



MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

8 pm on 30 November 2016, at the Honor Oak Pub, SE23

In Attendance

James Cross, David Lowry, Ellie Rogers, Zaria Greenhill, Jane Aebi, Marcel Jenkins, Gavin Bolam, Jim Smith, Anne Scott, Graeme Crow, Jo Miller

Welcome

JC welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Prior to the meeting, the minutes from the AGM had been circulated and agreed.

Election

It was proposed that GB and JS would be committee members. This was unanimously agreed.

Bins

JC confirmed that the Friends have won an additional £500 via Skipton Building Society. It was agreed that ER would check with Glendale that they agreed the site would take additional bins and if appropriate obtain a quote for installing two additional bins.

People & Wildlife

ZG explained that 3 trees had been felled by the Council, due to disease. With permission, the Friends have stored the wood for use in the Fields. The wood will be moved on 10 December at the next Friends event (see below for further details). It was agreed that some of the wood would be used to demarcate the wildlife area to the north of the park. ZG explained that she had discussed with Lewisham Council/Glendale using some of the larger pieces of wood as seating and it would need to be dug in.

ZG confirmed that she has applied for free whips from the Woodland Trust. These will arrive in 2017, and not in time for the event on 10 December.

ZG confirmed that she will be preparing with JM a calendar of Friends events for 2017, to be handed out at the event on 10 December.

HopCroft

ZG presented a summary of the HopCroft Forum Neighbourhood plan, from a Blythe Hill Fields' perspective, as attached. There was discussion about the 3 Peaks Walk and the proposal to expand the walk to other parks. ZG urged the Friends to attend the HopCroft presentation on 14 January 2017. ZG will update in due course.

GC raised the issue of the signs to the park, and whether any progress had been made. ER explained that there seemed to be some disagreement between the Council and Glendale about whether the signs fell under the maintenance contract. The main contact from the Council was on holiday, but ER confirmed that she would chase for a reply. In terms of the Friends purchasing new signs, this was not a top priority at present, given the outcome of the User Survey conducted in 2016.

10 December Event

ZG summarised the plans for the event on 10 December 2016:

- 2 pm – make up and decorate bird boxes, create wildlife area with wood
- 3 pm – start singing and eating mince pies

ZG confirmed that she had obtained advice about painting the boxes – only the underside should be painted in water based, non-toxic paint. DL confirmed that the boxes should be pre-drilled to make assembly easier and that he would do this. It was agreed that we would borrow tables from the Blythe Hill Tavern and ensure that the tables are protected by plastic. There was a long discussion about the location for making up and decorating the bird boxes. Most local venues were already full or too far from the Fields. It was subsequently agreed that these would be made on the Fields.

It was agreed that in the event of heavy rain, health and safety dictated that the event would need to be called off. It was agreed that we would make tea towels and bags available for purchase at the event. It was suggested by JC that we ask for spring bulbs to be donated and planted. Agreed. ER agreed to arrange this.

ZG explained that Alice would be attending the event with other carol singers, and that Alice requested that she collect money for War Child. It was agreed that it would be difficult for the Friends to support the charity, as this was contrary to the constitution.

AOB

- Tents – in 2016 the tents awnings had been cleaned and shrunk. DL agreed that he would chase the cleaning company for a response. On receipt, we will then decide whether to replace the awnings or not.
- Playground – ER confirmed that the sacking had been trimmed and the wood on the rotting boat had been replaced. The boat was due to be painted in Spring 2017.
- Slack trial – DL suggested that we use Slack, as an alternative to emails, as the email chains become lengthy and confusing. There was some opposition to this. However, it was agreed that there would be a trial for those who wanted to use it.

- Meeting venue – ER raised whether we should continue meeting at the Honor Oak Pub. She noted that the members had previously asked where the Friends should meet. There were no objections to using the Pub and indeed it was the preferred venue for evening meetings. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that in the absence of any actual objections we would continue meeting at the pub.
- Football – ER explained that Josh had been in touch about arranging a football match on 2 January 2017, on the Fields.

ER

29.12.16

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.

Summary of HopCroft Forum Neighbourhood plan, in general and as relevant to FoBHF

The Neighbourhood plan concept was invented in 2012 in order to create a tool for communities to formally have some control over the development and protection of their local area. The plans are designed, if successfully achieved, to contribute to the statutory development plan for the local area and compliance with them would be required in planning decisions and appeals and when planning infrastructure and setting out priorities. The plan has to comply with national legislation and may not contradict local planning strategy. This plan supplements the Lewisham local development plans and aims to add more detail and subtlety in line with what the community wants. Apparently, Lewisham council is highly supportive of this plan.

Neighbourhood plans have to be facilitated by an approved body, and in this case the HopCroft Forum has formed purposely to create this plan, following contentious decisions about the Sainsbury's near Honor Oak park station, and the still-inconclusive site opposite the Brockley Jack.

The plan covers the two wards of Crofton park and Honor Oak park, and the Forum is chaired by the local councilor Pauline Morrison. The timeframe is 2016 – 2026. All the ideas in the plan are in response to earlier rounds of consultation, although it's unclear just how many people were involved. The HopCroft team have done a lot of work on it, however.

The current plan is a draft and widespread consultation is required. Comments and suggestions can be incorporated and the final plan also has to be consulted upon and then put to a 'public referendum', where a 'yes' vote of over 50% is needed to bring the plan into force.

Please see the diagram below to show the stages of the plan development process, and where we are currently. If we choose, we may be helpful in facilitating consultation as it appears that the HopCroft forum are very keen to collaborate with other organisations in the area, and we are included and named in the plan.



The plan is arranged into seven themes, with a list of issues raised and then suggested actions or options for the plan. Then a 'vision' is brought together and a series of objectives set out. The last section outlines how the plan may be implemented. Sustainable Development is one of the core interests of the plan, and lots of the policy areas will contribute to the general concept of Sustainable Development.

Overall points of the plan, for general interest:

- Concerns were raised over the change of use from buildings of community use to residential use without considering the needs of the community. Extensive consultation on change of use for buildings is suggested.
- There is poor connection between green spaces, and poor signage. The formalisation of the Three Peaks/Green Chain walk is suggested to address this.
- There is poor access to green space for people in the north of the ward. Poor access is defined as being more than 10 minutes' walk from people's homes.
- There is felt to be insufficient protection for buildings of community and historic value.
- The traffic along Stansted road and Brockely rise/Stondon park is dangerous and there aren't enough cycle lanes or crossing places. More cycle lanes and crossings are suggested to address this.
- There are more than the national average of self-employed people in the ward, and there is little available small business office or workshop space. Two 'employment zones' are suggested, on Malham road and in Beecroft Mews
- Crofton park station is in bad condition
- Street trees are removed and not replaced, prioritizing street tree planting is suggested.
- Support for localized parades of shops is suggested, prioritizing small businesses and providing for local need. The southern end of Stondon road is highlighted as a weak area, with a number of closed shops.

- The railway cutting is a SINC (site of specific scientific interest) and so should be preserved and given nature reserve status. Development is planned for the area next to Honor Oak Park station, and it is thought that the pre-existing biodiversity was largely destroyed in that area due to Network rail work.

The Seven Themes:

1. Housing
2. Community Facilities
3. Economy and Enterprise
4. Built Environment
5. Green infrastructure
6. Transport and movement
7. Health and well-being

Ideas and projects are proposed under these themes.

Of particular relevance to Blythe Hill fields: the view from the hill is listed as an asset of community value and as such protected (hooray). Also, we are on the Three Peaks walk, which is sometimes referred to as the 'Local Green Chain' walk. They would like to put up improved signage to this walk and this would involve us. Also, one of the actions under 'Green infrastructure' is listed as 'Develop and implement a plan of management and improvement to Blythe Hill Fields', with partners listed as the Friends of Blythe Hill Fields and local residents and groups.