



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17 July 2008, 7.30pm
held at The Ackroyd Community Centre, SE23**

Present:- BHFUG members:

Alan Bailey (Chair)	Kylie Barnes (Secretary)	Sydney Couldridge	Marcel Jenkins
Molly Bertrand	Gavin Bolam	Albert Blackmore	Elizabeth Downie
	Lara Al-Jabi (Glendale)	Judith Brassington	Josh Smaller

Apologies:-

Andrew Barnes (Treasurer)	Caroline Sefton
	Mark Wellband

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alan Bailey opened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last meeting and Matters Arising

It was mentioned that Judith Brassington was not listed on the list of attendees at the previous meeting.

Codrington Hill entrance - Drop Down Kerb – It was still felt to be a dangerous entrance but Alan Bailey could not offer a solution to alleviate the fears that had been raised previously concerning the drop kerb that was installed last year. It was suggested to send an e-mail to those on the mailing list asking if people had personal concerns and to try to establish who would be willing to work with Alan to get the matter resolved.

The Playbuilder application was submitted on time on the 20th of June.

3. Benches Bins and Signs

The money from the funding opportunity that came up earlier on in the year still needs to be spent this year. It was thought that the money could be spent on supplying new signs or benches within the fields. The current benches are not as bad as first thought. There was £5,000 earmarked in the costing in the Feasibility Study. We should see what people want the money spent on. It was suggested that AB and KB arrange a meeting with Martin Hyde to draw up a plan. At the moment there are 14 benches of which 8 are decent. There are 7 bins and 7 dog bins, most of which are ok.

It was thought that additional benches and/or picnic tables could be installed to perhaps have a “picnic” area. It was suggested that 2 benches go under the trees near the playground and three be sited at the top of the hill so that people could look at the lovely view.

Alan Bailey had taken photographs of other park furniture for the meeting so that people could see what style of furniture could be installed within the fields.

4. Festival – 28th June 2008 – A De-brief

It was felt the day was fantastic, well attended and most of all people had fun! The races were good, in fact better than last year. Yam Hill came. The donkeys were well used.

The only bad points were that there were no re-cycling facilities for the rubbish, there was not enough water provided for drinking and many more helpers were needed. There could have been more stalls but what was there this year was better than last year so overall it has improved.

It was felt that there should have been more awareness made about the event through more posters in shops and the like. Although there were plenty of people who completed joining forms, we still don't have the number of volunteers on our lists as it has been hoped to have.

The criteria for the stalls needed to be made clearer – only local crafts but not having causes at the event.

The litter bins needed more monitoring as there was a lot of litter everywhere and the bins were full up. We managed to get funding so that we could have “The bike doctor” at the event. He was very busy all day.

One of the Toilets became full up and all of them ran out of water.

5. Any Other Business

Hedge Planting - A fence was put up beside Austin Close to protect the planting that was damaged by Glendales. Darrell Abercrombie said that it was an accepted practice to put up a fence after planting had taken place to protect the new plants. One section still needs replanting though and there was mention of putting pots there which has not yet been done.

Drop Down Kerbs

The kerbs were installed as there is a cycle route which runs through Blythe Hill Fields. There still is the issue of the kerbs being unsafe for children running or cycling down the steep hill and not being able to stop in time from on-coming traffic along Codrington Hill.

6. Meetings

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED DATES FOR OUR AUTUMN MEETINGS

Thursday 18th September - 7.30pm

AGM 23rd October – 7.30pm

MISSION STATEMENT

Blythe Hill Fields User Group (BHFUG) 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.