Algar who was appointed with managing contract with Skanska never replied to Symon.</p>	<p>Mayor seems to have signed it all off some years ago and we are saddled with it.</p>
	<p>Conservation Lewisham did a report re places for heritage lighting – Symon trying to get a copy.</p>	<p>They still haven't sent it through.</p>	
<p>Skanska – Additional posts</p>	<p>A series of additional Posts now installed with 'footpath' sign.</p> <p>Matt White (Skanska?) had drawn up where these posts were positioned.</p>	<p>Greenscene confirmed they would remove them 06-03-14</p>	


Skanska and protecting Trees	Tree section were not consulted and said they could not intervene. They had a joint meeting with Skanska "who indicated they would <i>take into consideration</i> avoiding moving lamps further into tree canopies".	Marc Zahra (Public Liaison Officer for Skanska) replied saying "The street lighting solution for Hilly Fields has been considered extensively. We can confirm that the replacement street lighting will not have a detrimental effect on trees".	 <p>The highlighted lamp columns have now been <b>positioned closer into tree canopy and in rootzones</b>.</p> <p>There was no attempt to improve the existing situation. They are very bright and ugly and likely to have a detrimental effect, especially if they want work done to trees where they have chosen to position lamps higher in their canopy.</p>
Chain Link to tennis court	Chainlink to back of tennis court (from falling tree)	Glendale repaired	DONE
Missing fixings on railings to shade garden	Railing was taken out when cable dug for portacabin, they left cable tie holding the railing.	11.6.13 10.9.13	DONE
Railings to conservation area	Dangerous rails bent out needed attention.	11.6.13	DONE
Shade garden Gate	Bracket broken	Reported at meeting 11.03.14	DONE

Table Tennis table	Site increasingly muddy at both ends, so play difficult. Requested woodchip/sand fill to level as interim measure. Also requested price for installing matta.	12.03.13 requested cost of Matta for ends of table. 11.6.13 – Glendale to cost Matta surfacing 10.9.13 – No costing available. Glendale will put down bark as temporary measure.	INTERIM: GLENDALE have put down bark and it is improved.  RM got cost with 10 year guarantees it is a staggering £67/m2) So that would be £2K for the larger area, could get away with £1,300.  Would be interested if Glendale could get cheaper price.
Table Tennis	discussion on whether long term would be better to have table on tarmac or move elsewhere?  All to consider. Rachel to ask F Gavin if spare table available	<i>RM, no tables were currently available, will look into sourcing money for a second table. Mtg agreed second one would be welcome.</i>	
Chain Link on tennis courts	Tennis Courts Damage to netting in the corner near the cafe. Friends suggest repairing now would save on a more expensive job later. Moss on tennis courts.	10.9.13  10.12.13 – is on Glendale maintenance list – Wayne to talk to Chris Thompson 11.03.14 - still outstanding.	
Railing on Eastern Avenue	Two horizontal bars had come out, repair had been requested.	11.6.13 10.9.13	DONE
maintenance	Brambles along Vicars Hill means litter build up.	10.9.13 11.03.14	

	Can Lee litter pick from the road? Entrance area is very overgrown .	Not had confirmation of situation.	
General maintenance	Friends had met Angus to ensure no more fallen timber was taken off site. Wanted Tree left with <b>challenging</b> climbing and other timber would be left in park. (wanted this as a park policy for all fallen trees)	Friends had offered to pay specialist play safety advisor to assess fallen tree.	
Cliffview Boundary	Resident concerned about hedging and rejuvenating trees on boundary. (part of wildlife corridor)	10.12.13 Met with AB and Glendale and agreed compromise making blackthorn to height of extension, so that it still screened and thinning the rejuvenating els. When work was carried out he requested it was taken lower.	AB requested it was taken down lower as worried the concrete ornamental wall and retaining wall will be damaged and Glendale felt obliged to carry out.  Making earlier meeting rather pointless.
Playground - maintenance	Sand needs topping up, concrete footings are exposed again.	11.03.14	
	Tree stump Tree stump be ground out in portacabin area	Pointed out during visit, including Green Flag visit in June? 10/12/13 DONE March 2014	DONE March 2014

### 3. Prendergast cabins and building work

**Portacabins** have gone, Friends requested site could be left for a year before re-seeding for grass. Friends paid for seeds, poppies and cornflower (French equivalent, memorial flower). This would be seeded with students from Prendergasts.

Two trees were felled for siting cabins – 30 year old hornbeams, have been told they will be replaced with small trees. Friends to chase replacement for the mature Plane, which needed felling for crane access.

Although the planning information confirms that there was no requirement for Section 106 money to be spent on footpath repairs, the paperwork wasn't signed so currently the second £10K seems to be at risk.

Bat boxes been put up, RM to check with Angus who supplied them. They were not that secure and moved in wind, which might not be any good for bats.

Angus was meeting with contractors to confirm site was left in condition it was found in.

#### **4. Park Events and Activities**

- i. - Big Birdwatch – 26 January, 11.00-2.00. Successful event.
- ii. - Orchard wassail – well attended Charlie Hart organised the music.
- iii. - Bulb planting – MPGA bulbs planted in December, in shade garden, daffodils in shrub beds around park and tulips in bowls club.
- iv. - Wild Play Day, had been very successful with 427 children attending throughout the day. Working with Chelwood had been a good experience and worked well. The mud kitchen would be kept for ongoing use. Willow land art also to be retained for ongoing building. The fire pit had been a great success and would be good to replicate the event funding permitting.
- v. - Memorial tree for Keith - Glendale never got back with a price nor whether they would prepare ground and stakes etc (10/09/13). We will purchase and organise things ourself. Agreed to plant Rowan tree.
- vi. Dawn Chorus is planned for 2nd April at 6am. It is hoped that we can extend the walk into the Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries.
- vii. Midsummer Fayre is Saturday 21st June. Friends will have a stall again.

- 5. Tree Conference** will take place at Lewisham College on Lewisham Way on 26th April, 2014. LeSoCo (formerly Lewisham College SE4 1UT Breakspears Road Building, Breakspears Road entrance

#### **6. Development Plan**

- Orchard maintenance & fruiting hedge. Four additional trees have been planted and pruning was carried out with Amber from London Orchard Project. We need to set up a watering rota. New trees require 10L a week throughout first two springs and 20L a week in summers.
- Octavia Hill memorial garden. Planted some spring bulbs but no further progress.
- Tree strategy – to develop further,
- Update of masterplan – nothing further.
- Symon to pursue with Colm proposal/quote for fox-proof wooden litter bin cover

#### **7. Bird Champion Update**

Monthly surveys continuing, HF Birdwatch blog updated every month  
<http://hillyfields.blogspot.co.uk/>

Despite the wet weather for bird watch, it was well attended and 20 different species were seen.

8. **Dog issues** – no known problems apart from fouling.
9. **Cricket club** – Need to get update from Paul Harper at Glendale.
10. **Cafe update** - planning on planting a hedge around cafe, Friends would see if they could help fund.
11. **Bowls Club** – Keith reported that the pavilion was falling down. They were looking for funds to rebuild and wanted to develop a communal facility and link with cricket club etc.
12. **Veda Road Hedging** – residents are concerned about open stretches and the gap between the new hedge and the boundary. The hedge had been planted away from boundary so that it would establish as it was dry and shaded between trees. Agreed to meet with residents and look at issues with view to carrying out some infill planting.
13. **AOB.**
  - Healthy Walks programme re starting 31st March at 6.30 outside the bowling green. It is a 45 minute walk, at a pace to suit individuals.
  - OPAL TREE survey Greenscene backing the survey. Assessing health and looking for death and disease. Leaf minor (A micro moth which eats the inside of leaves creating 'mines' inside them), bleeding canker.
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  - National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS). Symon attended London meeting. Interest in setting up Lewisham Forum – HF, TH Park, Chinbrook, Home Park, Syd Wells, Mayow...Councillor Susan Wise has cabinet responsibility for customer services which includes parks.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 10 June 2014 at 7.30pm in cafe**

## **REMINDER: Trees in the City**

**IS SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April, FROM 10AM UNTIL 3PM. YOU CAN ATTEND ANY SESSIONS AND IT IS FREE. HILLY FIELDS WILL BE PRESENTING AFTER LUNCH.**

You don't need to be an expert or have any special knowledge!

**All welcome!**