



MEETING MINUTES

8pm on 17th September 2019 at the Blythe Hill Tavern

In Attendance

Rich, Jim, Tim, Katherine and Suzanne

Welcome

Suzanne McDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and approved prior to the meeting.

Agenda

1. Park Observations

General	Litter	Use
Zip line in playground still too low. Overhead wire needs tightening again. Chain has been twisted in the meantime to make it usable. Sandpit Library is currently damaged – has been flagged for repair.	Numerous posts on FB page of excessive litter on the fields – particularly post sunny weekends. Repeated reference to dog refuse bags being left beside bins. Need to inform park users that general bins can be used as Dog bins are now being phased out.	Very busy

ACTION: Suzanne to communicate observations to Glendale.

2. 2019 Festival Reporting

In the absence of Festival Co-ordinator and wider festival committee members, a full review of the 2019 Festival was not possible, (although prior informal meetings have taken place among some members). Rich was however able to confirm that this years surplus exceeded past efforts with around £8k raised. (£4k of which has already allocated towards our Lewisham Greening Fund application. See below for application update).

3. Lewisham Greening Fund

Following submission of our application back on 22nd June, Suzanne confirmed she had met with Peter Maynard (Lewisham) to review the outcome. PM advised that work would be phased over the next 2 years and that projects were being undertaken in stages across the borough. So although nothing has technically been refused - TBC decisions would be made at a later date dependent on further information.

Applied for	Status - Notes	Timescales
Additional Animal Proof Bins x4 requested	Lewisham have agreed to replace current Dog Refuse Bins with additional Animal Proof bins. X3 new bins (See list below for locations)	Very soon
Additional Picnic Benches x2 requested	Lewisham had agreed to a new disabled friendly picnic table to be located overlooking the Codrington Hill view. Location of a further table to be agreed. Suggestion of just by first group of trees as you walk away from the hard standing up towards the triangle.	Very soon
Drinking Fountain	Status – TBC awaiting further liaison with Thames Water etc.	TBC
Additional Exercise equipment	Status – TBC awaiting later decision	TBC

New Bin locations – Placements in keeping with existing pattern of entrance, then halfway along:
Lower right hand side of path as you enter via Montacute Road entrance.
Two-thirds the way along path towards the Brockley View entrance
Left hand side of Codrington Hill path as you look down the hill.

ACTIONS: Committee to agree proposed location for a second picnic bench
Suzanne to communicate agreement for picnic bench locations to Peter Maynard, Lewisham

4. Spring Tree planting Feedback

Detailed discussion postponed to next meeting as member unable to attend and update the group. We are aware that some trees have not survived and replacements will be needed. Also it was noted that someone had been seen taking tree posts and wire from the Fields which was there for trees in the Fields. We have a photograph of the car they were taken away in.

ACTION: Suzanne to advise Glendale re removal of tree posts and wire.

5. Signage Project Update

Signs Committee presented an update of the project so far and provided a criteria for the approach to signage information to be displayed. The Signage Goals are very clear about what information should be included and why.

Prior to the meeting Graeme advised as to latest developments confirming text and images were almost finalised and that once designs are supplied to the Council and Glendale, then introducing and securing approval for our nominated supplier would be next.

Peter Maynard confirmed that Lewisham / Glendale have not yet seen proposed designs and could take no further action re meeting potential new suppliers etc. until final designs have been approved by them.

ACTIONS: Signs Committee to complete signage information
Final designs to be sent to Glendale / Lewisham for approval
Introductions to chosen supplier

6. Future Events & Activities

It was previously suggested an informal event be held to recognise the contribution of Festival volunteers and also to capitalise on the goodwill of Festival attendees to further recruit volunteers and Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members. All present agreed and an early Christmas season 'Meet the Friends' style event was suggested. In addition to having the opportunity to chat with fellow residents in an informal environment, we could also take the opportunity to present some of our achievements. Rich agreed to provide a budget for it.

In response to Svea's notes provided in advance of the meeting, regarding events and activities, Suzanne reminded all of the Monthly Calendar that had been used in the past and proposed bringing it back. See attached example. Suzanne also proposed fixing dates in advance in the calendar for each Friends meeting so that we are clear when we're meeting throughout the year. ie; 2nd Tuesday in every month.

Using the calendar would also help in terms of planning for and encouraging activities other than the Festival, for example; Halloween storytelling, Christmas Wreath making workshop/ Birdbox painting, planting etc.

ACTIONS: Rich to propose a budget for a Friends event
Suzanne to find/recreate the annual event calendar
Committee to suggest events & volunteer to organise them

7. AOB

Green Flag: During the park walk-around, Peter Maynard highlighted the need for the Friends to focus on improvements in light of our Green Flag application. With this in mind he supported the proposed installation of a disabled friendly picnic bench on the Codrington Hill side of the Fields as it maximises the view (as outlined in our Funding application above), and further advised that the nearby low bench would have to be removed from the triangle area. He felt any replacement bench should be in keeping with the existing style of the wooden benches nearby and felt confident that this could be secured for the same location.

A key area for us to focus on is the planting bed by the playground. As a group we have discussed turning this into a **Community Garden** several times but reached no final decision as to design, layout etc. As a key focal point we were advised to address it before any Green Flag assessment. As previously advised – Glendale are open to removing existing plants if needed, but only once we have finalised our plan and they have approved it.

Suzanne suggested putting the **redesign of the existing planting bed** out to local residents and members by way of a competition asking for ideas and designs. Similar (approved) Green Flag applications have emphasised 'sustainable, low maintenance and drought resistant plants' so it would seem sensible that this should also be our focus. We could create an application form with a map outline of the bed asking for a brief proposal, list of suggested plants and locations as well as a list of estimated costs. Entries could be reviewed by the Committee and a shortlist finalised. It could help secure input from experienced gardeners and help more this project forward.

G-Suite for the Friends: In light of the surplus from this years festival, Suzanne suggested budget be allocated for a Friends of Blythe Hill Fields G-Mail Suite so that we have specific email addresses and a central Google Drive for all information related to the Friends activities. Going forward it would be any new Committee members would simply inherit the email address and accompanying history. Rich agreed this should be possible once costs confirmed.

ACTIONS: Costs to be confirmed and account set up.

8. Date for next Meeting

- Next full Friends Meeting: Tuesday 15th October
- Annual General Meeting: tbc

