

**Millfields Users' Group General Meeting on
Thursday 30 July 2009 at 7.00 pm at All Souls Church
Overbury Street E5
[Clapton Park Estate near junction with Rushmore Rd.]**

AGENDA

ENCLOSURES can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/mugdocs>

1	Membership, Apologies for Absence, and Welcome	7.00
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- 3.1 Membership of the Group continues to grow. Another 12 people signed up at the Big Lunch on 19 July. Tim Evans will report on the latest numbers.
- 3.2 Apologies for absence
- 3.3 Welcome to new Members

2	Minutes of General Meeting on 2 May 2009	7.05
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- 2.1 To agree the Minutes of the General Meeting on 2 May 2009 (**enclosure 2**).
- 2.2 To consider matters arising

3 Restructuring of Parks Department - Support for Millfields 7.10

Hackney Parks Department was restructured last October (**enclosure 3B** - restructure diagram – to follow). A report for the Committee on 23 July is attached for information (**enclosure 3**)

In accordance with the new structure the Department has recruited three new development officers. At this meeting we welcome Bruce Irving, who took up his post in early July, and is the Development Officer assigned to work with Millfields. He will explain the nature of the assistance which he will provide, in replacement of Paul Foinette, Area Manager, who will no longer be attending user group meetings, and Gill Jackson, Parks Support Worker, who is no longer working for HPF since the expiry of the grant supporting her salary.

We have asked Bruce Irving to provide a list indicating the names and job titles of ALL parks staff allocated to work on Millfields, including rangers.

4 Millfields Master Plan – Progress 7.25

The Council's User Survey, extended to April, eventually attracted over 300 replies. The full Report of the Consultation can be accessed on the Millfields User Group Yahoo site under 'Files'. It confirms the main findings

of our own 2008 membership survey.

In May we had strenuous correspondence with the Parks Department in order to establish that the User Group could be involved in the selection of the Master Plan consultant, and would form a Project Steering Group with Parks Department Officers, rather than simply being treated as a stakeholder and consultee.

Both arguments were won. On June 17 Bob Benge took part in interviews and agreed the appointment of Camlin Lonsdale as Millfields Master Plan consultants. They are already Master Plan consultants to Hackney Marshes and Mabley Green. On 22 July Bob, Brian, and Ian attended the first Steering Group meeting with Bruce Irving and Camlin Lonsdale.

We have identified a long list of Millfields Stakeholders who will be involved in further consultation by the consultant. The first such consultation meeting is likely to be in mid-August, and all User Group members will be invited.

We also identified a number of issues which need to be integrated with the Master Plan, eg Pathfinder Play sites; reinstatement of John Laing site office area (old paddling pool); National Grid Access Road; South Millfields Cycle Path; s.106 and Electricity Act 1989 developer contributions.

The Consultants began work in early July and have provided a 14 week Work Plan which should be achieved in early October and will identify further action needed to implement agreed development of Millfields.

5 Election of Committee Member 7.40

The Users' Group Constitution provides for a Committee of twelve Members. Tony Janes, who was elected at the AGM, has resigned due to pressure of work, and nominations are invited for a replacement.

6 Pathfinder – New Play Facilities for Older Children 7.45

The User Group made a bid for a share of the £2.6M awarded to the Learning Trust for provision of additional children's play facilities. Our bid was for provision for older children.

We were notified in May that we had been successful in our bid to the Learning Trust for new play facilities in Millfields. We have been allocated **two** sites, with a value of £25,000, which should be match funded by £50,000 from Hackney Council. This will enable a site to be established on North and South Millfields.

Claire Kelly, who led the bid, took five other User Group members to meet the Learning Trust and their appointed landscape consultants 'Theories' on June 25th, when some planning progress was made. There

is some possibility of confusion with two separate consultants, but Theories have now met with Camlin Lonsdale and we are hoping for a co-ordinated approach

We have now received a Report on Site Assessment from Theories and this is attached (**enclosure 6**) for discussion.

It is strongly recommended that if the two recommended sites are to be agreed there will need to be prior discussion with Beecholme Tenants' Association and satisfactory resolution of the safety issues of locating a Play Area close to the canal bank.

7 Lea Bridge Area Issues and Options 8.05

We have just received a long awaited consultation document from Waltham Forest Borough Council entitled "Northern Olympic Fringe Area Action Plan – Lea Bridge Area Issues and Options Consultation" A copy of the document (21 pages) is at **enclosure 7**.

The consultation period at this first stage is from 8 July to 19 August. The User Group is strongly recommended to set up a small Working Group, including the Secretary, to construct a Millfields User Group Response, and to pass to that Working Group any comments from initial discussion at this meeting.

8 Secretary's Report 8.15

To receive a report from the Secretary on other matters of concern to the User Group (**enclosure 8**).

9 Finance Report 8.30

To receive a report from Claire Kelly, Treasurer, which was provided for the Committee Meeting on 18 July (**enclosure 9**)

Since that meeting we have incurred £64 expenditure on the memorial plaque for Gerald Laufer (see Secretary's Report).

10 Date of Next General Meeting 8.40

To confirm Saturday 31 October at 1.00 pm, venue to be confirmed.

11 Any Other Business 8.45

To be communicated to Chair or Secretary before the start of the meeting.

Close of Meeting - 8.50