



**Minutes of 24th Group Meeting held at 1st Forest Hill Scout Hall,
St Germans Road, SE23 on 7th December 2006, 7.30pm**

Present BHFUG members:

Gavin Bolam (Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Sydney Couldridge	Ray Ashley
Maureen Couldridge	Sharon Lloyd	Albert Blackmore	Ben Turley
Anne Scott	Sylvia Scott	Alan Bailey	John Coker

Also in attendance: Lara Al Jabi - Glendale

Absent: Elizabeth Downie Mark Wellband Josh Smaller
Kathy Ashley Caroline Sefton Malcolm Trott
Andrew Barnes (Treasurer) Harriet and Marcel Jenkins

1. GB opened the meeting with welcome and apologies.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting (26/10/06) went out with some errors in them in respect of the Constitution. They were amended and have now been sent out again and are on the web-site.

3. Committee Report / Feasibility Study Questionnaire - Update

It was agreed that the Study would now be looked at with the view to raising funds in order for us to go ahead with the items that came out of that study.

4. Questionnaire, Consultation Report

It was felt that the results & recommendations of the report had been accepted by BHFUG (user group)

5. Treasurer's Report / Bank Account

The Bank Account is now open and is ready to receive funds. It was agreed that since the resignation of the previous Chair, Marcel Jenkins, it was thought best that his name be removed as one of the signatories to the account. In order for this to be achieved, we would have to contact the Bank to complete a new application form and also the Constitution would therefore need to be amended also.

6. Fund Raising and Events

We, as a group are to now find funding for the items on the Feasibility Study either via the Council or via Lottery funding or any other source. It was mentioned that we could contact other user groups to find out where they get their funding from. Mr Coker mentioned that he could look into this for us. Mr Bailey also mentioned that we might be able to access funds from VAL (Voluntary Action for Lewisham).

With regards to events in the Park, perhaps in spring, we could have events like "Gardeners Question Time, an Easter Bonnet competition, a Photographic Competition to take photographs

of the bulbs the group planted in October, perhaps even a Farmer's Market (KB to contact Gemma Marsden).

It was also felt that some of the Committee should meet with Martin Hyde to discuss further funding for the group and the best way to continue forward. **GB and KB agreed to arrange a meeting with Martin Hyde.**

KB is to contact Gemma Marsden to discuss insurance for events in the fields in the future.

Ray Ashley is to contact other User Groups to establish their funding activities.

7. BHFUG Hedge Planting Programme

Sydney Couldridge designed a wonderful poster advertising the Hedge Planting days, one of which will be taking place on the 20th January 2006 and the other on the 17th February 2006.

The posters will be placed in various shops, in some schools and the Ackroyd Community Centre. To make use of these posters, it was felt that perhaps our contact at the News Shopper could do an article on these events. **GB to contact the NS.**

KB to contact Sue Sudds to establish if CSO's were able to help out with the planting.

Lara Al-Jabi from Glendale has provided enough hedging to enable planting on both days.

8. **Any Other Business**

- a) Harriet Jenkins had previously mentioned applying for funding to "PARK IT". As yet, we have not had any feedback on this. **KB is to contact Harriet Jenkins** about this to ascertain if it was applied for.
- b) There was also the Breathing Spaces application to look at as there are many trees within the fields which have got leaf and trunk diseases. These could possibly be replaced under the Breathing Spaces application, if accepted. The group is to ascertain if this was also applied for and if not, who would be able to do this. SC had been in contact with Lewisham Council about the diseased trees in the fields. **SC has not had a response - to chase up.**
- c) With regards to Fund Raising, perhaps getting local businesses involved.
- d) Web Site – It was felt that the User Group's web site currently paid for by Marcel Jenkins and who updates the site should now transfer the ownership of the site to the User Group as a whole. Ben Turley has offered to continue the running of the web pages on our behalf.

9. Dates of the Future Meetings

The next 6 meetings dates have been set out. Please make a note of them in your diaries.

1. 1st February
2. 5th April
3. 7th June
4. 2nd August
5. 25th October AGM
6. 6th December 2007

MISSION STATEMENT

Blythe Hill Fields User Group (BHFUG) exists to represent everyone living around or using Blythe Hill Fields. Our purpose is to achieve sustainable improvements and facilities in this vital resource for the benefit of the whole community. We aim to promote the increased use and enjoyment of this essential open space.