

## HILLY FIELDS PARK USER GROUP MEETING

Date: 2nd December 2008

1. Present: Rachel Mooney Chair  
Mike Keogh Councillor  
Chris Roberts Glendale  
Peter Ranken Envirowork  
Jill Tritton  
Helen Mercer  
Josh Franklin  
Ruth Pepper  
Keith Ward  
Symon Knightswood  
(from memory, apologies if I left anyone out, please email and I'll update)

2. Apologies: Andrew Harper, Marcus Fox, Amanda Nelson

3. Minutes of last meeting agreed

### 4. 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.

RM was told the tennis coaching session that booked all the courts on Saturday morning had stopped. RM commented the courts were still booked but an hour earlier.

There had been unauthorised tennis coaching taking place on Saturday morning. Glendale had said they would follow up, but no clear idea of what has happened. Seems to be confusion as to who is official and who is not.

#### 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

RM had had few comments back on the notice boards. The money would be available in the next financial year.

#### 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. It is anticipated to be a successful application and will enable resurfacing in the next financial year.

The footpaths are in increasingly poor condition and there are many ruts and holes thought to be deeper than 50mm, request that the worst ruts were repaired. They made it dangerous, particularly on the steeper hills and for the small wheel scooters.

CR had agreed again to contact services manager and ask for priority repair work on paths.

Previous meeting a request for Glendale to explore rodding drains had been made. This had not been done, as they were sure that they were not working and surface runoff was going straight on to the grass.

The surplus timber edging with its herras fencing had been left for over 3 months on the grass. **MK** had followed up with cycle officer Carol Crankshaw and the timber and fencing was removed immediately.

### **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 will be ordered for the same area of park. It was requested that the new trees were planted with a metal mesh around trunk to avoid damage from dogs.

Tree work had finally taken place on the two trees with broken limbs. Thankyou

RM had met Sean McBride the tree officer to discuss the park's trees and a management plan. The trees have not been mapped on the computer system yet, but would be done in 09. The tree section are keen to work with the user group towards a management plan for replacement trees and future tree planting.

Following the site visit a number of trees were identified with extensive decay and these will be crown reduces or felled depending on what is most appropriate.

### **Grass/Meadow**

Darrell Abercrombie of Glendale and RM and HM had been round park assessing areas of meadow and management. Agreed that some of more remote areas under trees, where the machines had trouble collecting arisings could be more regularly mown in summer and have spring meadow regime with bulb planting or spring flowering plants introduced.

### **Shrubs and Hedges**

RM had met with Lara of Glendale to go over the park's management plan. It was agreed that long term, the brambles on Vicars Hill will be heavily cut back and those in the smaller patch adjacent to housing will be removed. They were overrunning the bed, and suffocating the spring bulbs and other less robust plants. A clear 1m strip is to be kept along the boundary, to help with maintenance of boundary and which would enable a clear view from footpath.

Agreed that the Cliffview Hedge would be cut in three stages, to approx 1.8m starting with the section closest to Vicars Hill. The sycamores and ash which had self seeded would be removed or cut down to hedge height. Some hedgerow plants, primroses etc would be planted in below the hedge in spring. Hope to organise this with some school children.

#### 5. **Bird Champion update**

KW updated on bird survey. The bird feeder had been kept topped up with kind help from Keith our parkkeeper. Thankyou, Keith.

Information can be found on his blog.

<http://hillyfields.blogspot.com/>

KW has also made Hillyfields an officia site on birdtrack and we can all input data for the park.

Reminder that anyone can do a bird survey and submit to Glendale or hand to Keith in the park.

#### 6. **DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

##### **Playground bid for funding update**

The group were successful with stage 1 of the Changing Places Grant for £50K. The are now putting in a development grant to enable a survey of playground, community engagement and planning to progress.

As part of the requirements for the grant the User Group needs to become a constituted group. Rm is looking into this and will sort out next year.

The Playbuilder application has been submitted to the council and a presentation by Lee and Ruth Bailey was given to the Mayor in September. We should find out in January if we have been successful with securing funding.

**Kyrle Memorial Garden** HM has been to the Kyrle Society Museum and spoken to curator. They are keen to have links with the park. It is proposed we become members of the society, it is aprox £50 and we could use money from the fair.

7. **ENVIROWORK UPDATE**

ECB had approved their strategy and wanted to use it as a blueprint for other cricket development projects. Envirowork have confirmation from and will start work preparing the pitch in the new year. The Bothy is being used for storage space by Envirowork and Lewisham Sports.

8. **LEWISHAM COMMUNITY SPORTS**

The half term scheme was successful from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October. As it used the sports hall on Adelaide Avenue it was less disruptive to the park.

9. **HILLY FIELDS PARK WEBSITE**

There was no further progress because of other demands on time.

10. **CAFE**

AN had met Laurie to see how things were going and discuss foods and site. Since then Café van has disappeared and he hadn't responded to emails. There is still an interest by Perry Peter in developing toilet block.

11. **DOGS**

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

12. **EASTERN ROAD GATE ACCESS**

CONFIRMED they were very rarely closed. Still problems with cars driving up late at night and drug dealing and fly tipping. Darren Budden has requested that Prendergasts see that the gate is locked and opened for their access.

13. **AOB**

Generally still quite a lot of cars in the park and some parking and driving on the grass. RM had followed up with Glendale and Lewisham and cars would be given a permit if they were allowed to bring things into the park for an event. The car should then be taken out of the park and not parked within park.

It was commented that is was all the young and supposedly healthy people who drove in and could not manage to walk from the roadside. Whereas the older bowls players seemed to manage to walk in without problems.

Everyone should limit the time they bring cars into park and could access the centre of the park from Eastern Road rather than drive in the park, as it also sets a bad precedent for other car drivers.

Events: the children's fun fair has given £500 to the User Group. This will be put in the Brockley Society Accounts with the view towards it being spent on a drinking fountain and membership of Kyrle Society.

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.

Email: hillyfields4@google.com

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

**NEXT MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 7.30 IN THE PARK KEEPER'S ROOM BY THE TOILET BLOCK**