



Minutes of General Meeting, 8th November 2012

1. Present were:

Emma Jack (chair)
Carrie Rutherford (minutes)
Dianna Hamilton
Mike Murnane
Wendy Reid
Tim Evans
Katy Andrews
Michael Row
Claire Kelly
Christine Kings
Malcolm Fergusson
Mark Berry
Anna O'Brien
Judith Lösing
Harry Hewat
Garry King (Biodiversity Officer, Hackney)
Barry Buitekant

2. The minutes of the General Meeting on 26th May were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3. The agenda was set by the meeting:

- a. Progress on projects
- b. Biodiversity
- c. Road and fencing in Millfields South
- d. Cricket pavilion
- e. Tree planting
- f. AOB

4.

a. Progress on projects

- All projects are pending, and that we will not be assigned a project officer until all the "one-rated" projects are completed (ours are "two-rated"). **Mike to use Freedom of Information to find out which projects are one-rated, and what the timescale is** (as a timescale must be in place). The meeting wondered whether we could use project money to fund a project officer.
- The issue of notice boards was raised and it was felt by the meeting that they should be used more effectively, but needed cleaning and repair. Also we need to know who has keys to them. **Emma to query.**
- It was also queried whether the money received from National Grid had been ringfenced for Millfields South, but Garry explained that it would have been added to the project fund, and that there was also Section 106 money for biodiversity.

b. Biodiversity

- Garry told us a little bit about the role and responsibility of a biodiversity officer.
- There has been a LWT survey
- Plans:

- Wildflower areas to be expanded in March, and there will be a machine to also create new wildflower areas. Eg by the existing areas in Millfields North and by the tree circle in Millfields South
- Garry to produce map of proposed wildflower areas
- Grass cutting to be relaxed... especially to soften corners
- Bulb-planting from now (bulbs bought by biodiversity officer, to be planted by user group)
- Wet area to receive biodiversity enhancement
- Bird and bat boxes to be installed (kits from biodiversity officer)
- Garry to buy tools for volunteer work (to be stored in kiosk)
- When trees removed, nice to have some trunks left but may need moving to more suitable positions. Garry to find out policy
- Ideas:
 - Could we have a link with Mandeville School / EcoActive / Forest Schools eg children can help with weeding etc
 - National Grid are happy to visit schools and talk about eg biodiversity; in fact they have a dedicated department. Garry to contact.
 - The Millfields to Cow Bridge path is overgrown and spooky, but this is not part of Millfields
 - Training workshop for pruning
 - Grass management map (LBH are soon to acquire an electronic management and mapping system)

c. Road and fencing in Millfields South

The road and fencing to the National Grid building are to be reduced and removed respectively. The railings are helpful at present to segregate the road but, as the road is to be reduced to a 3m path, we will no longer need the railings (an alternative could be hedging). It was wondered whether we could use existing money to remove the railings, but Garry reported that National Grid were responsible for - and had agreed to - both this and associated wildflower planting. However, we do not know when these are to take place, and it was agreed that we ought to be kept in the loop. Emma to contact National Grid about this. On the other hand, it was noted that the council is responsible for railing around the dog-free zone. Garry has managed to get the fallen tree and damaged railing removed.

d. Cricket pavilion

It would be characterful and welcoming to have a cricket pavilion, maybe multi-use, and the depot is not suitable as it is across a road. There is a facility on Hackney Marshes but this is too far for the kids to go. Harry to explore smallest possible structure.

There are meetings where this could be discussed – Harry and Mark to develop proposal in conjunction with the user group, Sport for All and appropriate cricket clubs.

There may be some legacy money from, for example, the ODA

We also discussed the issue of the basketball court – it is marked up incorrectly (even though it was resurfaced recently by National Grid!), there are no hooks (for nets) on the baskets and the backboards are damaged. The ODA are to remedy this. Users are not in agreement with suggestion from LBH Parks Development Officer, Bruce Irving to swap tennis and basketball courts. Bruce has quotes for resurfacing, and has sent them to ODA. The meeting discussed whether to advocate MUGA but decided on multiline courts. Mark (Sport for All) will support use of good facilities and could be involved in overseeing placing of lines. The ODA are only interested in improving basketball provision, and are doing something similar in Leyton.

Mark to send an Access to Sports report

Our website to link to Access to Sports and to Playbus

e. Tree planting

Trees in orchard to be replaced. Tree planting / replacing by Tree Musketeers and Garry

f. AOB

- Constitution/format to be raised at AGM in January
- Minutes to be posted on noticeboards and website
- SLM joint meeting every quarter

- Outreach eg tree planting around ice rink eg Jewish New Year
- Consultation about Walthamstow Wetlands 15th December