

HILLY FIELDS PARK USER GROUP MEETING

Date: 24th November 2010

Present: Rachel Mooney Chair
Andrew Harper Treasurer
Ruth Pepper
Josh Franklin
Keith Ward
Marcus Fox
Ruth Ward
Oscar (and Oli)
Mike Keogh Councillor (p-t)

Apologies: Jill Tritton, Sue Luxton, Amanda Nelson

1. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Tennis courts are mossy and need clearing.

Fallen log/seats have all rotted and need replacing. To ask Envirowork if they have any new ones for replacement. **RM**

Footpaths and Roads

There are still lots in a poor condition, including steps from Vicars Hill. Currently no funding for these. Price for replacement quoted in £100,000s. Possible to set out a combined plan with walking to school's programme and cycle network to look at improving some main paths. Was interest in looking into a safer crossing point on Hilly Fields Crescent.

AH and RM met Carol Crankshaw, Lewisham's cycling officer in June. She apologised for lack of consultation over the path, she had asked Greenscene if there was any one to discuss proposals with. The cycle racks on Eastern Road had been put in the wrong position and were supposed to have been put by tennis court gates. The path markings did not need to be so large and the markings from Montague corner and Hilly Fields Crescent were in the wrong place. They have since been burnt off the path and a new marking put on path higher up. Although at the meeting it was requested that the markings were on the road, directing in to the park.

Trees

Glendale to replace the oak planted last year, which never came into bud. It will need a mesh surround to prevent dog damage. **RM**

All park trees are being put on digital survey so info on trees will be linked to a data base. RM was looking into a draft tree planting strategy for discussion by group. This can then link with survey from tree section.

Shrubs and Hedges

The brambles need a severe cutting back from boundary and Vicar's Hill pavement. The entrance corners were supposed to be cleared of bramble. The hedge on this stretch had already been cut back.

Glendale are to cut the remaining hedge to back of Cliffview Road before spring nesting season.

Request for more sloes in hedging.

Query whether something can be done about the chainlink. Long term group will look for funding, but nothing forthcoming at present.

2. **BIG BIRD WATCH**
AH now been helping with feeding the nut feeder (thanks).
KW, RM and Glendale to organise another BIG BIRD WATCH event for **30th January 2010, from 11am -1pm**. This will include children's activities again, as last year.

Bird Champion UPDATE

Since the June meeting I've only managed ten bird-watching visits to the park, mainly because my other interests are now taking up to three days per week. During those visits, most notable were the Kestrel, now a common sight, and four Mistle Thrushes that were feeding to the west of the school. Most numerous were Woodpigeons (30) and House Sparrows (12).

The London House Sparrow Project, of which we were a part, ended in September and a report is due soon. However, it has been replaced by the London House Sparrow Parks Project and I hoped Hilly Fields could be included in this but the RSPB had no plans for any Lewisham park, although they have agreed to keep me informed via their project newsletter.

The next RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (the 30th) is Sat/Sun 30/31 January 2010. This year there's also a Big Schools Birdwatch 18 January to 1 February

MF to speak to St Stephens and possibly tie up with park and Big Schools Birdwatch.

<http://hillyfields.blogspot.com/>

3. **LEWISHAM COMMUNITY SPORTS**
They had plus 800 children over the summer. They are also looking for after school activities to run in the park.

The noise situation was much improved this summer, **thank you**.

4. **DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

PLAYGROUND

The playground tenders are due back 14th December, the evaluation is on 15th and the award to contractor will be by 18th December. The work is due to start on site in the new year with a completion date April/May 2010.

MF signed final forms for acceptance of lottery grant award.

A class of year 2 children from Gordonbrock have been involved in the design of gates for the new playground.

The Friends secured a large box of free bulbs from the Big Bulb Plant. The planting took place on Monday 26th October 2009. It was a great event organised by Francis Drake Bowls Club, who provided beautiful cakes and hot chocolate. Thankyou

Kyrle Memorial Garden

AH has been to Octavia Hill Museum in Wisbech and arranged for friends to be members. He has sent cheque from our funds held by Brockley Society.

The society are very keen with the links and for us to be involved in the centenary celebrations of Octavia Hill's death (1912).

9. **AOB**

There will be an opening event for the new playground and any ideas or help would be appreciated. We are planning on having story telling and some children's music, but we are only at ideas stage.

We have requested a donation from Botton's fun fayre again. **RM** to follow up with Darren Budden.

There has been a proposal for temporary sculpture in park during Brockley Max and then over the summer. I will try and put the proposal on the website for everyone to see and I'll email out for comment.

www.hilly.org.uk

Email: hillyfields4@google.com

NEXT MEETING 9th March 2010, 7.30 IN THE PARK KEEPER'S ROOM BY THE TOILET BLOCK

Post meeting update from Envirowork, (The money award is for the combined project at Hilly Fields and Mayow Park).

They have been successful with a series of grant applications initially they got £75,000 from The London Marathon Trust. They have now update us with the following,

They have been awarded a grant of £243,008 for the ParkSport project to include £40,000 capital funding for equipment in Year 1, £66,665 revenue funding in Year 1, £67,665 revenue funding in Year 2 and £68,678 revenue funding in Year 3. We applied for £241,600 and have been granted £243,008. The difference is something to do with NI costs.

The project will be in four stages.

Stage one: March/April 2010-March 2011

Starting in Spring 2010, squares of 12-16 pitches will be constructed to meet ECB minimum standards with the contract being tendered to pitch construction specialists through the Council's procurement division and managed by Envirowork. The outfielders will be prepared by Envirowork from Summer 2010 onwards with the intention of the grounds being ready for use for the beginning of the 2011 cricket season and football from September 2012. The project will not interfere with the current mini football arrangements already in place at Hilly Fields nor the holding of any events such as the Brockley Fayre.

Stage two: June 2010-April 2011

Stage two will be the temporary renovation of the existing Pavilion at Mayow Park and buildings at Envirowork's depot in Hilly Fields to allow for changing and tea room facilities. Hilly Fields will have a tented 'gazebo' style arrangement erected on match days and stored in the depot.

Stage three: March 2010-onwards

A marketing campaign for both cricket and football will be conducted throughout 2010 to all schools within both grounds' catchment areas, local established cricket clubs such as Catford Cyphers and Blackheath and wandering clubs plus local football clubs. The facilities will start to be let from April 2011, with the day to day management and maintenance of the facilities by EL working under contract to the Council. The management team will also be working in partnership with Teachsport who will provide coaching sessions and manage school/ district games.

Stage Four: June 2010-May 2013

Stage three will be the refurbishment and new buildings at Envirowork Lewisham's depot at Hilly Fields to complement the existing 'Bothy' built in 1893. This will allow for an increase in changing facilities to include showers and access for people with disabilities. There will also be an opportunity to include Cafés for public use together with other community facilities.

Prior to any plans being drawn up for refurbished and new buildings full consultations will be held with user groups and local residents and it is anticipated that work could begin in late 2011 or early 2012.