

HILLY FIELDS PARK USER GROUP MEETING

Date: 9 September 2008

Present: Rachel Mooney Chair
Mike Keogh Councillor
Chris Roberts Glendale
Keith Glendale
Peter Ranken Envirowork
Andrew Harper
Helen Mercer
Josh Franklin
Justin Bailey
Carol Bailey
Amanda Nelson
Keith Ward

Apologies: Jill Tritton, Marcus Fox, Ruth Pepper

1. EASTERN ROAD GATE ACCESS

Darren Budden has requested that Prendergasts see that the gate is locked and opened for their access. No confirmation if this is working.
The gates have previously been managed and closed at night and reopened in morning.

2. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Tennis courts

Outstanding from March user group meeting:
missing bolt to tennis court gate has still not been replaced.

The surrounding mesh is upturned in places and balls could escape. The worn fencing is rusty and sharp. It should be assessed and repaired as necessary.

A tennis coaching session has been booked using one court on Saturday morning. Group agreed that **no more than one court** should be booked for coaching as the courts are generally busy on Saturday morning. (coaching: 6th September-18th September and 8th November – 20th December 9-12pm). Situation could be monitored. The principal of free tennis still applies on the courts, but if you want to book a court you can do for £4.50 through the Glendale office. Glendale will then print the booking and put the time it is booked on the court.

There had been unauthorised tennis coaching taking place on Saturday morning. Glendale to follow up.

Play Area:

Outstanding from June User group meeting: The drop bolts on the double gates need to be fixed down, so that the single gates can be easily used.

Park Furniture and Notice Board

Martin Hyde had offered Hilly Fields a notice board or two if we used the style widely used by other parks. RM will email the details for discussion. It is suggested that one replaces the old community notice board (but relocated off top of hill) and a new one is positioned by the step entrance on Vicars Hill.

There has been no response from Darren Budden over the complaints about the siting of the memorial bench. It was suggested that maybe when the playground is redeveloped it could be relocated in the playground.

Cycle racks have appeared on top of Eastern Road. There was no discussion or warning that these would be installed. **MK** to follow up initially with Carol Crankshaw.

RM has been offered a chess table for free (*since have confirmed they will want installation costs*). The group thought it was a good idea if a suitable location could be found. To be discussed out of meeting on site.

Footpaths and Roads

Lewisham Cycling Officer was trying to designate the north south path, from top of Tyrwhitt Road to Toilet block as a cycle route. This would enable it to be resurfaced. Some concern about speeding cyclists but generally thought that the situation would not be different from present conditions. This appears to be the only way to get paths resurfaced.

The footpaths are in increasingly poor condition and there are many ruts and holes thought to be deeper than 50mm. CR said that funding did not stretch around all the parks and there were parks in worst condition than Hilly Fields. **CR** agreed to contact services manager and ask for priority repair work on paths.

Glendale to explore rodding drains as they clearly were not working. **CR**

The surplus timber edging with its herras fencing had been left for over 3 months on the grass. **MK** to follow up with cycle officer Carol Crankshaw to see if job was signed off and when materials would be removed.

Trees

Glendale have an oak in the depot that can be planted at top of hill as replacement for the Brockley Oak. An Acer campestre was also offered last year it was still wanted. It was requested that the new trees were planted with a metal mesh around trunk to avoid damage from dogs.

A tree (on bank of cricket field) damaged in storms some months ago has a broken limb and needs attention. **CR** confirmed that Glendale would take care of this.

AN had looked into the tree strategy. It was agreed to contact Rick Farr and meet on site to discuss how to progress. It was thought that the tree section had now mapped many of the park's trees. This would be a good starting point to put together the tree strategy and approach for future planting.

PR offered the park some mature Nothofagus antarctica. The group agreed to consider a suitable location, but raised concern that it would not be well maintained. Generally felt that existing trees were not properly maintained.

Grass/Meadow

Concern that the clover is taking over grass and there are fewer daisies than previously. At the last meeting we were told Glendale were looking to do weekly cuts, but no timescale for parks. CR said that their contract finished in 2010 and the grass cutting was not likely to change.

The main meadow is due to be cut in September, an area will be left for grass hoppers over wintering.

There were areas that have been left as meadow over time, which were recently cut and the very long arisings left. This area either needs to be maintained as meadow and arisings lifted or it needs to be mown with rest of grass.

MK suggested arisings are raked to side and used as mulch and nutrients for the new hedge. This could be a community event or part of the green gym programme. **RM** looking into this.

Shrubs and Hedges

The brambles have been cut back from boundary and pavement. Generally brambles need heavy pruning and some removal. Resident by entrance had complained about

brambles looking untidy. Suggested that the entrance corner could be cleared of bramble. The hedge on this stretch had already been cut back.

Has been previous requests to maintain hedge to back of Cliffview Road. It is leggy and some stretches not performing as a hedge. **KW** to consult RSPB on whether hedge should be reduced in height and timing etc. Hedge and associated planting is used by large population of house sparrows.

3. **HILLY FIELDS PARK WEBSITE**

There was little progress because of other demands on time and Chris was happy for someone else to take it on. He could go through what has been done so far.

4. **LEWISHAM COMMUNITY SPORTS**

The noise from the amplifier was improved this year but still too loud. Instructions could be heard from neighbouring houses. It was not limited to the beginning and end of the day as we had been told in previous meeting.

Queried why music needed to be played at all. Community Sports said to set the atmosphere.

JF investigating a system to enable noise to project to limited area.

A half term scheme will run from 27th October to 31st October. It will be based in sports hall on Adelaide Avenue.

5. **DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

Playground bid for funding update

A Changing Places Grant for £50K has been submitted and we will hear if we have passed the stage 1 application at the end of September. It is not known what stage 2 entails.

The Playbuilder application has been submitted to the council and everyone has now been invited to an event on Saturday morning to present our scheme. Two local parents who initiated the petition are putting a power point presentation together and will present. RM will attend too.

Bird Champion update

KW explained the project and his involvement. He requested help with feeding the bird feeder. HM and JB volunteered and all will liaise.

KW has set up a blog for the bird champion project, at <http://hillyfields.blogspot.com/>

KW is also looking into site called birdtrack and how we can all input data for the park.

6. **CAFE**

Van had moved to more prominent location and would move closer to toilet block but Conway's timber is blocking the space.

Despite the poor weather he had picked up business from the Community Sports. He was not serving the healthy food discussed in café meeting. Suggested he could have served fresh smoothies to children rather than the canned drinks.

More litter bins or a larger bin was needed by the van.

Perry Peters had seen Lewisham and Glendale with his café proposal for converting the toilet block. RM will circulate post meeting.

There was also interest from the Manor Park Café in the site.

Agreed that a café sub committee should progress brief for any future development.

7. **DOGS**

Confirmed park keeper with backup are responsible for clearing up dog fouling.

8. **ENVIROWORK UPDATE**

ECB had approved their strategy and wanted to use it as a blueprint for other cricket development projects. The plan is to use the containers as changing rooms and the Bothy for cricket teas. The Institute of Groundsmanship have prepared a report on Hilly Fields and Mayow Park. They assessed the site advised on work to be carried out to bring the cricket wicket and outfield up to scratch. If Envirowork could get confirmation from Lewisham by end of September they would start preparing the cricket wicket in October.

In the meantime the Bothy is being used for storage space by Envirowork.

9. **AOB**

There has been a suggestion that designated areas for barbecues are set up and users given a permit. Wendy previously has had problems with used barbecues being put in the bin alight and excessive rubbish being left.

Generally there have been quite a lot of cars in the park over the summer and some parking on the grass. This is not acceptable as the park is one of the few places children can roam without expecting to come across traffic. Everyone should limit the time they bring cars into park and could park on Eastern Road rather than in the park, as it also sets a bad precedent for other car drivers. RM to follow up with Lewisham.

Events: Generally considered the children's fun fair was held for too long. The park had limited access from both the Community Sports and fair at same time. As last year the fair arrived without notice to group. We asked last year if there could be any funding for park improvements from the fair and had no reply. We are told that Jimmy Button is happy to pay a contribution to park, but have no idea what is under consideration.

The fair also parked over the cricket square.
Last year the fair damaged grass moving out. This was repaired, but recently there was a comment from footballers that it is still uneven; probably due to settlement of ground post repair.

It was suggested that any money goes towards a new drinking fountain. General agreement that this is by the loo block and has a lower bowl for dogs to drink from. RM to research drinking fountain and prices.

Glendale have been approached by someone wanting to run an arts fair in park. RM to find out more details of what this entails, before group can comment.

Email: hillyfields4@google.com

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

NEXT MEETING 2nd December 2008 7.30 IN THE PARK KEEPER'S ROOM BY THE TOILET BLOCK

Post meeting note

RSPB confirm that it would be suitable to trim hedge to around 2m x .75m width in late winter. Agreed with Glendale, first third (from Vicars Hill) to be cut this season along with self seeded sycamore and ash and other sections programmed in for following year.