



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13th November 2008, 7.30pm
held at Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

Present:- BHFUG members:

Alan Bailey (Chairman)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Andrew Barnes (Treasurer)	Gavin Bolam
Sydney Couldridge	Councillor Sylvia Scott	Albert Blackmore	David Bryne
Alix Adams	Marcel Jenkins	Josh Smaller	Elizabeth Downie
Zara John	Nicholas Taylor	Tim Hall	Judith Brassington

Apologies:-

Lara Al-Jabi (Glendale) Mark Wellband Cllr. Jackie Addison

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alan Bailey opened the meeting.

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2. Minutes of the meeting on 18th September 2008 and Matters Arising

It was mentioned by Sydney Couldridge that the hedge re-planting, approximately 9m, had still not yet been done by Austin Close. Lara had said at our last meeting that she and a colleague had done this. Lara not with us this evening. Need to clarify what was meant to be done and what has been done. The replanting of hedging in two lengths along the Montacute Road boundary has not been done and we need Glendale to confirm when this will be done.

No news yet on the Playbuilder Application.

We had a small gathering in the Fields on Bonfire Night. We were outnumbered by non-members simply there for the spectacle and should have brought the wherewithal to recruit them. Wine was mulled.

We are still waiting for a response from the Organiser on the Farmer's Market proposal .

A repair has been made to the notice-board at Blythe Hill Lane. No other news on noticeboards.

3. Tree Planting

AB and Lara submitted an application to the Tree Council for funding for some tree planting. We have been successful in gaining funding for planting 9 trees. The planting will take place on Sunday the 30th of November from 11.00 a.m. onwards. Tools and equipment will be brought along by Glendale. We will supply the labour so we would like to see as many members there as possible. All under 16's will be invited to adopt a tree and will then be encouraged to report on their tree's progress each season as it grows. The reports will feature on our web site.

4. Hedge Planting

It was suggested that we hold a hedge planting day in January. Lara had suggested Sunday the 25th of January but as she was not present, this was not confirmed. It was emphasised that we need to maintain what we have already planted as much as plant new whips. It was noted that hedges could also be planted earlier on in the year providing the ground was suitable.

It was also suggested we create a wildflower meadow instead of just long grass in the quadrant of the Fields bounded by Bankhurst Road and Stillness Road. AB will look into this.

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5. Festival 2009

It was agreed at the meeting in September to go ahead with a Festival in 2009. It would take place on Saturday 27th June 2009. Councillor Scott was able to announce that our local Ward Councillors had agreed to make £1,400 available to us towards the costs of the 2009 event from the Ward Locality Fund. AB, on behalf of all present, thanked the Councillors for their generous and continuing support.

AB reminded the meeting that were aspects of the organisation of 2008's event which needed to be improved on. These included control of access and vehicles, litter and recycling, drinking water supplies and sufficiency of toilets.

6. Web Site

Marcel Jenkins along with Mark Wellband continue to keep our web-site up-to-date on a regular basis keeping our members informed of our events and activities. It was felt that the facility we have at present was sufficient for our current needs.

7. Fundraising

AB and ED are doing some preparatory work on a possible application to Awards for All for a trim trail. This would hopefully help alleviate childhood obesity and encourage children and adults to actively do some exercise. They will bring further details back to the Group when the idea has been developed further.

It was confirmed that we should continue to try to improve the Fields on this kind of "piecemeal" basis rather than try to pull together one "all encompassing" scheme.

8. Any Other Business

JS mentioned that Stillness had given up using the Fields as an alternative to Guy's Ground as the grass was too long and the potholes too deep and numerous. AB said he had taken up grass length with Martin Hyde and awaited further information. AB will also look into potholes and see if something can be done. There is some support within the Group for creating a level grass playing area at the top of the Fields and there are those who are not happy with the idea too. There is no pressure from any authority to do this.

Judith Brassington will be representing us at the Lewisham Parks Conference on the 22nd of November and will report back.

AB has been in touch with Gary Brown again about the "Roman Road". Gary may make it to our meeting on the 4th of December. In the meantime he says that some evidence of the Road has been found in Guys Sports Ground and we await details of this.

Councillor Sylvia Scott announced that there was a Local Assembly meeting to be held on Saturday 31st January at St Saviours Church Hall commencing at 2pm.

On the 12th December 2008 between 5 – 7pm there is a Christmas event / craft fair taking place on Honor Oak Road.

AB reported that the Planning Application for the redevelopment of Catford Greyhound Track had been approved.

AB will enquire of Glendale about repairs to the damaged boundary fence on Codrington Hill.

9. Date of Next meeting

Thursday 4th December 2008 at 7.30pm

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.