

## Friends of Hilly Fields

Minutes of meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Present:

Rachel Mooney (chair), Andrew Harper (Treasurer), Wayne Dyer (Glendale), Gary O'Hara (Glendale), Colm MacCormac, Tom Moulton, Symon Knightswood, Jane Papafir, Barbara Cyrus and Keith Ward,

Apologies: Helen Mercer, Jill Jenkins, Andrew Harper, Ruth Meaney

1. Minutes of last meeting: had been AGM, with discussion re ongoing problems with meaningful consultation between friends, council and Glendale.
2. Maintenance
  - a) Footpaths/cycleway – need to consider priority for repairs. There was money available for some repair work. Would be useful to consider which paths should have priority. It was an opportunity to finally get the rumble strip put in place on park entrance below Eastern Road Gate. SK, said would need to make sure that this didn't cause traffic to be noisy, when driving up at night. Noted that traffic shouldn't be coming in park at night and the Friends had wanted to try closing gates once dark. SM agreed to speak to Les Senior about rumble strip.
  - b) Park Furniture/ cycle racks – Glendale had been offered new cycle racks in park. Friends had questioned their need in agreed locations. Friends had proposed new locations, and Glendale had agreed. See attached plan. Were awaiting confirmation from Glendale re timing of installation.
  - c) Nature's Gym – next session will be in the meadow, thistle clearing: on 13<sup>th</sup> June. The arisings would be cleared off site. Agreed that future clearance of brambles during other Nature's Gym would be cleared off site, unless an agreed composting area could be found. During winter the areas where the brambles had been left looked scruffy and unkempt etc.
  - d) Lopping of trees on Montagu Avenue. When the suckering had been removed, there had also been over zealous pruning of the trees. Glendale apologised.
  - e) Table Tennis Table, was getting increasingly muddy at both ends, making play difficult. Glendale agreed to cost for Matta surfacing (had been used in other park and was successful). In the meantime, RM suggested that area could be levelled using sand, which would also improve soil drainage.
  - f) Tennis Courts: there was a moss build up on the courts and it needs power cleaning. Glendale said that moss needed spraying to stop spores spreading.
3. Prendergast portakabins were due to be removed at end of the year. The developers are committed to reinstating as before. Friends should consider how best to reinstate, as there may be an opportunity to improve biodiversity in the area.
4. Park Events and Activities:
  - Brockley Design Project bandstand, was proposed for weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 (commented: that this will clash with the Thames Festival).
  - Jubilee Tree: the Brockley Tree Wardens have been offered a jubilee tree. Obvious location would be in the park. Position to East of café had been suggested. Species could be a disease resistant Elm or a native Hornbeam. Generally, the elm was favoured. The planting needed to be marked with a special event, which might include reminiscences of the original Coronation etc.
  - Fruiting Hedge: the hedge has been donated by the Tree Council. They visited the park with Tree Warden and Friends, to agree exact location. JP commented that the openness of site was a key characteristic of park and one many enjoyed. RM agreed, and said that she had requested the preferred enclosure of orchard by hedge was reduced to wrapping around sides. Planting was to take place on Saturday and a free lunch for volunteers would be served in the café

post planting (courtesy of Tree Council)

- Brockley Society Midsummer Fayre on 22<sup>nd</sup> June: it was agreed to have a stall at the fair. We have now purchased our own marquee and table. Last year we had ordered some postcards showing the cricket pitch with game underway. RM suggested we could get something else made up to promote park and help with funds for other projects, such as mugs or bags. Agreed to have a Fayre planning meeting prior to next meeting.

5. Development Plan
  - a) Orchard: the formative pruning had taken place with instruction from LOP. Glendale have now replaced the mulberries (which were killed by their mowers or strimmers) with three new, large mulberries. These will need to be watered throughout the growing season for the next two years. This is the responsibility of Glendales. Brockley Tree Wardens were following this up with Glendale. The orchard trees need the mulching area extending and feeding. We will try to do tree mulching during the hedge planting at the weekend. RM agreed that the cost of well-rotted manure could be covered from friends' funds. TM agreed to purchase and organise maintenance session.
  - b) Octavia Hill Memorial Garden. Work-in reported on but agree we need to arrange a date in July for further planting.
6. Bowling Green: Jill was no-longer the chair of the Francis Drake Bowling Club. She has passed on contact details to new chair so we can continue our good relationship.
7. Bird Champion update: We held another successful Big Bird Watch on January 2013. It was well attended and 17 species were recorded. The tawny owl was last heard in early January, 2013. There has also been a report of a short eared owl, seen over park in October 2012 and suspected sighting of a Waxwing. The bird feeder has now been replaced in the shade garden. Thanks to Glendale. This Year's Dawn Chorus will be in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April. As requested to allow a few more attendees, it will start at 6am. TM will try to organise access to Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries. SK agreed to bring this up at their next meeting.
8. Lewisham Community Sports: has not been based in Hillyfields due to work at the Prendergast School.
9. New Cricket Club: the portakabins have recently had a new power supply installed. The bare strip through grass where trench has been dug, should re-colonise over the summer.
10. Café update: There has been no confirmation about removal of telegraph poles and re-routing of cable. This has been ongoing since 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.
11. AOB: the bus shelter on Hilly Fields Crescent had recently been replaced with the new style, which is a lighter colour than previous shelter and therefore stands out across the grass. As it is a conservation area, these matters should have been considered. SK is following up with TFL. Stone circle damage has got worse. The friends had received a quote for replacing the Caithness stone granite. General consensus that this wouldn't be best use of funds as it was very expensive and the text on the stones was still visible. There was a discussion on whether there should be some interpretation of the sundial and particularly how to use it.

**Note: If you wish to make a contribution towards the memorial tree for Keith Seabrook, our former park keeper, there are envelopes in the café.**

**Next meeting to be at earlier time of 7.00pm**

(to allow for attendance at pub quiz in Ladywell Tavern in aid of Lewisham Hospital from 8, quiz starts 8.30ish)

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 7.00pm at the café, intending to finish 8.15.**