

## Millfields Users Group Committee Meeting

Meeting: 7pm, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Rangers Hut, Millfields Park

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### Attendees:

Sam Kennedy  
Helen Morris  
Hamilton Hawksworth  
Wendy Reid  
Gill Harris  
Will Smith  
Louisa Ziane  
Emma Jack  
Harry Hewat

### Apologies:

Carrie Rutherford  
Pinny Grylls  
Barry Buitekart

### Minutes

#### 1. Introductions & Jobs Divided Up

The Cmt agreed the following responsibilities for 2014:

Chair: shared between Emma Jacks and Carrie Rutherford

Secretary: shared between Gill Harris and Sam Kennedy

Treasurer: Claire Kelly

Tree Circle Cinema: Louisa Zane

Bio-diversity Representative: Gill Harris

Website, Facebook and Twitter: Louisa Zane

Membership list: Louisa Ziane

Cmt list: Harry Hewat

#### 2. Update on Progress of Steering Group Re Paddling Pool and Play Area

Emma and Wendy gave an update from the last paddling pool steering group meeting. The consultant appointed by the Council (We made that) had prepared 5 options for consideration:

- Grassing over the paddling pool
- Replacing with a Plaza
- Replacing with a wild flower meadow
- Replacing with a viewing platform (re-using concrete)
- Replacing with adventurous slopes to play on (re-using concrete)

The steering group agreed to three options for further development:

- Grassing over
- The plaza
- Adventurous play slopes

The three options will be brought back to the steering group before going out to public consultation in the summer.

The Cmt expressed concerns around the options presented:

- They are bland, do not reflect all the potential uses that could be made of the space, nor are they a re-imagining of the current paddling pool.
- They do not take account the current uses made of the paddling pool which are particularly dependant on the low wall which acts as both a barrier and seat: a social space, a play space for young children, cricket practise and cycle training.

None of the options proposed would support these activities continuing in that space.

- None of the options considered a dedicated play space in keeping with the original use of this space
- The proposals do not seem to be considered in light of forthcoming changes to the play park.

The Cmt agreed to email these concerns to the designer and invite her to the next meeting to discuss in more detail. Sam will draft an email.

### **3. South Millfields Play**

Gill proposed that a sub-committee was established to focus on developing proposals and a funding plan. This was agreed. Cmt members volunteering to sit on the sub-cmt included: Gill, Sam, Helen, Harry & Pinny. The first meeting will be held 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 in the Elderfields.

Cllr Ian Rathbone is broadly supportive and individuals are encourage to email him to demonstrate their support for additional play facilities in South Millfields

It was noted that Kings Ward will have two new Cllrs after the election (due to Cllrs retiring) and this may offer a good opportunity to re-engage with the Council on this.

### **4. Russell's Guided Tree Walks**

Russell Miller provides popular tree and bug walks in other parks. He is happy to provide the same in Millfields at a cost of £30 per visit.

The Cmt expressed regret that they have no funds. However suggested that Kim of Forest Kids may be interested. Louisa undertook to pass on to Kim.

### **5. Progress of Tree Circle Cinema**

The event costs £800 to stage and is planned for September.

The recent funding application was not successful so the project team are pursuing sponsorship from local businesses and setting up a crowd sourcing site.

There is ongoing discussion about which films will be shown. The suggestion is to open this up to votes / suggestions from the community on social media to gain profile and support.

### **6. AOB**

#### **a) Events forthcoming:**

- Restart: Don't despair, repair! London Fields  
28<sup>th</sup> June 11am - 3pm - get broken items repaired in the park
- Plant Walk in Alan's Gardens  
11<sup>th</sup> May 11am - 1pm off Bethune Road (N16)
- Food Swap in Russet Cafe, Hackney Downs  
18<sup>th</sup> May - swap home-made or home -grown food

#### **b) Website, Twitter & Face book**

The website is [www.millfieldsusers.org.uk](http://www.millfieldsusers.org.uk) and Louisa will take over management of the site and membership list from Harry (thanks Harry for your work to date!)

The Cmt agreed that the website would host formal documents. Louisa will aim to set up a face book and twitter accounts for the MUG to give short information focused communications. The website will not maintain a blog but would link to several very good local blogs that already exist (e.g. millfieldspark.blogspot).

The MUG will seek to collectively get a better grasp of all the activities happening in the park to allow this to be posted on line.

**c) Future Committee Meetings**

All cmt meetings will be open: any member of the MUG user group can attend.

MUG Cmt meetings will be held circa once monthly. Emma to set the next date.