



# MEETING MINUTES

8pm on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Blythe Hill Tavern

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## In Attendance

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Tim, Jim, Graeme, Svea, Rich, Helen, Dave, Katherine, Fran, Suzanne

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## Welcome

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Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting. Previous minutes meeting were circulated and approved prior to the meeting.

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## Agenda

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### 1. Park Observations

General	Litter	Use
<p>November – Mugging on the Fields. Suzanne spoke with Crofton Park Safer Neighbourhood Team who said this was first instance reported. Phone stolen from out of someone’s hand. Thankfully no one hurt.</p> <p>Blythe Hill Fields as Christmas Tree dropoff point again this year. It was noted that suggestion had been made to use some of the resulting mulch around the Fields – but this does not happen onsite. Still we would ask Glendale.</p> <p>New Years Day Football match was well attended</p>	<p>New Years Day tidy-up by local volunteers</p>	<p>Lots of lost items recorded on the FB page.</p>

**ACTION:** Suzanne to communicate observations to Glendale, ask about wood chips from Christmas trees for use around Fields.

## 2. Strategy for Blythe Hill Fields

Following previous discussions, as Chair Tim suggested we devise strategy for the Fields going forward, highlighting regular annual activities and special projects. The plan should consider both short term activities and also longer term aims (1-5yr timescales).

Tim agreed to draft a strategy and circulate to the Committee for review and comments before sign off.

It was suggested that he also consider the content of the previous Groundworks Master Plan to see if elements could /needed to be incorporated. Graeme suggested that a map of the Fields could be used to allocate relevant comments and ideas to specific areas of the park. Graeme also confirmed they still have the feedback comments from the friends Tent display from last years Festival.

Dave confirmed that someone did approach Groundworks in recent years re possible revisiting of the Master Plan but that this would be very costly.

**ACTIONS:** Tim to draft Friends of Blythe Hill Fields Strategy document.

Graeme to provide copy of Groundworks Master Plan to Tim

Graeme also to provide attendee and resident comments from 2019 Festival consultation

## 3. Green Flag

Suzanne confirmed that as yet a walk around with new Glendale representatives and Lewisham had not yet taken place. This needs to be scheduled with peter Maynard asap to review / remind him of locations for new bins (as per Lewisham Greening Fund bid – replacement for removal of dog proof bins).

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  <b>New Bin locations</b> – 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.	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.	Very soon

	<p>Location of a further table to be agreed.</p> <p>Suggestion of just by first group of trees as you walk away from the hard standing up towards the triangle.</p>	
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In addition Peter Maynard emphasised the need for proof of community involvement. A decision and approach also needs to be reached regarding the island flower bed outside the playground. As previously discussed the idea was for a community garden although definitions of what this constitutes have differed to date. It was suggested that drought proof, low maintenance planting had proven favourable to Green Flag judges elsewhere and we were encouraged to bear this in mind. After discussion it was agreed that an individual is needed to lead on this project and write up a proposal. In terms of any Green Plan assessment, final design would not have to be completed but a plan would need to be in place.

**ACTIONS:** Call out for volunteers with requisite experience/gardening skills to be made  
Date for walk around / Fields visit with Glendale/Lewisham to be agreed

#### 4. Tree planting

A tree planting and community event had been proposed for last November/early December but as our last meeting was cancelled, this did not take place. Svea identified the need to remove and replace several dead trees along with removal of unnecessary wire cages. It was suggested that a walk round to review which trees needed removal and what we could replace.

Moving of logs from the top corner of the Fields was also raised again. Previously Glendale had agreed to move these down towards the Willow tree near the Codrington Hill entrance. This would be a far more suitable habitat for wildlife which was the original intention.

Rich highlighted a shattered branch on the willow tree saying it needed urgent cutting. There is also a dead tree nearby.

A further tree planting event has been proposed by Zaria under the joint banner of Climate Action Lewisham and FoBHF. While the Friends welcome support and effort re planting, it was agreed that any activities remain officially FoBHF.

All were reminded that the group email should only be used by official committee members for specific activities relating to Blythe Hill Fields..

Suzanne also confirmed that a National Trust 150 Year Anniversary scheme was proposing to plant 150 trees. Groups were invited to apply for trees via the Lewisham Green Scene group. An email had be sent on behalf of the Fiends and we were advised that initial plantings are confirmed to be taking place in February but we may be considered in the October round. Details tbc. Darren and Julian had suggested that any trees chosen should be native species that would also benefit wildlife.

**ACTIONS:** Arrange Walk round to assess damage and map positions of trees that need replacing  
Request moving of logs again with Glendale  
Communicate support of a Friends of Blythe Hill Fields tree planting session to Zaria

## 5. Project Updates - Signage

On behalf of the Signs Committee, Graeme confirmed that signs proposal was near completion with outstanding images etc being finalised. A pdf of the design development had been sent prior to the meeting and comments will be acknowledged and incorporated before sending through to Glendale/Lewisham. The proposal includes specific locations for each sign and designs include way-finding, historical and wildlife information specific to the Fields.

Next steps will then involve an on-site meeting with the Council and manufacturers to commence the supplier approval process.

It was suggested that Graeme confirm timescales to the Crofton Park Ward Assembly re an update on the project in light of funding provided specifically for it.

- ACTIONS:**
- Signs Committee to incorporate latest comments
  - Final designs to be sent to Glendale / Lewisham for approval
  - Introductions to chosen supplier
  - Graeme to update Crofton Park Ward Assembly re project status

## 6. Future Events – Festival 2020

Helen confirmed that according to Lewisham Council, People's Day 2020 would be taking place this year on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. As such it was suggested that a provisional date over the weekend of Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> be set for a 2020 Festival. After some discussion a vote was taken and a provisional date of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July agreed.

Helen advised that more volunteers will be needed to cover key organisational areas [Stalls, Fundraising etc], as several Committee members had already notified they would be unable to offer the same levels of support or time.

It was agreed that a festival meetings would now be held separately to general meetings and a date will be set for February.

Rich confirmed budget was in place for a 2020 Festival.

Suzanne confirmed that enquiries had already been received re 2020 Festival participation

### **General activities:**

Darren and Julian have suggested three potential Public and Wildlife events and activities for the year.

- ❖ An 'insect-home' build for the end of winter/early spring
- ❖ A seedling plant for spring
- ❖ A native blue-bell plant for autumn – this will require some funding but can be discussed at a later meeting.

- ACTIONS:**
- Helen to communicate volunteer needs to wider Committee
  - Helen to communicate a date February Festival meeting

## 7. AOB

Montacute Road Mural: As previously discussed the surface and structure have been confirmed as unsuitable for the level of effort and potential expenditure it would take to undertake this project. As such it was agreed that costings be sourced and we communicate with the Glendale/Lewisham our desire to paint it with vandal proof paint instead.

Role of Secretary: Suzanne advised she would have to step down as Secretary owing to other commitments. Tim confirmed he could take minutes going forward.

**ACTION:** Communicate painting requirements to Glendale

**8. Date for next Meeting**      Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

