

HILLY FIELDS PARK USER GROUP MEETING

Date: 10 June 2008

Present: Rachel Mooney Chair
Mike Keogh Councillor
Darrell Abercrombie Glendale
Peter Ranken Envirowork
Andrew Harper
Ruth Pepper
Helen Mercer
Symon Knightswood
Alison Cogger
Josh Franklin
Marcus Fox
Amanda Nelson
Perry Peters

Apologies: Jill Tritton, Trottie Kirwan

1. LEWISHAM COMMUNITY SPORTS

There will be a 6 week course running over the summer with 20 different activities. They have permission to put a marquee by stone circle for the duration of course. They will use the PA for directing in and out in morning and at end of day. If the PA is used at any other time, the time should be monitored and reported on that day.

They have taken down the old signs and small boards as requested and will minimise signage in park.

2. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Woodland/Conservation Area: the work has just been completed. The edging boards were not straight and needed more staking. It was felt it is in keeping with the character of the area.

The stag beetle information board does not enhance the character of the area. It was suggested that it could be moved to a central location near the toilet block. To review with Lewisham.

Meadow: there is still interest in idea for a community harvest event. Suggested that meadow could be cut and Green Gym could harvest with other volunteers. It may be possible to find an organisation interested in harvesting the seed.

There was a query that the meadow sign was generic and not specific to site. Particularly the mammals listed. Glendale confirmed that the plants related to the new plug planting.

Community Fund: bat and bird boxes (from 07 fund monies) have been made by students at Prendergasts. Glendale to confirm if they have been put up. There are some more bird boxes, donated by the RSPB to the park. They will be put up for next season.

Playground: an application for playbuilder funding has been put in to the council. The draft design brief was circulated and would be emailed out for comments. The group will also put in an application for a lottery grant, Changing Places.

A group of local parents had also begun a very successful petition to campaign for the playground. This has been used as supporting information in the application.

Lewisham Community Sports commented that their children and young people would be interested in more assault course type equipment in park.

Café: PP explained his interest in developing a café in the existing park-keeper's building or even a new build. The group were supportive of café in park, but would want to agree a brief for the nature of food etc. It was suggested to form a café sub committee to move this forward. AN agreed to lead on this. It was suggested that PP contact Martin Hyde at Greenscene in the first place.

As this is a long term project it was suggested that there should be a tea van in the interim.

Notice boards

Still looking into new notice boards. Brockley Station board purchased through council. It was not a great looking board and felt could find something better or commission one. Still thinking of having two new boards, one on Vicars Hill entrance and one near tennis courts. Existing board to be removed to keep the clear open aspect on top of hill, looking towards Docklands. Agreed to put brief together for notice board and PP offered to contact Lewisham College to look into a bespoke design for park.

3. Maintenance and Repairs

Footpaths and Roads

Some footpath resurfacing has taken place. Funding was available for cycle routes and this path is to be part of a designated cycle route. Lewisham Cycling Officer is trying to create a link between Nunhead and Ladywell.

The quality of work was queried and whether it had been signed off. There was a lot of stone left on grass verges, the grass was not reinstated and there was a foot trap sized gap by the wonky sleeper shrub bed and the path. MK to follow up with Carol Crankshaw.

AH to follow up contact with cycle officer Carol Crankshaw, over designation of cycle routes.

Petition for resurfacing of footpaths was handed in by Cllr Keogh on behalf of the group at council meeting.

Trees

Broc Soc have confirmed that they want to plant an Oak on top of hill towards playground. Despite promises, another planting season been missed. DA said Glendale would plant a container grown tree now if we wished. RM thought that it was better to wait until autumn so that it would not have to rely on such good maintenance. The park had also been offered a field maple and they want this planting in autumn too.

The group intend to do a tree strategy, but had not had time. They planned to meet Rick Farr on site, in future. AN offered to find out if Greenwich Park had tree policy to see if we could use for a base.

Grass/Meadow

There were two large tyre size ruts in the grass. The grass has now grown up and they are nearly impossible to see. DA has info and said repairs were due.

There is concern that clover is taking over the grass and it was a result of the fortnightly cuts. Glendale is looking into doing weekly cuts in future. No timescale for park.

Lewisham Community Sports need the grass shorter for sports and so they can see debris especially glass in grass. Josh to coordinate with Chris at Glendale.

It was requested to cut access through swathes of long grass, especially as they were popular areas of dog fouling.

Shrubs and Hedges

Brambles on Vicars Hill need to be cut back off pavement. Mike Keogh wants to be contacted to supervise this work.

Had been previous requests to maintain hedge to back of Cliffview Road. It is leggy and some stretches not performing as a hedge. There were suggestions that it could be layered. RM to follow up with Lewisham

Tennis courts: The leaning post has been fixed.
The missing bolt to tennis court gate has still not been replaced.

Play Area:

Chain from equipment outside play area has been replaced.

The drop bolts on the double gates need to be fixed down, so that the single gates can be easily used.

Memorial Bench

There has been no response from Darren Budden over the complaints about the siting of the memorial bench.

4. EASTERN ROAD

There has still been no progress on gate locking. Can Glendale and Prendergasts resolve this problem. DA to confirm if the gate is on Glendale's locking route. A sign is needed to say when it will be locked.

5. DOGS

Glendale have put up posters in boards re "offence for fouling".
Regarding the dog fouling issues at Hilly Fields. If the Park Keeper receives or reports that dog fouling is becoming a problem. Firstly the cleansing team will visit the site. If the problems continues and people are refusing to collect dog waste, Glendale's Park Patrol can visit the site and issue a fixed penalty.

6. COMMUNICATION

A website is being set up by Chris Wheal. Any suggestions for content welcome. Information can be sent to hillyfield4@googlemail.com. Have no timetable for completion to date.

6. Envirowork

No further progress on the farmer's market using the Bothy for market.

Cricket Ground is still being prepared. Suggested better signage is used to stop people using it in the meantime.

Mike Gatting of ECB has visited the cricket ground and was impressed with proposals. If the scheme can be shown to be sustainable ECB will support with a loan. The scheme would have changing rooms and tea room in the Bothy site.

7. AOB

The table tennis table is in use, but it is not level. Suppliers said that it would "self level", but this does not make sense as there is no reason for it to differentially settle. To be monitored and reviewed.

There are still cars from the Saturday football driving onto the grass. These should be reported to Glendale. Cars or motorbikes illegally driving in the park should be reported to community police.

Email: hillyfields4@google.com

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE TO ENABLE ACCESS ALONG AN ILLUMINATED PATH!

NEXT MEETING 9TH September 2008 7.30 IN THE PARK KEEPER'S ROOM BY THE TOILET BLOCK