



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2008, 7.30pm
held at The Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

Present:- BHFUG members:

Alan Bailey (Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Gavin Bolam	Sydney Couldridge
Lara Al-Jabi (Glendale)	Anne Scott		

Apologies:-

Andrew Barnes (Treasurer)	Josh Smaller	Elizabeth Downie
Cllr. Jackie Addison	Marcel Jenkins	Margaret Gilbride
Monica Lee		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alan Bailey opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last meeting and Matters Arising

We agreed a correction to the minutes of the meeting of 13th November. SC said then that there were still gaps in the hedging along the boundary with Austin Close. He did not say replanting had not been done. Lara has done some replanting where whips had been mown down. There remains a gap between the electricity substation and the start of the whips. There is also a gap between the house adjacent to the Fields and Brockley View as we ran out of whips to plant there.

AB, KB and SC met Darrell Abercrombie on a June 2008 inspection where it was agreed that Glendale would replace the whips in two stretches amounting to 40-50 metres along the Montacute Road boundary that were cut down by Glendale's mowers. Lara agreed to check up on this and report back.

The Playbuilder Application is still under review. KB had been in discussions with Cllr. Jackie Addison who had, in turn, been in contact with Sir Steve Bullock about the final choices for the Playbuilder Application. JA would reply with a decision once she had heard from Sir Steve. Meanwhile, Martin Hyde, the Parks Regeneration Manager had been in discussions with AB concerning a decision on the Playbuilder Application. Martin has indicated that the proposals are likely to be discussed at Mayor and Cabinet in January and decisions made then. Alan said that if we were successful, we would have to move quickly to work up a scheme and have it implemented. He asked who would be interested in working on the project and KB said she would and others said that they certainly wanted to know the details as things progress.

Farmer's Market Proposal – Nothing has yet been resolved about this issue. Lara mentioned that she had tried to contact the Farmer's market person who hasn't responded yet. KB suggested that as this had been on the Agenda for some time now that we should either try and get it off the ground or leave the matter alone as it had been going round in circles. GB expressed an interest in contacting the person directly before Lara goes on holiday. Lara will phone the man this week.

Martin Hyde has responded to Alan's enquiries about the adequacy of the grass mowing in 2008. He will invite Friends Chairs to a stakeholder meeting in the Spring where we can raise issues regarding the current contract and how to make improvements for the next contract (March 2010). Invitations to tender should go out in May. The grass needs a regular cut throughout the summer months and in time for clearing for the next festival.

The Pilot project for signage – BHF is still in the pilot scheme but nothing has been finalised.

AB mentioned at the last meeting that a damaged boundary fence on Codrington Hill needed to be repaired. AB to make enquiries of Glendale.

Alan reminded the meeting that on Friday the 12th of December, there is a Christmas event/Craft Fair taking place around the station and shops in Honor Oak Park. 5.00 till 7.00 p.m. with some shops open late and the switch on of the Christmas lights.

An item from the AGM – GB expressed an interest which had come from various members of the public about the lack of seating and bins within the fields. He wondered if the £10,000 previously put aside was in fact going to be used for this purpose. AB explained that the money is still there and is earmarked for benches / bins but that it would have to have more consultation.

3. **Roman Road**

Gary Brown made a provisional arrangement to talk to us this evening about the Roman Road that ran across the Fields but was unable to join us. AB will liase further with him.

4. **Judith Brassington – Report from Lewisham Parks Conference**

Judith was unable to join us this evening but did go to the Lewisham Parks Conference on November the 22nd on our behalf.

The tour visited Sydenham Wells Park, Manor House Gardens and Chinbrook Meadows. The interactive water play area at SWP has brought more children into the park and we should bear it in mind for our playground. MHG has a very good play area and café. Both are worth a visit to see what's possible. The meadows area was not so impressive but this may be because it had received its autumn cut. JB observed a lack of "meadow" in Chinbrook Meadows but AB said it was very much worth a visit. If you compare what it's like now to its former condition, you can't fail to be impressed.

Our thanks to JB for representing the Group at the Conference. This is good for our knowledge building and profile in the Borough.

5. **Report on 30th November Tree Planting**

Thanks to Judith, Zahra, Sydney, Harriett, Sam, Marcel, Ivor, Lara, George and that nice man from the River Pool Park Group who planted 9 trees on the Codrington Hill section last Sunday. The weather was foul but spirits were high when we say what we had achieved. Now it is down to the Birds, Bees and Bugs.

Thanks to the Tree Council and Glendale for funding and support in kind. Unfortunately, there were no under 16's there. AB suggested that as there had been no interest that in the New Year we would speak to schools to establish if anyone wanted to adopt the trees and do some nature work based on them.

6. **Logo**

SC presented the artwork of our new logo, which is based on the competition winner's entry and retains the old banner as agreed at the last meeting. We agreed that we very much liked what we saw and adopted the new logo unanimously.

AB will contact the competition entrants and the winner will be awarded a prize of some art materials that SC has purchased. AB will publish the winner's details once they have been informed. Many thanks to those who contributed entries and to Sydney for his work in producing the finished article.

7. **Hedging and Maintenance**

It has been decided to hold a hedge clearing maintenance day on Saturday 31st January 2009 and more Clearing and Hedge planting on Saturday the 14th March 2009. Tagging is to be done on the previous hedging so that we are aware of what is previous hedging and what is weed growth since the planting took place.

8. **Wildflower Meadow**

JB, AB and Lara are to establish a schedule of wildflower planting to be done and will come back to a meeting with a detailed plan.

9. **Festival 27th June 2009**

It was suggested to have the same kind of festival as last year. KB to write to the Mayor to invite him to open the event. AB raised the issue of perhaps purchasing a 10KvA generator instead of hiring one. AB & GB to look into this.

10. **Any Other Business**

The issue rose again concerning the Council, or anyone for that matter, building on Blythe Hill Fields. KB had looked into this previously about Village Green Status or Metropolitan Land, Town and Country Planning of Common Land Rights. SC and KB have opted to take on this investigation to see what they can do to protect the Fields long term.

11. **Dates of Meetings for 2009**

5 th February	All Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.
2 nd April	
4 th June	
16 th July	
1 st October – AGM	
3 rd December	

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Blythe Hill Fields (FBHF) 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.