

MILLFIELDS USERS' GROUP

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2009 **at Hackney Homes Portakabin**

1 MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES

Present: Bob Benge (Vice Chair); Tim Evans; Emma Jack; Claire Kelly (Treasurer); Kriss Lee; Ian Rathbone (Chair); Brian Weller (Secretary);

Apologies: Christine Kings; Andrea Oliver; Teddie Sawyer

2 MINUTES OF 18 JULY

2.1 The Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 18 July were

AGREED as a correct record

2.2 Matters Arising

Minute 1: **BW** had not yet had time to write to Deniz Oguzkanli about non-attendance [action **BW**]

Minute 6.8. Need to pursue resurfacing of S.Millfields cycle path [**BW**] and Installation of new cycle racks [**TE**]

Minute 6.10. Canal pollution – note meeting called by Environment Agency for 19 November at 7.00pm in Town Hall

3 PARK MANAGEMENT REPORT

BW reported email updates from Bruce Irving.

4 UPDATE ON MILLFIELDS MASTER PLAN

Brian Weller updated Committee on Master Plan developments including

- (a) need for Master Plan to address problem of graffiti on National Grid site Wall
- (b) need for Master Plan to address resource issues, including identifying s.106 funds and their allocation.

AGREED:

- A that the Master Planners be informed of the Committee's discussion of planting creepers on most of the National Grid wall, with perhaps a small section retained for 'artistic' graffiti.**

B BW to write report on s.106 for the Master Plan Steering Group

5 LEABRIDGE AREA ISSUES AND OPTIONS

BW reported the Working Party's response to the Waltham Forest Area Plan consultation, and the action subsequently taken with Hackney Marshes User Group to develop a Lea Valley Federation and to meet with Waltham Forest Planners, and with Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, to promote the need to protect the Lea Valley.

AGREED: that the Issues and options response, and the action proposed In the Briefing G note be endorsed.

6 SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.1 Memorial Plaque for Gerald Laufer

BW reported that the bench was now installed between the canal and the Orchard and that a small ceremony of dedication had been held on November 10

6.2 Community Orchard

BW reported that the trees had developed to the stage where regular watering is no longer needed. A total of seven trees did not 'take' after planting in February, and these will be replaced (on a like for like basis?) by the end of the year.

6.3 The Big Lunch

The Orchard was the site for the picnic on 19 July as part of the Eden Project inspired "Big Lunch". It had proved successful as a 'meet your neighbour' exercise, and for consultation on the Pathfinder play project. The User Group also signed up around a dozen new members.

The 100 or so people who attended our picnic were apparently part of two millions who lunched nationally. The event is to become annual.

6.4 Pathfinder

At the Master Plan Consultation Workshop on 7 October, Nathan Evers of Theories, the Pathfinder consultants, had presented the design for the North Millfields Playground. A copy was circulated for the Committee's views.

The design had been well received at the Workshop, particularly by parents.

BW reported that there is no design yet for South Millfields and time is running out for a planning application, consent, and build, before the deadline of March 31 2009. John Wade seems to have a solution which involves Hackney providing the second play area.

6.5 National Grid – Alternative Access

Ian Rathbone and Brian Weller had attended a meeting of National Grid, Council Officers, and community and residents representatives on 30 September, most of which was taken up with a presentation of alternative access options to the National Grid site by NG's transport consultants, Scott Wilson.

Committee discussed the Scott Wilson Report, with comment on 10 options for alternative access.

6.6 Lea Valley Local Users Forum

The next meeting of this Forum, covering the Leabridge Area, was to take place on the evening of October 28 at the Waterworks.

BW reported that he had asked for the Waltham Forest Lea Bridge Planning Consultation to be placed on the Agenda, and for LVRPA planners to be present to discuss their actions and views.

AGREED:

- A that the dedication of the memorial bench be noted.**
- B that the Committee recommend that the Big Lunch be adopted as an annual event on Millfields**
- C that Nathan Eyers be advised of the Committee view that the position adjacent to the Lodge be reserved for toddlers' play, and that the South Millfields Pathfinder site might extend from the National Grid wall across towards the canal in sections.**
- D that the alternative access routes be reported to the General Meeting together with updated traffic forecasts, which would make better facilitate sensible choices**
- E that the LVRPA User Forum meeting on 28 October be noted.**

7 FINANCE REPORT

Not discussed.

8 GENERAL MEETING OF USERS' GROUP ON 31 October

AGREED: that main items would be National Grid Alternative Access Route; Master Plan update; and Lea Bridge Area Issues and Options Consultation.

9 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE

AGREED: to confirm Saturday 23 January at 7.00 pm

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm