

Millfields Park User Group

Annual General Meeting

9 February 2008

1. Introduction – people attending the meeting introduced themselves.

2. Tribute – Members expressed their sadness at the sudden death before Christmas of Gerald Laufer, and paid tribute to his community service to the Park and elsewhere. In conjunction with the Parks Dept, we are seeking some permanent record of his contribution, such as a plaque on a bench.

3. Attended by: Anna O'Brien, Anna O'Sullivan, Balavant Barber (Head of Park Rangers), Barry Buitekant, Bob Benge, Brian Weller, Christine Kings, Claire Kelly, Colin Croggon, Daniel Andrews, Dierdre, Elanor, Emma Jack, Gill Jackson, Ian Rathbone, John O'Sullivan, Katy Andrews, Nary Wijeratne, Davina, Philip Sawyer, Ralph Ijeh, Sam Alexander, Sara, Tim Evans, Titus Adam

Apologies from: Malcolm Carr, Clare Spillman, Faisal Pirbhai, Jax, Paul Foinette, Sarah Pletts, Mr & Mrs Simmons, Sue Weller

4. Charlie Foreman, Chief Officer of LBH's 2012 Olympic Unit

Depot Site – realigned and re-worked.

Traveller families are on the edge of the depot sites – new homes being built for 8 families in group homes, single storey buildings. Moving off Olympic site in next few weeks, temporarily housed elsewhere.

Marshes – need uplift. Looking to raise money for new changing rooms, education centre and café in North Marsh.

Element of plan to rebuild Cow Bridge. Outgoing planning application gone in for development over next 3-4 years. Members asked if would be open to traffic?

Confirmed, to get cars off the street and into old car park.

Issue of rebuilding area of Olympic site is concerned with the surrounding areas as well so that it is not an isolated development, Looking at linking green spaces and exploring possibility of partnerships with others – e.g. Lea Valley and Millfields.

Concerns expressed about the possibility of “greedy” developers making applications for development in the future which we need to be aware of and monitor.

Concern expressed about the erosion of green space in favour of buildings, car parks, motor access and tarmac. Point taken by CF.

5. Constitution

Brian explained the contents of the Draft. The existing members are those on the list circulated at the meeting and they have agreed to this prior to the meeting. Everyone attending today was invited to add their name and contact details to the list. These will then become the Members.

Philip Sawyer asked question about notice of constitution. Gill Jackson confirmed that appropriate notice had been given.

Designation of Park or Recreation Group sign erected.

Change of name? Philip informed the group of the significance.

Ian Rathbone proposed that the Constitution as drafted be adopted, subject to confirmation of the Group title at the next general meeting after investigation by Ian Rathbone into the most appropriate name from

- Millfields Recreation Ground User Group
- Millfields Park User Group

- Millfields User Group

This proposal was unanimously agreed.

IR

6. Election of the Committee

Nominations were received as follows:

Brian Weller
Clare Kelly
Philip Sawyer
Katy Andrews
Ian Rathbone
Christine Kings
Tim Evans
Emma Jack
Bob Bengé
Nary Wijeratne
Titus Adam
Dan Andrews

All were unanimously elected.

It was agreed that the committee would meet after the AGM to discuss the next date. Ian informed members that future notice would go to Members, Notice Boards and Hackney Today.

7. Finance

Funds from the previous Group will be transferred to the new User Group as soon as possible.

8. EDF National Grid Work

ODI have asked to remove two former lines – Tunnel Constructed Cables in the tunnel – once working power lines removed by end of December. The second one will go by Summer 2009. Hoarding around street entrance has been improved and is working well. Councillors have discussed with EDF a potential compensation programme to benefit the Park and Users. A report from the Park Manager was tabled showing the requested funding. Ian Rathbone discussed the development of the Park Lodge. LBH is holding a “Review of Houses and Lodges” so may be included. Old School rooms discussed and request for funding to open as a community facility. Philip suggested a sub-group be formed to discuss in detail the aspects of development of Millfields and went on to give examples of good practice.

Further discussions on the South.

Question on Millfields designated as Common Ground.

Recommendation: Leyton Orient FC be contacted for funding.

Question on how information regarding the work in Millfields is disseminated. Agreed initial contact will be with Ian Rathbone who will ensure it goes out. There is a Freefone number available in the leaflet circulated – 0800 731 3745. Normally 1500 residents circulated, 650 recently added. Any queries from Residents to the Freefone number will be logged by a call centre and responded to.

Question re boundaries: Some discussion on the boundary change shown on the leaflet. National Grid to inform Ian Rathbone about this issue.

IR

9. Park Manager's Report

Discussion on the report. Would like Manager's Report to be more strategically focussed. Members requested Paul Foinette's contact details: 07772 227337 or paul.foinette@hackney.go.uk Parks Dept number is 020 8986 9674. Paul is a new

Manager and is still orientating himself to the area, and has attended meetings previously.

10. Community Sports Project, a charity project working in Millfields for 4 years.

Funded by Youth Service to provide sports activities.

Cricket Club and Football Club – no home games because of poor facilities.

Tennis Club not available due to lack of lighting and other facilities.

Holiday Programme: 12-5 pm, up to 60 8-15yrs attending daily. Desperate need for toilet/changing facilities.

Young people becoming volunteers now.

An idea they have is to do an Arts project on the building to stop vandalism.

Young people can apply for funding to carry out projects. They are keen to be involved and to run their own projects. Application made to Team Hackney for a MUGA and for redevelopment of the Playground Building.

Vote of thanks to Nary and Davina for attending and for all their work on the Park: Tues, Wed, Thur, 12-3 pm half term activities.

Playground Building: Needs electricity – storage and use of facilities. Paul Foinette is looking into the possibility of maintaining the building if capital for refurbishment of is gained. Members agreed on the need to push for opening of toilets.

11. AOB

a) Meeting dates for the whole group agreed:

19th May, 7 pm

23rd August, 12 noon

1st December, 7 pm

All to be held in the Park Rangers' hut, by the Tennis Courts, behind Hackney Homes' portacabin.

b) Essex and Oxbo Wharf, north of North Millfields

Planning application into Waltham Forest for 4 x 7-storey buildings for housing on adjacent to Lea Bridge between Ice Rink and River, owned by Alan Cole.

Containers stored there at the moment. A number of agencies have lodged objections to the plan. A request for Millfields Park Group to support the objections was agreed. IR

Chair thanked everyone attending.

Elected members agreed a date for the new Committee to meet: Monday 3rd March, 7pm in the Rangers' Hut.