



**Minutes of 25th Group Meeting held at 1st Forest Hill Scout Hall,
St Germans Road, SE23 on 5th April 2007, 7.30pm**

Present:- BHFUG members:

Gavin Bolam (Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Sydney Couldridge
Elizabeth Downie	Alan Bailey	Albert Blackmore
Sharon Lloyd	Sylvia Scott – Ward Councillor	David Thomas
Marcel Jenkins	Mike Wright	Hannah Van Den Wijngaard
	Zara John	

Apologies:-

Andrew Barnes (Treasurer)	Lara Al Jabi - Glendale	Maureen Couldridge
	Josh Smaller	Caroline Sefton
	Anne Scott	Ray Ashley
	Malcolm Trott	Francis O'Connor

1. Welcome and Apologies

GB opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

There were no issues with the Minutes of the last Meeting.

3. Committee Resignations & Appointments

GB mentioned that unfortunately Ray Ashley was not in a position to help out with the User Group at the present time due to health issues. GB offered a position to all the attendees to join the committee but none wished to take up the position.

4. Fund Raising and Publicity

GB and KB wrote to Councillor Susan Wise in January on the advice of Martin Hyde at Lewisham Council with regards to the group planning ahead and gaining further funding for the group. No response had been received so a chaser letter was written. An Acknowledgement has now been received and they are currently deliberating.

SC raised the issue that the Chair and Secretary had not formally made the contents of the letter available to the committee or the members of the User Group. GB said that there was no point in revealing the contents of the letter because we were enquiring as to how we could obtain funding for the User Group and as there had been no response there was little point in mentioning it.

Councillor Sylvia Scott handed round a copy of the letter for the attendees at the meeting to read. Upon reading it, SC totally disapproved of the lighting issue (Priority 1 in the Feasibility Study) which had been raised in regards to obtaining funding. Elizabeth Downie explained to the attendees of the meeting that the reason the lighting issue was put forward in this letter was because the subject of lighting had arisen in both feasibility studies and as this was an issue

raised it was something that the group needed to ascertain if it were possible to put lighting in the park or not.

Councillor Sylvia Scott reported that she had been having meetings with Councillor Wise and that as our priority issue covered in the Feasibility Study was lighting, this needed careful consideration and it was now awaiting a response from the police as to how this issue would affect the fields.

Councillor Sylvia Scott said that as we had already been given £1,500 towards our event there were no further monies available at this time.

GB enquired about the funding for the under 5's play equipment which was intended for the fields play area, Councillor Scott advised that this was probably due to cut backs at the end of Lewisham Councils financial year. When asked how funding was allocated for minor projects of this nature, there was no clear answer.

5. Fun Day in the Fields (Saturday 16 June 2007 – 11am – 4pm)

The Committee had held two meetings to discuss the planning of the Fun Day and had come up with many ideas and activities to do on the day. These ideas were discussed and they were brought to the meeting today.

Sydney Couldridge had designed a poster to publicise the Fun Day on Sat 16 June which was not only eye catching but a really good representation of what we were trying to achieve.

GB and KB had managed to allocate Portaloos for the event, these being necessary under current HSE regulations in order for the Group to have the fun day at a cost of £395 + VAT, consuming a large amount of the money we had been given to run the event. A bouncy castle has been booked and the possibility of having a band playing on the day was still being considered. Councillor Scott pointed out that a music licence would be required.

GB is writing editorial features to go in various media editions i.e. Lewisham Life, SE23, SE4U, The Mercury, the New shopper etc. to promote Sat 16 June Blythe Hill fun day to a wider audience.

KB had purchased a marquee as this was cheaper than hiring one and it could be used again at another time/event.

Lara Al Jabi from Glendales was in the process of organising the making of sponsored bird boxes for the event.

Hannah and Zahra offered to sell lemonade on a stall and to get children to decorate biscuits with icing and sell them.

There are many more activities being planned but we desperately needed more volunteers. GB and KB are to write an e-mail to send out to the wider community asking for volunteers to make Sat 16 June Blythe Hill Fun day happen and run smoothly.

6. Treasurer's Report / Bank Account

The Treasurer reported that there was approx £140.00 in the bank account. The Treasurer tried to access the account but was unable to as the passwords had expired.

7. **BHFUG Hedge Planting Programme**

The hedge planting went well in February, again approximately 30 people attended again to help out. We are hoping to organize further hedge & bulb planting days later on in the year.

8. **Any Other Business**

Mike Wright raised the issue of Staffordshire bull terriers having dog fights within the children's play area. They had been damaging the zip wire and children's play swings and felt that a lot of people who used to visit the park with their dogs are no longer doing so due to these aggressive animals. KB said that she would address the issue with Sgt. Warren Gregory and will report back with feedback.

9. **Dates of the Future Meetings**

We have decided to hold a meeting on the on the 10th May at 7.30pm to finalise the details for the Sat 16 June Fun Day event.

1. 10th May
2. 7th June
3. 2nd August
4. 25th October AGM
5. 6th December

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.