

**MILLFIELDS USERS' GROUP MEETING - 30 JULY 2009**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**1 Memorial Plaque for Gerald Laufer**

Conscious of the delay since Gerald died in December 2007 I have now nearly finalised arrangements for a memorial plaque on a park bench.

I have agreed the wording with Ian Rathbone;

"In memory of Gerald Laufer, a keen supporter and lover of Hackney parks and open spaces, and a committee member of Millfields Users' Group and Clapton Pond Users' Group until December 2007."

and ordered a plaque from a firm of engravers near Manor House who will complete the order this week. Paul Foinette and I agreed some time ago that a suitable location would be on the path near to the tennis courts, but a later suggestion is for an area between the Orchard and the Lea Navigation.

I have contact details for Gerald's sister, and will invite her to join us for a short ceremony to instal the plaque.

**We could instal the bench and plaque at a convenient date in August, perhaps at the same time as an Orchard watering session. Does the User Group agree?**

**2 M11 Link Road - Exchange Land adjacent to Millfields**

Katy Andrews has provided us with correspondence identifying exchange lands approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment to be transferred to LB Hackney in compensation for land CPO'd for the M11 link road in Hackney Wick.

The maps attached to the correspondence are unclear, but it seems that three of the plots cover the 'Princess of Wales' car park and the Lea canal bank adjacent to the Orchard and the National Grid/EDF substation sites.

It seems that Hackney Council should have registered these exchanges in 1992 but possibly did not. Ian Rathbone has asked Council Officers for clarification of the current position, and also for better copies of the maps.

**The User Group will be kept informed of developments and consulted on any appropriate reaction when the full facts are known.**

### **3     A Mural on the National Grid Hoardings**

The Minutes of Committee on 23 April record discussion on the suggestion of creating a mural on the National Grid fence. Further discussion at the General Meeting on 2 May resulted in a preference for a well-researched, historically referenced, mural created by local people including schoolchildren. Sam Parry, Parks Development Manager then passed on a suggestion (already used in Dalston) for a mural documenting the Master Plan consultation and responses.

The Committee on 18 July found it difficult to understand how this might be achieved visually, and how it might immediately be overtaken by subsequent events. No further communication has taken place.

**It is recommended that this be added to the list of issues to be referred to the Master Plan consultants for integration. A Master Plan would not be complete without addressing the graffiti on the walls of S. Millfields.**

### **4     'Big Lunch' Picnic on Sunday 19 July**

We widely publicised the "Big Lunch" to schools and residents around Millfields, and as a result approximately 100 people brought picnics to the Orchard and voted the event successful and enjoyable. The weather was threatening but in the end kind.

Enjoyment was greatly enhanced by Kriss Lee providing his suite of covered 'gazebo' tents and a range of games which kept children well occupied.

12 people signed up as User Group members on the day, and the consultants appointed to implement our 'Pathfinder' sites used the occasion to carry out informal consultation on the types of play area which might be created.

Photographs of the event can be viewed on Kriss Lee's website

### **5     Hillstowe Street - Alternative Access to National Grid Site**

A meeting on 20 April, which included Hillstowe Street representatives, User Group, Council Officers and councillors, considered alternative access for the site access road which currently goes through Hillstowe Street and across Millfields. That meeting was reported and discussed at the General Meeting on 20 May (see Minute 7).

National Grid are now canvassing dates for a further meeting in September, and the Chair and Secretary will attend.

### **6     Millfields Notice Boards**

The General Meeting on 2 May considered a report on Notice Boards on Millfields. The Committee on 18 July agreed that we should pursue improvements with the Parks Department.

## **7     Cycling**

Earlier this year we accepted the offer of extra cycle racks, and Tim Evans undertook to liaise with the Council as to their placement. We have had no further news of installation.

We are also informed by Highways that there is no money in budget for making the changes to the South Millfields cycle path which were agreed by the User Group last year.

**We will use the Master Plan exercise to try to push for some action on the cycle path?**