

Minutes for MUG committee meeting 6th June 2013

Present

Harry Hewat, Gill Harris, Emma Jack, Claire Kelly, Michael Row, Pinny Grylls , Barnaby Thomas, William Smith, Kevin O'Dwyer, Sylvera Williams (from Hackney Council Parks Department, Bhavesh Hindocha (tree circle cinema).

Sylvera introduced himself and talked about the council's plans for the park. He said that the first aim was to address the infrastructure of the park to bring it up to standard (Health and Safety), but also implementing parts of the original Master Plan. He will talk to colleagues on the council to bring together funding and draw together their proposals and forward them to us.

Initially there would be "a small parcel" of works, the majority in North Millfields, focusing on areas that have been identified as issues, in particular, pathways and cycling access from the top entrance to North Millfields from Lea Bridge Road. After this the priorities being considered are the play area, toilet block, the disused paddling pool and the Casimir Road entrance all in North Millfields. The council proposes to remove the paddling pool and to return the area to grassland to prevent it becoming a continual drain on resources. Harry pointed out that this would cost a lot of money and that the council should consider our proposals for this area and asked him to ensure that all proposals go through MUG first.

Claire pointed out that Hackney Council seems to have gone back to square one and ignored all the work that we have done.

Sylvera said that there are three phases to the proposed works to Millfields:

1. Address infrastructure problems: trees, pathways, paddling pool, tennis courts etc.
2. Play area, toilet block.
3. Fencing and borders.

Claire said that the councils approach to litter problems was to remove bins and Harry suggested that Sylvera go for a walk around the park with him and he agreed to this.

Sylvera then went on to talk about the first phase projects: improving Casimir Road entrance, and the eastern boundary with the River Lea.

Harry then asked about the £500,000 budget for the works and whether the money was to be spent on patching up or if anything significant is to be done. He also said that we could draw up a list of aspirations, which could be done as money became available (for example from National Grid).

Sylvera said that someone should be asked to draw on ideas from the park rangers, Bruce Irving and Millfields user group and produce an options proposal. He also said that the time scale for any works is dependant on park usage and the growing season and should perhaps be carried out over the winter to minimise disruption.

The group then said that we needed firm dates.

Sylvera then asked if he could attend the next meeting and this was agreed.

Orchard Path

Harry gave a brief background to the damage to the path, how it was done by one of the council's refuse truck and then filled with sand as a temporary fix, he then asked Sylvera if he could chase this up and he agreed.

Tree Circle Cinema

Bhavesh was then introduced to the meeting and then went on to talk about the very successful cinema event in the tree circle in South Millfields last year and his proposals for a repeat this September.

He said that he has succeeded in obtaining some money from the community development fund was proposing to repeat it on the 7th of September and possibly also the 6th if there was enough money. He would also like to show a film afterwards aimed at adults afterwards – again dependant on finances.

It was agreed that we should use the experience of last year's event to improve this year's. Some ideas included improving lighting (lanterns, tea lights, lights in the trees), cable covers to prevent a trip hazard and to suggest that people brought food for a picnic and to look into the possibility of having a stall selling popcorn.

Bhavesh is going to put in an application to Hackney Council in conjunction with the committee.

He will then try and raise money to hold another event next year.

Next Meeting

A date was then set for a general meeting on Saturday the 13th July, to be held in the paddling pool.