

Meeting: Friends of Hillyfields

Minutes of meeting 10th September 2013

Present: Rachel Mooney (chair) Helen Mercer (Joint secretary) Tom Moulton (joint secretary), Andrew Harper (treasurer), Wayne Dyer (Glendale), Gary O'Hara (Glendale), Colm MacCormac, Symon Knightswood, Denis Savin LBL, Nady Gencheva LBL, Symon Knightswood, Mick Singer, Jeaneatte Singer (Bowls Club), Magda Szlenkier, Amanda Thomson Pc 269Pc, Heather Walchorn Pcs0 7243Pc, Nicola Ferguson.

Apologies: Keith Ward

1. Minutes of last meeting: issues arising below
2. Police Liaison and Update:

Two members of the Lewisham Council Community Safety Directorate and two policewomen from Ladywell SNT attended the meeting. They explained their role was to deal with issues where the police do not intervene, for instance through Good Neighbourhood agreements, mediation. Possibility they would start a surgery in the café. They provided their contact number for park users see below.

In Hillyfields there have been persistent problems in the shade garden of people sleeping rough and having loud parties and disturbing residents of Cliffview Road. The police have patrolled there but not seen anything themselves. Saturday morning someone was arrested. Fire brigade also called once.

The Community Safety Directorate said they could support our bid to renew the shade garden as that might be the best long-term solution.

Also had problems with person on a quad bike. Police had attended but van got stuck on grass. Advised that information is sent to Community Safety team, as well as police, as they weren't always informed. Persistent problems should be recorded on their incident sheets.

Other security issues were also discussed:

The park-keeper currently works in Hillyfields 10-7 Thursday to Monday.

Glendale security number is: 0208 318 3916

Police contact details: ladywell.snt@met.police.uk; 020 87212484.

Denis Savin, LBL Safety Directorate: 0208 314 6327

Police will send a flyer for Glendale to put on the noticeboards to let people know these details.

3. General Maintenance and Park Furniture

There was a heated discussion about the persistent failure of Glendale to respond to our concerns, to consult with us and to make the repairs and maintenance that are needed. Issues come up repeatedly and no progress is made. Agreed that Chris Thompson be asked to come to our next meeting so that we can get to the bottom of the malaise.

This week the following issues were discussed:

Issue	Details	Date noted	Completed and date
Cycle racks	9.06.13 queried why marked positions were different to agreed ones, didn't get a reply, racks went in with some changed locations.	11.6.13	DONE but some in different position to agreed Odd rack by tennis court was changed/style and position in time for Green Flag judging
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	
Grass cutting	timing	On-going	

		10.9.13 – grass left long	
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	
Lighting new columns in park.	Requested whether they could be on Sensor so only turn on when needed. Also a feeder so that the basket ball hoop could be lit to extend hours of play. Requested if there was an option for grey. Later requested whether the signage for park could be printed on them.	Initial enquiry May 2013. 10.9.13 Via Skanska contact not Lewisham. Greenscene don't seem to have any say. Only information given is that they are black and taller than existing and it is a PFI.	
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.	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.
Chain Link on tennis courts	Damage in the corner near the cafe	10.9.13	
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	
Railing on Eastern Avenue	Two horizontal bars had come out, repair had been requested.	11.6.13 10.9.13	
Railings around conservation area	Dangerous rails bent out needed attention.	11.6.13	
Litter	Noted very poor cleanliness over the summer. Glass on Stone Circle. Bins not emptied.	10.9.13	
Litter bins	Inappropriate for level of litter and given activities of foxes and crows	10.9.13	
Tree maintenance	Brambles along Vicars Hill means litter build	10.9.13	

	up. Can Lee litter pick from the road? Entrance area is very overgrown .		
Playground – drinking fountain	Had been reported not working earlier in month?	On-going 10.9.13	Think this had been fixed
Playground - maintenance	Thistles, nettles and some brambles are growing in the shrub bed at bottom of the playground.	10.9.13	
Playground – timberwork and mounding	Timber seating area, boards rotten where ran into grass. Excavated tarmac and brick is exposed in the mounding.	10.9.13	
Renew sign for shady garden re. dogs	The old no dog sign had been replaced with updated on.		Done
Bowls Club – hedge trimming	Failure to cut hedge on far side	10.9.13	

4. Prendergast portacabins and building work.
This is due to be completed by the end of the year and area needs to be properly restored. Andrew will contact the school about progress on this. Also need to confirm what the section 106 money should be spent on. Have prices for installing 2 tree swings, need to meet tree officer to confirm which trees.
5. Brockley Design Project. Their plan to renew the bandstand has been postponed.
6. Park events: Green Fair – Ruth reported on the range of stalls eg cycle workshop. Marquees will be hired from Friends of Blythe Hill stored in Glendale Shed on Blackheath. Helen will fill in the events form for Glendale. Rachel secured a £2,000 a Celebrate Your Space Grant from lottery towards the fair.
7. Orchard maintenance. There was a very successful event last week which has tidied up the beds and mulched. Two trees have been lost, one through vandalism and one to disease. We will ask the London Orchard Project for replacements.
8. Octavia Hill Memorial Garden: Rachel submitted a bid for £25,000 and this has gone through the first sift. A final decision is expected at the end of October. If we win the money Greenscene will hold it for us, but have agreed that we won't be side lined. The donated plants from Chelsea Flower Show were mostly mown prior to Green Flag visit.
9. Tree strategy: Friends have prepared a draft strategy for the park. Lewisham's tree strategy is with the Mayor at the moment. Suggested we have a sub-committee to thrash out final detail on our own strategy. £125 has been donated for Keith's memorial tree and the meeting agreed on a Rowan. Requested Glendale supply the stakes and prepare the tree pit. There will be a small ceremony.
Rachel suggested submitting a grant to Metropolitan Parks and Gardens Association, could be to replace trees lost in the playground, rather than original intention a bespoke circular bench.
10. Bird champion. Tom reported that there are regular surveys by himself and Sue Gore. At the last survey 13 species were recorded, compared with the 22 species noted in the Spring. Seed is needed for the bird feeders.
11. Practice developing of hanging bags of dog-poo on trees. Will Glendale provide a notice somewhere advising against this practice?

12. Bowls Club: closing for the winter at the end of September. Hedge-cutting is an issue.
13. Query on lack of inclusiveness of cricket playing for local community. RM to follow up with Paul Harper at Glendale.
14. Green Flag: The park got through the most recent inspection, but it was clear that Glendale 'spruced' up the park immediately before their arrival. The inspectors have noted twice the tension between the Friends and Glendale. This adds urgency to the need to meet with John Thompson. The Friends need to outline their concerns concisely to make this a fruitful meeting.
15. Friends noted that the same issues arose meeting after meeting and were not dealt with. Suggested that Chris Thompson should attend next meeting, so that he could give answers and explain why wishes of the friends were consistently over looked.
16. Date of next meeting: 10th December, 2013.
AGM postponed until new year.

OUR BIG BIRD WATCH 2014 will be held on SUNDAY 26TH January, from 11am until 2pm.

You can do an accompanied walk with one of our bird champions or take the survey and return on finishing. We'll be making bird feeders...and if we can get sorted, maybe some bird boxes. You don't need to be an expert and there are no age restrictions...best to wrap up warm though.

We are planning a Wassail in the orchard some time in February...will post on facebook: [hilly.fields.7](https://www.facebook.com/hilly.fields.7) and website: www.hilly.org.uk, and notice boards in park when detail is finalised.