

Minutes of Millfields Users Group - Open Meeting
At the paddling pool on July 2nd 2015

Present:

Committee members Bhavesh Hindocha, Harry Hewat, Gill Harris,
plus MUG members Lisa Johnson, Mary Burke, Tim Evans
and Parks Development Manager Sam Parry,

Apologies: Ian Rathbone, Holly Lewis, Georgie Brown

1. Update on Millfields North improvements: These are well underway; the paddling pool is the next major work. The playground needs resurfacing under the trees to the north: Harry is to meet Sam to discuss options, including adding more playground equipment .

Sam reported that 75K is available for park furniture –13 bins, 30 replacement benches and gym signage. He is planning to compile the complete list of everything that this money might be used for, then to get quotes and work out the budget. Once all estimates are in, there will be a meeting to prioritise, This will happen possibly by September, once paddling pool works finished.

Toilets / kiosk in N Millfields was raised again : there is no money to staff, but the Council is hoping to improve the building and have the kiosk ready for volunteers to trial run a café.

The possible S106 money from the new building on the Magnet site was mentioned as source of funding .

A discussion about bench designs ensued: Harry keen for local craftspeople to be used, Council concerned about repairs to bespoke furniture plus added cost (approx £350 v £700). Tim suggested Butterfield Green as having modern and robust seating. Sam and Harry to investigate alternatives. Harry to approach Phil Doyle who designed the new playground equipment. Lisa suggested having some wooden blocks to sit on for picnickers as used on Hackney Marshes

Lisa raised the issue of cricketers and supporters leaving rubbish.

2.BBQ

Whether to have them, ban them, restrict them to certain areas was discussed at length. Views were divided; bbqs raised off the grass were generally thought to be OK. However, Lisa had seen open fires including in the orchard, damaging trees and grass plus orchard areas used for toilet facilities.

The next step is for everyone to document any antisocial behaviour as evidence and photos are needed. Wardens can be rung up till 10pm at night (numbers on noticeboard) and an evening mobile 07772227337 can be rung after that. Sam urged users to email photos and reports to

parks@hackney.gov.uk

Good to have this info on FB page and website.

3. Lodge

Bhavesh had written to Cllr McShane, Cabinet member for parks. The review of park lodges is not yet being done and not in this year's programme. Agreed to ask for it to be included in the following year's programme as a User Group top priority. Sam to find out if we can visit.

4. Leabridge Road improvements

Waltham Forest consultation is underway, improved cycle lanes etc. Harry to provide link. Tim reported that Hackney Cyclists are doing a review of Clapton cycling.

5. Summer Events

Tree Circle Circus July 19. Harry suggested a MUG stall and gazebo.

12th September Tree Circle Cinema.

6. Switching accounts. 2 new signatories needed. Bhavesh and Lisa agreed.

Next meeting: Tues 8th September, open meeting in the Rangers Hut.