

## **Friends of Hilly Fields**

Minutes of meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### **Present:**

Rachel Mooney  
Helen Mercer  
Andrew Harper  
Peter Ranken  
Jill Tritton  
Sue Luxton  
Mike Keogh  
Keith Ward  
Symon Knightswood  
Ruth Pepper  
Josh  
Ivor Agnew  
Laura Hemmings  
Barbara Morris  
Daniel Demichel

Barbara Cyrus  
Jane Papafio  
Bogden Frymorgen  
Matt Shaw  
Carol Quast  
Philip Quast  
Sam Jones  
Russell Penn  
Charles Smith  
Jill Jenkins  
Cheryl Miller  
Jo Goodwin  
Kath Cherry  
John Bowen  
Mike Howells

### **1. Maintenance**

This was discussed very thoroughly and the outcome was a proposed letter to Glendale highlighting some of the key issues. (Some of the issues were brought up by Cllr Luxton and a response is below, letter will be revised and sent in near future)

There was a query over type of spay used for clearing moss on tennis courts. Response post meeting note.

### **2. Bowling Green: Jill reported that a new sprinkler has been provided and urged people to come along**

### **3. Bird champion. Keith reported that the Friends took part in the RSPB's national bird survey on 20th January. Not quite as many species spotted as last year but recorded 3 species not recorded in Hilly Fields before – Coal Tit, Dunnock and Greenfinch. Results are at <http://hillyfields.blogspot.com>. A full report is attached. It was agreed that Rachel would look into possibility of organising a dawn chorus event.**

### **4. There was interest in stag beetle population. Barbara offered to look up stag beetle survey and associated information.**

### **5. Lewisham Community Sports reported on the successful growth of children's activities in the park. It was reported that LCS pays Glendale for its use of the park, as do the Saturday footballers. Agreed we need to establish what sort of monies are paid to Glendale for the use of the park.**

### **6. Traffic. Problem with increased traffic in the park was reported and it was noted that vans seemed to be using all footpaths rather than taking the short route eg. from Eastern Avenue. The junction of Hilly Fields and Tyrwhitt Road needs a mirror or raised crossover to help people crossing and to control the traffic.**

### **7. Play area. Rachel expressed some concern that some of the original designs had been modified through the tender process. An opening event is being planned and she is looking for volunteer storytellers for the children and someone to organise some children's music. Concern expressed about the length of time it is taking to complete. Concern expressed at exposed concrete at the base of some of the equipment on the adult gym.**

### **8. Community Planting. In conjunction with the London Orchard Project, Rachel has applied for a £1,500 grant for orchard trees to be planted on the flat area between the stone circle and the woodland. Some discussion about the best types of trees. Rachel explained that this area had been chosen as it was contained area and wouldn't alter the open parkland character. Some concern that there may be vandalism to new trees. Rachel also planned to apply for**

further funding from Forestry Commission Community Grant scheme and requested if anyone could help with making grant applications.

9. Report of some progress on the Kyrle Memorial Garden (the current shaded quiet area next to the bowling green). A donation has been made to the Octavia Hill Birthplace trust and the Friends now have membership. Intend to work with them to mark the 2012 centenary of her death.
10. Brockley Max Sculpture Project – meeting agreed in principle to having temporary sculptures in the park.
11. Report on the new cricket pitch for Hillyfields. Peter Ranken reported that the project to create a cricket pitch was making good progress. A trading arm had been formed called ParkSport Lewisham which involved Envirowork, Lewisham Council and TeachSport. A variation in Glendale's contract with Lewisham had been made, so that Sport Lewisham will be responsible for maintenance of the area opposite Hillyfields Crescent. A contract for the creation of this pitch has gone out to tender through the Council. Work is due to start in May and continue through the summer. The area in the middle will be fenced off during construction but the fence will then be removed. A full report on this development is attached.
12. Eastern Avenue. General agreement that there should not be cars going freely along Eastern Avenue. There was an agreement with Prendergast about opening and closing of the gate, which needed to be revived.
13. Dogs. Many dog-walkers expressed anger at a posting on the Hilly Fields website. It was stated that this was not the official position of the Friends, the posting had been removed. It was agreed:
  - That there should be a vetting process before posts were put on site
  - To advertise meetings more so that dog walkers can know about them more easily and become generally more involved in the work of Friends.
14. Date of next meeting **8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 7.30pm**. It was suggested that there be an extended discussion of ways of dealing with dog-fouling.

**Post Meeting notes:**

Answer to fungicide used on the tennis courts:

It is Qualgex and is the recommended product for removal of algae and moss on hard standing. It comes with Data Safety sheets (MSDS) and all operators are PA1/PA6 qualified. There are no associated risks for children in the adjacent play area. Spraying should not occur when raining or windy conditions.

Official Park Opening will take place during the Brockley Max on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010. We have booked a story teller for 12.30, for under 8s and a craft workshop from 1pm. The mayor is turning up at 2pm to cut a ribbon.

## Cricket returns to Mayow Park and Hilly Fields

The sound of leather on willow could soon again be heard in Mayow Park and Hilly Fields in Lewisham, South East London thanks to a joint project between local social enterprise Envirowork Lewisham, Lewisham Council and Teachsport supported by funding from the Big Lottery, The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and The London Marathon Charitable Trust.

Envirowork Lewisham employs and trains long term unemployed people in groundsmanship skills and has depots at both Mayow Park and Hilly Fields. Project Director, Peter Ranken, approached the ECB to see if it would fund the regeneration of the grounds at both parks which would then be maintained by Envirowork trainees as part of a training programme to develop career opportunities in grounds management.

Led by Mike Gatting, the ECB's Managing Director of Cricket Partnerships and ex England Captain, who has visited both parks, the ECB has agreed to fund up to 75% of the construction of the squares at both grounds and provide money for equipment for the project which will be called ParkSport Lewisham. The ECB sees the projects at Mayow Park and Hilly Fields as a way of re-invigorating cricket in the local community.

£75,000 has been acquired from the London Marathon Trust for the construction of the squares and £243,000 from the Big Lottery Reaching Communities fund to support the development of the project in its first three years. It is intended for the project to become financially sustainable within 4 years.

Local residents and Park User groups have been fully consulted and it is planned to rebuild the cricket squares, renovate the outfielders and improve facilities so that cricket can once again be played by local schools, wandering clubs, community groups and local cricket clubs Catford Cyphers CC and Catford Wanderers. Once the outfielders are settled, it is planned to make them suitable for Football in future seasons and for the grounds and facilities to become centres of sporting excellence.

The project will be in three stages. Stage one beginning in May/June this year will be the construction of squares of 12 to 16 pitches to meet ECB minimum standards with the contract being managed by the Council. The outfielders will be prepared by Envirowork with the intention of the grounds being ready for use for the 2011 season. It is also hoped that funding will become available for nets from the Lords Taverners.

Stage two will be the temporary renovation of the existing Pavilion at Mayow Park and buildings at Envirowork's depot in Hilly Fields plus the construction of a shelter on the boundary edge at Mayow Park. This will be used to house the scorers and scoreboard as well as storage for kit and equipment during matches.

Once operational, the grounds at both Hilly Fields and Mayow Park will be managed and maintained by Envirowork working under contract to the Council. The ParkSport team will be working in partnership with Teachsport who will provide coaching sessions and manage school and district games.

Stage three will be the refurbishment and extension of the existing Pavilion at Mayow Park and new buildings at Envirowork's depot at Hilly Fields to complement the existing 'Booth' 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 full consultations will be held with user groups and local residents and it is anticipated that work could begin in late 2011.

6. Bird Champion Update

We took part in the RSPB's national bird survey, Big Garden Birdwatch on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Although we were lucky with the weather, last year's record of 20 species wasn't beaten, but we did sight three species not recorded in Hilly Fields for over 2 years: Coal Tit, Dunnock and Greenfinch.

There were a good number of visitors and parties of five or six were taken around the park to see what could be found.

Surprisingly there were no birds at all in the South Field, Meadow or West Field and very few around School area. Sports were being played in the North Field so none were spotted there either. The vast majority were to the south of the Stones Field and east of the East Field (i.e. along the Cliffview Road hedge).  
[The results are in http://hillyfields.blogspot.com/2010/01/two-more-species-sighted-on-big-garden.html](http://hillyfields.blogspot.com/2010/01/two-more-species-sighted-on-big-garden.html)

We are all indebted to Vicki Wheeler, Nature Conservation Officer, for organizing the event - especially the tea, coffee and biscuits which were certainly needed after wandering around the park in such cold weather. With Vicki's help, our younger visitors made birdfeeders from pots, lard and birdseed to take home and hang up in their own gardens.

The official RSPB results are expected at the end of March.