



**Minutes of 19th Group Meeting held at 1st Forest Hill Scout Hall,
St Germans Road, SE23 on 27th April 2006, 7.30pm**

Present BHFUG members:

Marcel Jenkins - Chair (MJ)	Carol Granere	Nancy Saunders
Elizabeth Downie – Vice Chair	Lynn Horgan	Ann Scott
Kylie Barnes – Secretary (KB)	Harriet Jenkins	David Thomas
Ray & Cathy Ashley	Jon Lissimore	Mark Wellband
Albert Blackmore	Deidre Mason	
Gavin Bolam	David Morgan	
Sydney & Maureen Couldridge	Frances O'Connor	

Apologies: Alan Bailey	Michelle Kemp	Josh Smaller
Barbara Dryhurst	Councillor Sylvia Scott	Mark Spalding
Catherine & Paul Foxwell	Caroline Sefton	Nicholas Taylor
Sharon Hawkes	Tom Silvester	Arnoud Wijnberg

1. MJ opened the meeting with welcome and apologies.
2. Matters Arising from the last meeting

Two members felt the last minutes concerning the ball court did not accurately reflect the meeting correctly. This opinion was not shared by the rest of the Group. An "Expression of Interest" had been submitted to see if a small ball court was eligible for funding.

3. Committee Report

Marcel Jenkins (MJ) reported that the Committee met on the 21 March. The only matters discussed concerned possible future routes to fundraise for the BHF development.

4. BHFUG Constitution

MJ felt that in the light of the previous Group meeting, it would be useful to add a new section to the Constitution concerning members' conduct at future meeting particularly respecting all points of view and use of language. **ACTION: MJ to present proposed paper to next meeting.**

5. Funding Update

The Heritage Lottery Fund (a distributor for the Big Lottery) has a scheme called Parks for People. There were two deadlines for 2006, 31 March and 30 September. As part of any proposal, the scheme requires applications to clearly demonstrate the heritage aspect of the project. In order to apply for this scheme (minimum £250,000) BHFUG would have to work hard to prove that heritage legacy and how any new developments relate to it. Any member of the Group with a knowledge of the Fields' history is encouraged to help the Group start work on this.

Elizabeth Downie reported that Barclays Spaces for Sports did not wish to invite a full application for the small ball court as it did not meet the criteria. ED explained that most funders want to talk to groups first and understand their interests before considering inviting a funding application. The recent letters to local papers has been quite damaging to the Group as a whole. However, the level of interest it has generated should be used positively to promote the Group and its aims to a much wider community, hopefully encouraging more people to be part of the Group. It was

suggested by the Group that in the meantime it might be possible to continue the planting of shrubs to the rear of the children's play area to help with the current situations the neighbours are experiencing.

Richard Peckham (Ground Work SE London), ED and Harriet Jenkins had been meeting to explore other possible avenues of funding for the development of the Fields.

ED felt it would be wise to publicly re-visit the 2005 feasibility study again to remind/inform people about what the Group has been working towards. The proposed master plan need to be re-drawn and presented alongside real examples of some of the possibilities i.e. fencing, park furniture, lighting etc. Ground Work SE London have agreed to help the Group hold an event on the Fields and provide the drawings and examples. The Group voted unanimously that this was a good and necessary idea but it was essential to publicise it as widely as possible. The date was agreed as Sat 15 July (12.30-4.30) subject to agreement by Ground Work.

Cathy Ashley suggested contacting Lewisham Community Network which may be able to help with costs of printing and distributing information from the Group – an expense currently met by members of the Committee. Other suggestions for adverts included **Lewisham Life** and the HOPRA (Honor Oak Park Residents' Association) and St Saviours' Church newsletters.

6. Events Update

On behalf of the Group, MJ wanted to record thanks to Caroline Sefton for organising the Easter Egg Hunt on 24 April. It had been a great success and brought a lot of children (and parents) to enjoy the Fields. It was hoped this could become an annual event.

7. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Kylie Barnes had previously enquired about setting up a local NHWS and suggested one for residents surrounding the park to try to help combat the current anti-social behaviour problems in and around the Fields. The Group agreed it was a good idea to look into and KB will investigate further, possibly inviting someone from the Police to talk to the Group about the options.

Another member of the Group, Ray Ashley, mentioned he was the Lewisham Street Leader for Blythe Hill Lane – a scheme run by the Council to report street issues i.e. litter and graffiti.

8. Communication Strategy

Since the last meeting, the Chair had purchased the domain name: www.blythehillfields.org.uk The plan is for the Group to have its own website to publish and store information including minutes, newsletters, and possibly a message board for people to share their ideas/concerns.

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act and to minimise current admin costs, the last posted minutes included a slip asking people to confirm they still wanted to receive information and whether they could accept email information in future. Information would continue to be publicised in the Fields and on the new website. It is essential that the Group promotes itself as widely as possible but with minimum cost. MJ also said that the Secretary was not to be used to forward emails from individual Group members to the rest of the Group.

9. Treasurer's Report

KB reported on behalf of the Treasurer that the BHFUG kitty currently held £38.46 but the Secretary had purchased a laminator and laminating sheets at a cost of £37.98 leaving £0.48p.

10. Any other Business

11. Date of the next meeting

29th June 2006 at 7.30pm