

FRIENDS OF HILLY FIELDS MEETING

Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 6pm outside café

1. Present: Rachel Mooney (Chair), Tom Moulton (Bird Champion), Steve Senner, Rob Cole, Mark Webb, Josh Franklyn (Events), Colm McCormac, Richard Freeston, Andrew Harper (treasurer), Symon Knightswood (Co-Sec/Minutes), Sue Goodman & Marcus Fox

Apologies: Ruth Meaney

2. Updates previous meeting informal work around – discussion on meadows and ecological diversity for mowing regime.

3.	MAINTENANCE	ACTION	Reported	Date completed
i	Playground wobbly bridge needs repair	Glendale	8/09/20	
ii	Brambles in playground still need digging out (by toddler swing)	Glendale	8/09/20	
iii	Eastern Road Gate – Strange re-fit, not sure why extra extension on hinge. And granite kerb has been dug out.	To check and close gate to see what has been done.	8/09/20	

4. Updates of events:

i) 'There's a sheep in the park' possibly in spring 2021; Glendale OK in principle; needs organising with respect to schoolchildren (TBC)

ii) Orchard 10 – will be 10th anniversary of orchard and thought the Wassail could be a combined celebration, and held on 17th January.

iii) National Trust 125th anniversary commemoration – planned addition to existing 13 walnuts – not sure whether this will happen due to the pandemic.

iv) WWI meadow sowing with Ladywell school children. Discussion whether to continue with the annual meadow, it is lots of work to clear by hand and concrete footings have come to surface. (They should have been removed by Costain at end of building programme: it was part of the planning conditions for using the park). RM is storing seeds in bothy fridge. Sowing can be either September/October or March 2021, agreed to take a walk to assess if better location for meadow, away from Costain's concrete foundations.

v) Hilly Field Guided Walk. The summer wild flower walk couldn't take place but if restrictions ease may do a tree/history walk instead in autumn. The chalking of tree names on path has had positive feedback.

vi) **RF** has started interactive plan with tags for trees. Two main points: to provide a plan with location for future trees for those wanting to sponsor a new tree, **and** tags for information on existing trees. Suggested would be best to have some ID tags on trees. **RM** to investigate how these can be safely attached to trees.

5. Basket Ball Court–

i) **RM** has got some budget prices for the basketball and one tennis court to have new edging and surfacing. In the region of £60K. She has looked up grant funding and found that the usual streams are only funding projects very specific to groups supporting Covid.

ii) **RM** met Greenscene on site, they have now agreed to put the resurfacing on their list for capital works, would welcome additional funding from grants.

No timescale has been given for this.

iii) Suggestion that benches are added to the area around the court.

iv) **MW** interested in setting up tournaments for basketball, but with Covid restrictions nothing can be taken forward at this point.

v) Ideas for grants would include training sessions and drop in club ideas. **JF** offered to put a plan together for this with costings. Agreed only worth progressing once grant funds become available again. Will also need to liaise back with Basketball players as they are the ones best placed to take forward?

6. Volunteering

i) Upkeep of plants and trees – We have most trees adopted now, thanks to **SG** engagement whilst volunteering and her local signs. **RM** noted that this worked better than her earlier sign in noticeboard and on facebook.

Still need a single system to communicate with volunteers. **SG** meets a number of people showing interest in helping – word of mouth can be more effective in engaging volunteers. The tree saplings will need thinning this winter or next.

ii) Mud kitchen keeps getting depleted with logs and kitchen worktops being taken and moved around park.

iii) Shade garden works – to be organized and work group planned for autumn. Including hedging as back drop along boundary and removing self sown trees.

iv) Hedge laying – led by **RC** and another trained volunteer Ben L has approached to help. Hedge laying takes place over winter. Proposal to finish the Cliffview Hedge and to lay the long run between stone circle and lower Vicars Hill. **RM** to confirm with nature's gym. Will need to purchase a set of tools for the work, **RC** to send costed list to **RM**.

v) Discussed access to water for new planting.

There is water at bothy and we do have hoses and a barrel. Watering can be problematic in dry or hot weather.

7. Bird Champion update and bird booklet. Have managed to keep monthly surveys going during lockdown. Nuthatches moved in quickly to nestbox near school. Plan to introduce a booklet as a result of 13 years of monitoring results (with photos). Waiting for feedback from circulating for comment. Currently 51 species observed in Hilly Fields.

8. Litter Bins - most of the new bins have been positioned without the final meeting. They are not quite in the intended positions: Glendale have agreed to re locate the one at the top of Vicars Hill, so that it isn't the first thing to greet you. The bin on the corner by the Sunflower Centre has not been installed by the shrub bed. **MW** has had separate discussion with Glendale to have original bin removed and no replacement due to fly tipping on the corner. Agreed positions to be monitored and can be altered, the final bin to be left in bothy until assessment of positions. The dog bins were to be removed, but decision made to leave them for now. The old open top bins and rusty one by café are to be removed. Action: **Glendale**

9. Corten Sign at top of Vicars Hill has now had paint removed, will require time for weathering to produce the protective oxide finish.

10. Notice Board

i) Ongoing comments through meeting about use of notice board. **MW** considers notice board is underused and that all activities with online links would improve park participation. Has suggested series of improvements, including painting and plan of park with online links. All require someone to organize the information first (ie: additional workload). Bird champion information has always been on signs in the notice board.

ii) Confirmed, park is to have a new notice board in near future and that the local notices had brought in more participation than any previous information on the main board.

11. Any Other Business

i) Marsha Phoenix Virtual Run 10K with a team between 20.09.20 and 04.10.2020

ii) Circular Bench – parkrun has raised money for one of their members (memorial) to put round a tree, in discussion with Greenscene about location.

iii) Illegal parking is still a problem on grass under trees, idea to trial temporary bark mulch mounds along boundary to see scale and effectiveness of barrier to deter parking was rejected by Greenscene who say Glendale are carrying out daily visits and using enforcement where possible.


iv) Ice Cream Van – there has been complaints about diesel smells from the ice cream van. A little unclear whether this is Jaz May or another van. Park van has been well located at top of road. Long term there is intended to provide an electric point. **MF** to follow up.

12. Date of next meeting: (Possibly usual time 8th December not confirmed or whether virtual meeting will be tried on Zoom?)

POST MEETING MAINTENANCE/sent via email 15/10/20

	MAINTENANCE	ACTION	Reported	Date completed
1	Top of Vicars Hill Entrance: the end concrete slab still needs fixing.	Glendale	15/10/20	
2	Another timber riser has rotted and become detached on the steps in the wood (not same set at last time, but ones closer to single gate) Would it be worth checking all the risers as the steps have been in situ for over 10 years	Glendale	15/10/20	
3	The gate-post to the little wood (on single gate as you leave wood onto the Lane near Eastern Road Gate) has rusted and is loose at the bottom, along with attaching railing.	Glendale	15/10/20	
4	One of the gates to the shade garden broke many months ago and has not been repaired.	Glendale	15/10/20	
5	Timber posts and edging left around park from playground? Playground needs checking for missing up stand to the boat?	Glendale	15/10/20	

POST MEETING Queries/sent via email 15/10/20 - requests

4	With regard to proposed tree trail, can we stencil selected tree names onto the tarmac footpaths? See photo eg: from Deptford. Planned to tie in with an digital tree trail. Information to tie in with blog?			
5	Can Glendale mow the vestiges of WWI meadow and prepare new area by rotovating? Extent to be agreed on site.	Glendale/RM		
6	We have yellow rattle seeds for the hay meadow, can we meet with Glendale to agree some m2 areas for turf to be removed.	Glendale		
7	Have requested what size trees would be supplied and planted for £120 and £250 respectively, and maintained by donor or friends. (Still an outstanding request from donor via Glendale).	Glendale	22/10/20	

We are planning on setting our regular volunteer sessions on the second Sunday of the month, at 10.30- 12.30. We are advised that these are restricted to 6 people per session, awaiting confirmation if this can be groups of 6 on differing tasks.

Our next session in November has reached capacity. The following sessions will be set for the coming months: sowing yellow rattle in Hay Meadow, clearing brambles and maintenance of hedging by WWI meadow/Prendergast boundary, Coppicing cornus in shrub beds at Montague Avenue entrance, maintenance on fruiting hedge, orchard maintenance, general maintenance for tree staking and mulching, transplanting tree saplings, new hedge and sapling planting, hedge laying.

Minutes of September Meeting: Friends of Hilly Fields hillyfields4@googlemail.com