

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 15 July 2010, 7.30pm
Within Blythe Hill Fields**



Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Alan Bailey (Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Sydney Couldridge	Gavin Bolam
Marcel Jenkins	Elizabeth Downie	Jo Ireland	Virginia Phillips
Stan Wocial	Chris Thompson – Glendale	PCSO Langford	PCSO Brooks
David Byrne	Deborah Smith		

Apologies:-

Josh Smaller	Cllr Jackie Addison	Molly Bertrand	Cllr Pauline Morrison
Nicholas Taylor			

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alan Bailey opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

The issue of Skateboarders using the playground came up. They are causing damage to the decking and there has been graffiti on the decking and picnic benches. The graffiti has been cleaned off by Glendales. There is also evidence that some of the newly planted trees have been damaged with sharp implements. The PCSO's obviously can't be in the Fields all the time but they have taken note of these issues and will report back to their team.

Are there any bye-laws about skateboarding in Lewisham Parks and Playgrounds? If possible, the Friends would like skateboarding kept out of the Playground as it poses physical danger to younger, smaller Playground users and notices should be put up to that effect. Such notices would point Skateboarders in the direction of nearby dedicated facilities.

It was agreed that where Skateboarders are causing actual damage to structures they should be asked, then told, to desist.

Continuing on the theme of damage, it was regretfully noted that many of the plants we planted in the Notice board bed at the official opening of the Playground have gone, presumably stolen. No-one appears to have been responsible for watering them and the very dry weather seems to have accounted for some too.

3. Tea/Coffee Facilities

Virginia Phillips came to the meeting today to assess whether the friends would be interested in her running tea and coffee facilities within the fields. She wanted to get feedback from us to establish whether it would be worth doing this and it was agreed that it was a good idea in principle and we'd be very happy to look at some more detailed proposals.

Virginia will look into it further and report back.

4. **Festival – Saturday 3rd July 2010**

The festival was held on a brilliant day. The weather was perfect. The friends gained 30 new friends and everyone seems to have had a fantastic time.

Donkeys - Thanks to Jo for organising helpers for the 2 donkeys (which were not prepared to work on the day). The donkeys arrived late and they did not look very healthy. Look for an alternative source.

Recycling - Nicholas Taylor did a blinding job on the re-cycling and kept the rubbish to a minimum throughout the course of the day. Thanks to Marcel at the end of the day for helping.

Volunteers – thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped on the day. We couldn't have done it without you.

Some concerns had been raised around electric cables and safety. There were some further stage coverings held in reserve which we still thought, on reflection, would maintain safe conditions in poorer weather.

Picnics – More people seemed to come prepared with picnics this year.

Punch and Judy show was watched by lots of children and adults and was excellent.

Photos – Sydney Couldridge and his son took lots of photos throughout the course of the day and will put them on CD and let us have them.

Sausages – it was suggested that we have an ingredients listing for the sausages that we sell.

Vouchers – it was suggested that we introduce a food voucher system for volunteers.

Inflatable's – GB noticed that there was a 65kVA generator attached to the inflatables and wondered if we could use the generator to supply electricity to our staging and tea/coffee making facilities next year. We also wondered if we could have different attractions next year like splat the rat, swing boats.

Entertainment – thanks to Molly for organising all the acts again this year. It was suggested that we have a different headline act. Any introductions to something reggae, samba or salsa would be welcome.

Cakes – thanks to Molly, Nancy and Steve Mannix for providing wonderful cakes, jam this year and raising over £300.

The police horses came for a visit and were a big hit, as were the fire brigade.

Ice Cream – this year we had one ice-cream vendor within the fields, however there were others outside of the perimeter tapping into the sale of ice creams and it was felt that we could have more vendors next time charging them a rate of £175.00 for the privilege.

Car parking around the fields - Apparently there was an issue over parking on Codrington Hill, people were parking on the bends.

Merchandising – Marcel Jenkins raised the issue of selling merchandise with our logo on it ie. Car stickers, mugs, t-shirts and fridge magnets. He is looking into pricing items up to sell throughout the year and at festivals.

Elizabeth Downie mentioned that Trevor and Simon (who opened our event a few years ago) had been requested by Kylie Barnes to open our event next year. They said they would be delighted to do this for us.

11:30 to 4:30 preferred to 11:00 to 4:30. Need tighter control of straw.

4. **Any other Business**

Deborah Smith said she would be willing to look into the making (etching) of a brass (it might have to be Zinc or Copper) panoramic view descriptor which would identify different landmarks seen from the hill top. She and AB will get together to look into this. Check out Chinbrook Meadows.

Bulb Planting – Angus from Glendale’s has agreed to provide 4,000 bulbs in replacement for those that were mowed down again this year. We need to set up an Autumn planting.

A number of the “100 new trees” appear to have died. An Autumn inspection will be carried out and Angus has confirmed that dead trees will be replaced.

Waitrose in Beckenham – has a good causes collection on a monthly basis and we have been nominated as one of the 3 beneficiaries in July.

5. **Next Meetings**

7th October (AGM)
2nd 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.