

## Friends of Hilly Fields Meeting: Park Keeper's Room 7.30

Minutes of meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### Present:

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Rachel Mooney    | Ruth Pepper       |
| Wayne (Glendale) | Symon Knightswood |
| Barbara Cyrus    | Dee Condon        |
| Fran Rogers      |                   |

Apologies: Andrew Harper, Keith Ward, Helen Mercer, Jill Jenkins

- 1. Maintenance:** Following a letter from the Friends, Martin Hyde has agreed to meet with Glendale and the Friends to discuss Glendale's maintenance commitments and the Friend's ongoing developments. This will now be arranged for new year, as the Friends have been too busy.
- 2.** Grass Cuttings that were left in park at the end of summer were dumped by the contractor working on the cricket wicket. They have now been removed.
- 3.** One of the horizontal chains on trim trail equipment at top of hill is still missing. Have also requested the levels below equipment is brought up as concrete footing is exposed.
- 4.** The playground water pump should have been decommissioned for winter. RM to check if this has been done.
- 5.** Meadow had been cut this year and a different area has been left long for grass hoppers to over winter.
- 6.** RM and Vince from Glendale to meet up and confirm site of flag pole for Green Flag. RM commented happy with less clutter and could cope without flag pole, Vince wanted two.
- 7. Prendergast School Works:** The work has just started for the portacabins in the park. These are to be in place for a maximum of two years, whilst the lower school has building work carried out. Commented that they were hard to see at night, when walking dogs. Thought that everyone would get used to this in time, but if it continued to be a problem, could review to see if contractor could light. The park should be recompensed for the use of the land once the contract is complete.
- 8.** As part of the funds from the sustainability grant, we have several workshops to organise before Easter, these are to be themed on the wildlife in the park.
- 9.** Fran introduced the orchard project. The planting day will go ahead on 15<sup>th</sup> January, weather permitting. She has covered the positions for tree planting to protect from the frost. Planters can bring their own spades if they wish, but we will also have spades and forks for people to use.  
There will be apple refreshments available.  
  
There has been some contact with Prendergasts School to try and get them involved. The orchard will be maintained by the community and this will involve watering. The bowls club has already offered to adopt a tree. Wayne to confirm if Glendale will be able to help with a bowser as a back up?
- 10.** The Forestry Commission Grant is additional to the Capital Growth Grant. We are looking

to manage this through Glendale.

11. **Octavia Hill Garden:** RM made investigations about student design, but college is *dubious* of what we would get back, in terms of practicality and costs. Still worth investigating whether it would be feasible to get students to use site for a measured survey. HM and RM to spend more time progressing this in new year.
12. **Eastern Road Gate:** there is still no progress with gate being locked at night. There are still incidents of fly tipping along Eastern Road at night.
13. **Bowling Club** update: Friends were successful with acquiring bulbs from the BIG BULB plant. These were planted with the bowling club during the Autumn half term holiday. This year they included crocuses that were planted in the grass and should colonise in time and Hyacinths and Tulips. The porch roof is to be repaired as it currently drains onto the bowling green.
14. **Cricket Pitch:** We were recently informed that Envirowork had gone into liquidation in August. The bothy and cricket pitch will revert to the management of Glendale. The project is still going ahead and the Bothy will be used for changing rooms.
15. Bird Champion: ongoing sightings and news will be on the blog:  
<http://hillyfields.blogspot.com/>
16. **Park Furniture:** RM is getting costs for litter bins and notice boards. Keen to get a more low key design and use laser cut metal in keeping with park, rather than the larger notice boards used in parks generally.
17. Signage in meadow has been replaced, Friends had originally requested that signs are centralized as it was felt that they detracted from the natural park character. Original signs were part of a grant from Natural England so they went in on that occasion. It was suggested that a plan of the park with all the information could be produced so that those who wanted to read more could do so, without detracting from the scene for others.

#### **AOB**

18. There was a query, what happened to the bandstand and drinking fountain?
19. Lewisham had informed the Friends that with budget cuts, the Park keeper's hours will be reduced in the following year.
20. The Friends commented on Keith our park keeper's lovely manner and how he wasn't afraid to go and sort out problems and did so in a pleasant no confrontational manner.
21. Thanks to those who made it out in the snow

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30, may try and see if Bothy is available, will keep everyone posted on venue.

#### **POST MEETING NOTES**

Confirm **Orchard Planting** 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 - 11am to 1pm, meet at Stone Circle.

The **Big Bird Watch** 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 from 11am to 1pm, meet at Park Keeper's Room at the top of the Hill.