



**Minutes of 21st Group Meeting held at 1<sup>st</sup> Forest Hill Scout Hall,  
St Germans Road, SE23 on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006, 7.30pm**

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**Present** BHFUG members:

Marcel Jenkins - Chair (MJ)  
Sydney Couldridge

Kylie Barnes – Secretary (KB)  
Mark Wellband

Gavin Bolam (GB)  
Ray Ashley

Elizabeth Downie  
Cathy Ashley (CA)  
Josh Smaller  
Sam & Louise Platt  
Gordon Ayres

Anne Scott  
Maureen Couldridge  
Caroline Sefton  
B. Gibbs

Harriet Jenkins  
Councillor Sylvia Scott  
Alan Bailey  
Inge Thompson

Also in attendance:

Lara Al-Jabi - Glendale

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

The minutes should have made mention in Item 7 about educating and prosecuting dog owners as a deterrent. Perhaps more dog bins are to be provided to prevent people's dogs from fouling the fields.

There was also mention at the last meeting of establishing if Youth Offending Teams or Community Service Orders can help out with events like the bulb planting.

3. Committee Report / 15<sup>th</sup> July Event

The event went very well and it was a very nice day. There was lots of help in supporting the event and a lot of people visited on the day. SC took photos throughout days event and of the balloon race. CA read some poems out to those visiting and thank you to CS for organising the balloon race. It was a great success.

Liz Downie gave an overview of the executive summary from the results of the consultation.

It is hoped to hold a Committee Meeting before the AGM to discuss the findings of the Consultation before presenting the results. The top priorities that stand out at the moment are lighting, play facilities, bio-diversity, dog free areas and tackling anti-social behaviour.

Other highlights:-

- The trouble spot within the fields at the moment is in and around the playground;
- 118 people out of 157 expressed an interest to install barriers at the entrances to stop mini-motor cycles accessing the fields;
- 80 people expressed an interest in an exercise trim trail;

- The play area that people liked better than Blythe Hill Fields was Dulwich Park followed by Ladywell and Greenwich;
- The favoured furnishings were traditional benches, traditional lighting, signage and fencing;
- 41 potential new members were interested in joining the group.

The winner of the balloon race was a Mr Trott. His balloon travelled the furthest ending up in Southampton.

4. BHFUG Web Site – [www.blythehillfields.org.uk](http://www.blythehillfields.org.uk)

New members at today's meeting reported that the web site was easy to read, but the information on the site was a little out of date. MJ and MW to look into this. All the information that we have is currently available on the site. Once members signed up, the Secretary sends out recent minutes and current activities to new members.

5. Fundraising Update

Nothing to report pending the outcome of the consultation.

6. Members Issues

KB reported again that the posters placed in and around the fields were being taken down again. A new law / regulation came into force concerning fly posting and potentially the Group could be fined for placing our posters in and around the fields. There is a lack of notice boards in the fields. The Group was keen for Lewisham, and or Glendale to provide more official vandal-proof notice-boards in order that we can inform people that we exist and to increase the membership.

There are other avenues of advertising. KB recently had a booklet from SE4U and has put in an advert about the groups existence. It was mentioned that there was a web site called SE23, the Secretary will look into advertising on this too.

There is also the Grapevine magazine run by the Voluntary Action Group for Lewisham.

Mr S. Platt and Josh Smaller and Gavin Bolam have volunteered to help with putting up posters in shop windows within the SE23 area.

7. Bulb Planting day – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006 at 10.30am

Lara Al-Jabi from Glendale has confirmed that it will be providing 1,000 bluebells, 1,000 snowdrops and 1,000 daffodils to plant on the day. She will confirm nearer the time about the amount of tools she can supply. Everyone who wants to help out should bring gloves.

8. Treasurers Report

KB reported on behalf of the Treasurer that there was currently £126.54 in the kitty. Following the money raised from the balloon race there is currently £70 remaining which needs to be used to pay the remaining outstanding expenses of the event. The Group agreed that the Secretary should be added as a signatory to the bank account and other signatories could be added via agreement at a group meeting if the need arose. The Constitution will be amended accordingly.

9. Any Other Business

The Secretary reported that she had been invited to attend the Crofton Park Safer Neighbourhood Team event on the 16<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00am.

She had also been invited to attend the Annual Parks & Conference on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. If anyone wanted to attend with her they need to let her know.

MJ mentioned that James Olver had suggested the group arrange some ad hoc social events in the park during the summer to try and increase social opportunities for members outside formal group meetings. GB suggested that we do a hedge planting event and Caroline Sefton suggested perhaps meeting up on bonfire night. The Group was generally in favour of these ideas.

10. Dates of the Future Meetings

The AGM is on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at 7.30pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Forest Hill Scout Group Hall, St Germans Road

MJ will be standing down as Chair and therefore a new Chair needs to be appointed. The Committee will need to resign and be reappointed by the Group if they are willing to stand.

Please bring along your diaries to this meeting as it is hoped to plan meetings for the year ahead. MJ suggested inviting representatives from One Tree Hill and Ladywell Fields along to the meeting. In order to make the AGM a more social event, members were encouraged to bring along refreshments for after the meeting. Please feel free to come along.

**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.