



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 5 February 2009, 7.30pm
held at The Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Alan Bailey (Chair)
Lara Al-Jabi (Glendale)
Elizabeth Downie
Marian Lawes

Kylie Barnes (Secretary)
Anne Scott
Marcel Jenkins
Hugh Carrick PCSO

Gavin Bolam
Molly Bertrand
Judith Brassington
Sue Follett PCSO

Sydney Couldridge
Josh Franklin
Cllr Syliva Scott

Apologies:-

Andrew Barnes (Treasurer)

Josh Smaller

Albert Blackmore

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alan Bailey opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last meeting and Matters Arising

There were no amendments to the minutes from the last meeting but there had been some updates to report.

- a) Damage to previous whip planting – a modest amount of re-planting has been done by Glendale along the Montacute Road boundary however there are still gaps remaining. It was decided to continue filling these gaps the next time we have planting days arranged. We consider Glendale's remedial promise fulfilled and move on.
- b) Farmers' Market – AB and GB reported back on this item as they had heard back from Chris Elder of City and Country Farmers' Markets. Chris felt that the site would not work well enough because there were no toilets, no mains water, the passing trade was not that good, no power available on site, not sufficient hard-standing for the stalls and the position of the site was not good enough. He thought that one-off events would work well providing the weather was dry. We decided to leave the idea aside for now.
- c) Boundary fence to Codrington Hill still awaits repair - AB to chase. Glendale's to look into also.
- d) Roman Road – We've not heard from Gary despite some prompting. AB will follow up.
- e) Tree planting – The trees are all still there and looking well. AB has not yet followed up with contact with local schools to see if they might do some nature work with them. LA offered to help with this.
- f) Logo – Our new logo will now be used on all of our documents. The winning design was by Aoife Gilbride. SC provided a prize and did a presentation to the winner of the competition held at our Festival last year.
- g) Hedging and Maintenance – Clearing of growth around planted whips took place on 31st January. There remains much more to be done. Our next day is on Saturday the 14th March and it was felt that gapping up and clearing should be our main priorities to make things more presentable in the fields and to consolidate what we have achieved already.
- h) Wildflower Meadow – there is a brief in development and AB will push this along.
- i) Village Green Status – KB and SC to look into Village Green Status. Sylvia Scott mentioned that there were explanations of this on the internet and that she believed that no building was allowed on Blythe Hill Fields as it had Metropolitan Open Land status.

3. Update on Playbuilder bid for improvements to the Children's playground

The Playbuilder Application was still under review at the time of our meeting. We hope to hear shortly of the result. Year 3 has been condensed into Year 2 because of the recession so, if we are successful, work will take place in 09/10. A decision is expected on the 11th February. The Horniman Triangle improvements are well underway if friends want to take a look at what can happen.

4. **Festival Saturday 27th June 2009**

- Flyers need to be up soon in order to advertise our event and to enlist helpers asap. The visibility of posters is important so that people start talking about it to attract as many members of the public as we had last year.
- Stalls – it was felt we needed more stalls this year and to increase the fee slightly but stay closer to our guidelines.
- Recycling – Rubbish – there was nothing provided last year. We need to prevent this problem happening again. Sam Kirk at Wearside is to be contacted asap to commence organising rubbish/re-cycling facilities.
- Water / Drinks will need to be better provided for this year.
- Toilets – it was discussed whether or not to get the same company in to provide the toilets. There was mention of another supplier who may be cheaper. We need more toilets this time too.
- Cars – permits would be needed to allow cars to park in the fields whilst they were loading / unloading.
- A person would be needed to open and close the gates.
- Parasols / Gazebo's – need to ascertain how many we need.
- Invite the Scout Group, Bell Ringers and other local people in the borough.
- KB suggested a ticket handling system for the donkeys in order to give them a rest throughout the course of the day.
- More wardens/stewards would be needed.
- The police have said that they could have a stall for the property marking and suggested also that police cadets could help out at our event.
- Encourage more kids races throughout the day.
- We'd like to hire the bike doctor again.
- Josh Franklin from Lewisham Community Sports can help with equipment.

5. **Any Other Business**

- The Pilot project for signage – BHF is still listed to be in the pilot scheme. Details will be posted soon.
- AB reported back on developments at the Crofton Park Local Assembly meeting on 31st Jan. Some ideas were raised on how some of the resources under the Mayor's funding of £50,000 might be used. Trees, Toilets, Flower meadow, a level grass area, a garden area with good disabled access, a drinking fountain, a sculpture, a willow weave sculpture and a panorama view indicator were all mentioned.
- The healthily grown trees/ shrubs in the N.E. corner of the fields provided cover for some unsavoury behaviour last year. Glendale's Tree Managers are to have a look at the possibility of some pruning back.
- BBC2 were due to be filming in the Fields with Malorie Blackman on the 11th of February.
- HOPAG are working hard to improve the old Southwark Parks depot at HOP station. Check out their blog
- Repair is needed to the barriers at the Montacute Road entrance. This is in hand with Glendale.
- A new planning application at 63-65 Brockley View has been refused. The Friends lodged a successful objection.

6. **Dates of Meetings for 2009**

The meeting dates that were suggested at the last meeting are now subject to change due to clashes with other events. All of our meetings are held on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.

Our next meeting is on Thursday the 2nd of April.

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.