

Friends of Hilly Fields
Minutes of meeting 10th May 2011

Present:

Rachel Mooney (Chair)	Marcus Cox
Helen Mercer (Secretary)	Chris Cornish
Andrew Harper (Treasurer)	Colm Macormac
Keith Ward (Bird champion)	Tom Moulton
Ruth Pepper	Mike Keogh
Jill Jenkins (Francis Drake Bowling Green)	Catherine Thompson
Vince from Glendale	Josh Franklin (LCS)

1. Introductions
2. Apologies – none received
3. Minutes of last meeting - agreed
4. Maintenance and repairs

Trim trail equipment: Nothing had been done to repair these – Glendale to chase again.

Play area – some replanting was needed; planting wasn't sufficiently watered in early weeks, dead plants then went missing, so replacements should be carried out by the main contractor. Rachel to ask contract administrator what has been agreed and to chase the contractors.

Grass/meadow: Area near the orchard to be managed as meadow, to help pollinate the fruit trees. Glendale now has a machine to pick up the grass and must make sure it is used on the meadow areas.

Trees, including replanting of the Brockley Oak: Brockley Society paid for this tree but it has never survived, last tree was practically dead when planted by Glendale. It can't be replanted now until November. Marcus agreed to oversee the planting.

Footpaths: footpath from Bowling green to toilets is now being done. The Friends have requested that granite setts be used to demarcate the entrance to Park.

Park furniture: The drinking fountain has design flaw and Groundwork are investigating alternative options.

Boundary planting and Green gym: Rachel met Lara of Green Gym (now Nature's Gym) and they agreed: to improve habitat along back of Cliffview Boundary to put logs on the edge, to enable planting of hedgerow plants to boundary; to clear brambles at the entrance to the park at the top of Vicars Hill; to clear the lower entrance on Vicars Hill and to take out self sown ash and sycamore.

Stone Circle: Rachel discussions the architect Juliet Johnson who was involved in the stone circle project and a local stone mason. He confirmed the damage was definitely caused by a fire. If the slabs are replaced with Caithness stone a similar thing could happen again. We have a quote for replacement, with the supply of new riven Caithness stone at £1759 + VAT; admin, drawings, setting out and carving etc - £4000 and removal of old stones and refitting new - £2500 + VAT.

Rachel is trying to get a price for granite stones. It was suggested that we get quotes for a repair rather than a replacement.

(Post meeting quote supplied: Supply of grey granite with sandblasted finish, delivered to London £2,950 plus VAT

Admin, drawings, setting out, carving etc £4,500

Removal & fixing by Taylor Pearce £2,500 plus VAT)

5. **Prendergasts:** post contract work: it is not clear the extent of the post contract works. Friends agreed that as part of the making good after the works there should be granite setts put across the end of Eastern Road near the new gates to demarcate the entrance for the traffic. It was reiterated that the road is supposed to be restricted access only for authorised vehicles.
6. **Development issues**
 - a) Playground: as part of the sustainability grant, storytelling has been arranged with Catherine House and Brockley School.
 - b) Orchard: reported that some additional trees have been bought for the park with a grant and these are mainly fruit and nut trees that will be planted round the park.
 - c) Octavia Hill Memorial Garden: no progress – looking at possible Heritage Lottery money or Parks for People. Rachel has submitted a pre-application form to HLF.
 - d) Café tenders are being reviewed by Lewisham.
7. **Bowling Green:** they are offering free taster sessions as part of Brockley Max.
8. **Bird Champion Update:** Keith has not been able to get to park as frequently and we need more people to fill bird feeder and undertake bird surveys. Tom and Colm have offered to help. Keith has organised a Dawn chorus walk for 19th May at 5 am, Meet Chris McGaw by the Green Flag.
9. **Lewisham Community Sports:** stated that Glendale had been taking their cutbacks out on LCS and they were therefore tending to use Prendergast School and Brockley Primary more for their events.
10. Update on **cricket project:** this needs watering and it should have been fertilised and rolled by now. Glendale to chase. Lewisham is chasing the lottery money to convert part of the Bothy to a changing room ready for the start of next year's season.
11. **AOB:**
 - a) Bats Conservation Trust – Andrew will attend training and work on organising an event for the park
 - b) Chris questioned the suitability of the new playground for children with disabilities. He felt there was a gap in provision between the toddler swings and the tyres. The basket swing was omitted after tender as the project was over budget, which would have accommodated a wider range of disabilities. Also criticised the slide as it is difficult to access and needed a handrail. Rachel explained that it had increased accessibility for some children (as helpers can accompany children on slide) and that the slides were considered accessible and inclusive. We would look at ways of addressing specific problems.

POST MEETING Notes

Rachel has contacted Greenscene re issues on handrail for slide.

They said they would get a quote and see where they can go from there. RM, suggested that any work that needs to be done, should be done in association with the specific child, otherwise, it still might not fulfil specialist requirements.

NEXT MEETING IS OUR AGM on Tuesday 13th September, at 7.30 in the BOTHY.