

Millfields User Group Committee Meeting Minutes 28th Aug 2012

Present – Emma Jack, Louise Ziane, Pinny Grylls, Barry Buitekant, Harry Hewitt – also Caroline Day and Esther Addman of the Save the Leyton Marsh Group. Bhavesh Hindocha of Loud Minority Films

Apologies – Diane Bernhardt, Ruth Smyth, Vivienne Foxley, Carrie Rutherford

Minutes of last meeting were agreed.

Caroline Day and Esther Addman gave a presentation outlining a proposal to present to the ODA regarding upgrading and improving the basket ball courts on South Millfields. Emma Jack also presented information passed on to her from local basketballer, Luke Francis. He details problems with the courts which include – lack of nets, courts wrongly marked up and cracked backboards. Caroline and Esther have been in contact with Richard Arnold of the ODA who has agreed to meet with us to discuss what level of funding the ODA could provide. This campaign is widely supported by basketball court users and also the former GB player Carl Miller. Emma Jack agreed to attend this meeting with the ODA and Save the Leyton Marsh representatives.

Bhavesh Hindocha who is the main organizer of the open air cinema event planned for 8th Sept came to discuss the plans and run through the duties of marshals (all user group members) on the day. We discussed how duties should be split.

It was voted on and agreed that the User Group would buy 12 hi viz bibs with 'Millfields Users Group' printed on the back for marshals to wear and to become User Group property for use at future events. Emma agreed to sort this out.

Updates on the major projects were discussed – For the moment they are on hold. Bruce Irving has contacted us to say that due to staffing issues the parks department has decided to not allocate a project officer until all open projects are complete. There was a general feeling that we are not happy to be strung along like this and we plan to put regular pressure on David Woodhead in the hope that we can get the parks dept to move on these projects.

Bins – Claire will keep an eye on rubbish collections post Olympics to monitor whether the bin emptying regime remains adequate. We are also keen to get more bins and damaged ones replaced.

Benches – we agreed to put pressure on David Woodhead and Michael Dixon to replace the recently destroyed benches and the plaque to Gerald Laufman.

We also discussed how to engage with the new biodiversity officer and secure more meadow planting.

We also discussed Eugene Clerkin of the tree musketeers' offer to plant some trees on Millfields this winter. Tim Evans of the user group is in conversation with him regarding location. Emma to meet up with him and discuss how we can get volunteers involved in caring for these trees.

Emma Jack presented information from the Clapton Falcon Cricket Team who are anxious to engage the User Group in their issues with no changing or toilet facilities. They will be invited to present at the next general meeting with an open discussion to find some way forward. Also it was noted that to hire the cricket field costs somewhere in the region of £90 per day and this does not include any changing or toilet facilities. Emma was contacted by a team who were seeking help with this problem.

Discussed next meeting date – early Oct 2nd or 15thtbc by e mail

Discussed possible date for General Meeting – eve of 8th Nov suggested but will be agreed at next meeting.