

Friends of Hilly Fields
Minutes of meeting 13th December 2011

Present:

Rachel Mooney (chair), Helen Mercer (Secretary). Wayne Dyer (Glendale), Mike Keogh, Josh Franklin (LCS), Colm MacCormac, Ruth Meaney, Symon Knightwood, Jacqueline Grant, Anne and Peter Christgau; Clare Cowen (Broc Soc)

Apologies: Marcus Fox, Andrew Harper, Keith Ward, Barbara Cyrus, Jill Jenkins

1. Minutes of last meeting: AGM annual report and notes from following discussion will be posted on website.
2. Ice cream van – previous decision to support the retention of the ice cream van after the café was opened was endorsed.
3. Café: Ruth Meaney reported that planning permission has been granted and she will send a pdf of the plans for Rachel to circulate. The footprint of the area (the toilet block) will be retained, the current disabled loo at the end of the building will be pulled down and in its place a green oak extension will be built. The whole building will be insulated and have wood cladding. It remains one storey. There will be new toilets and these will be open during the opening hours of the café. The possible opening date is March 2012, depending in weather conditions for building. The owners have a 20 year lease from the Council.
4. Maintenance
 - a) Glendale had problems with replacing chain on trim trail equipment as that piece is no longer made. Suppliers have sourced suitable chain, which is now on order.
 - b) Vicars Hill entrance has many self-seeded ash trees that are now too big for the Green Gym to cut down or up root. Glendale should have controlled them when they first appeared over 5 years ago. Wayne to investigate.
 - c) Drinking fountain in the playground had proved to be badly designed as blockages cannot be cleared. The drinking fountain was specified by Groundwork who have found an alternative design, it is due to be replaced. Water from handpump is still seeping out at bottom of playground, creating a boggy area (popular with dogs and wildlife). This water then runs over the path. Rachel has discussed option of putting in French Drain, Glendale will see if this can be done when drinking fountain is replaced. Details to be agreed, as didn't want water to undermine path foundations and the of keeping a damp area on the grass was popular for wildlife and dogs.
 - d) Park furniture. Rachel will get a quote for a spiral bench round trees.
 - e) Stone circle. Rachel will get a quote for repairing the stone circle. (As noted in previous minutes, the cost of full replacement with granite stones is over £7,000)
5. Development issues.
 - a) Orchard is being well maintained by Transition Brockley and Friends.
 - b) Octavia Hill / Kyrle memorial garden. After initial meetings earlier this year, Rachel approached Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss the feasibility of a major bid to restore not just the garden but other aspects of the park as well. After a visit to the park and other enquiries, HLF have written with a list of issues that would need to be resolved. Foremost among these was the likely level of support and commitment to the project by Lewisham Council. In particular the Council would need to guarantee match funding of £38,000 (for a possible HLF grant of £800,000) and produce a conservation plan for the park. The Council had previously invested time in an application for Mountsfield Park and found that the Lottery requirements expanded the original remit of the application, took time and money to submit, and failed in the second stage. The HLF adviser had

already brought up needing larger funds for additional work on the Bothy. The grants all need to engage a new and wider mix of people. The council would not commit to supporting the application. Rachel said that from February the HLF smaller grant was increasing to £100,000. This would be a more appropriate sum for the memorial garden, especially if it could be combined with another grant. The Lottery's HLF Young Roots scheme, could be taken on by someone working with a younger group. Ruth suggested getting the Woodcraft Folk involved. Helen to follow up the last suggestion.

6. Cricket: Millfield CC have been awarded the contract to be the resident CC for Hillyfields. Their Captain Tom Collis has contacted the friends. They will work with the council to develop the new ground and clubhouse/changing facilities over the coming month and promote cricket in the community. They will start playing in the coming 2012 season. They are on the look out for new players and opponents. They can be contacted by email at: millfields@hotmail.co.uk Their website is: www.pitchero.com/clubs/millfieldsc
7. Lewisham Community Sports: will not be using the park until after half-term.
8. Prendergast. Rachel was sent notice of a planning application to extend planning permission for the temporary building (the portakabins) on Hilly Fields from July 2012 to December 2013. This is a very long extension and no explanation of the need for the extension was given. In addition, monies had been promised to recompense the park, eg for repairs to road and footpaths and repairs to the fencing on the tennis courts. However, Rachel had not been told of the final agreement. Comments on the application must be in by 29th December, 2011.
Agreed: Rachel will write to the Council asking for detailed reasons for the extension of planning permission and to state that if these are not forthcoming within the next 7 days we will object. The same letter will enquire as to the outcome of the legal negotiations around the compensation promised. It was also agreed that once we have the information, we will agree a letter of response by email so that Rachel can submit it by 29th December.
9. Eastern Road gate: no solution to how to get it closed and opened at appropriate times. It was only opened so that the school can have access.
10. AOB: Wayne will raise the late picking up of leaves with Glendale.
Wayne will raise the late final mowing of the meadow with Glendale

Bird champion work has been handed to a team consisting of: Barbara Cyrus, Tom Moulton and Sue Gore. Keith has been going through the Birdtrak system so that data on bird surveys can be uploaded onto the national site. Plan to take part in the RSPB Birdwatch in January. Mike reported that the Brockley Oak has been planted (he supplied the tree in the end). Friends had been informed that a car had been given permission to park in the park whilst they were decorating bowls club. Rachel to ask for confirmation when work was finished and request that this is not long term. Generally thought there were two sets of rules re cars in the park.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th March, 2012 at 7.30pm

All welcome to take part in:

1. The big birdwatch will be held Sunday 29th JANUARY, 2012. We will be based by the Bothy from 10.30 until 12.30.
2. Wassailing the trees, Sunday 5th February, 2012 from 4 until 5pm, in the orchard.