



**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2010, 7.30pm  
The Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

**Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:**

Alan Bailey (Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Sydney Couldridge	Molly Bertrand
Albert Blackmore	Anne Scott	Ahmad Saeed	Nicholas Taylor
Chris Thompson (Glendale)	PCSO McCabe	Noelle O'Conner	Elizabeth Downie
Marcel Jenkins			

**Apologies:-**

Gavin Bolam                                  Josh Smaller

1.     **Welcome and Apologies**

Alan Bailey (AB) opened the meeting and welcomed Chris Thompson from Glendale.

2.     **Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising**

The Byelaws state that no **skateboarding** should take place in any area other than a designated skateboard park. However, cyclists are encouraged to cycle in our parks and we are keen to encourage and accommodate all users without constantly quoting rules and regulations. Lewisham suggest a common sense approach. Some feel that damage to decking continues. Chris will check this out and will suggest the wording for a notice that we might put on the notice board.

**Coffee and Tea facilities** – AB has heard from neither Virginia or Gemma and he will follow up. The lack of toilets is still a concern but there is still no prospect of such a facility being created.

**Panoramic View Descriptor** – No news yet from Deborah. Molly and Alan will check on a local artist who has done this kind of work before.

**Waitrose** – Many thanks to Deborah for nominating the Friends. We've been given £100 from the Beckenham store's July Scheme.

3.     **Community Star Assessment of Play Builder**

We completed some further assessments of the impact of the Play Builder project for Hannah from Groundworks.

4.     **Update on Trees, Meadows and Playground Projects**

**100 Trees** – Angus and Vince have offered to review the planted trees in the autumn. Approximately 40 trees do not appear to have survived since the planting in November/December last year.

There was concern that they had not been adequately watered. AB is to work with Angus.

**Wildflower Meadows** are cut now – the review of the overall grass cutting plans for the Fields needs finalising for next year. As part of that exercise we should review and clarify the mowing, progress and development of the wildflower meadow strips.

**Playground Funding - Bins / Benches** – Our hopes to fund some new bins and benches from any residue in the Playground budget, into which £10k earmarked from the Parks improvement budget for such items was tipped, have come to nothing. The improvement budget has been offered-up as in-year savings so there is no money to spend on this. Chris indicated that he may be able to help with the installation if we paid for the equipment. AB will liaise. There has been some fire damage to one of the cradle swings and the surface beneath. Chris is organising repairs.

5.     **Annual Parks Conference Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Alan Bailey plans to attend but offered his place to the assembled company to no avail.

6.     **Autumn Hedge Planting/Clearing – BTCV “Earn Your Travel Back” Project**

AB is still negotiating with Mike Keogh at Glendale about a planting session this Autumn. We are trying to pick up on Angus's offer of 4,000 new bulbs and some help planting them to make amends for the accidental mowing down of those in bloom this spring.

The **BTCV** project on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September was very successful with a dozen participants helping to tidy up along more than 50 metres of our hedge planting. There was the odd mistake made, even to some of the backing-on residents' own planting, but we have offered to make good and with luck BTCV will be able to organise another session before the end of the year.

7. **Festival – Saturday 2nd July 2011**

We agreed we wanted to organise another event next year and settled on July the 2<sup>nd</sup>. KB has asked Gemma Unwin (Lewisham People's Day, what date they have agreed for their event). KB to advise AB. (It's on the 9<sup>th</sup>.)

We also need to look at having healthier looking Donkeys next year.

8. **Any Other Business**

Merchandising - Marcel Jenkins brought along some sample ideas that he had produced, i.e. t-shirts, cups, and bags for us to sell at next year's festival.

Web Site - Marcel Jenkins said that the web site is now too big and that it needs to be hosted on a different server. He has been given the go-ahead to do this.

9. **Next Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

**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.