

## Millfields User Group

### Minutes of Meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

1. Attendance: Clare Taylor (Chair); Christine Kings; Bhavesh Hindocha; Celia Coram; Dominic Alves; Tim Evans; Wendy Reid.
2. Apologies: Bettina Maidment; Adrian Weidmann; Harry Hewat; Cllr Ian Rathbone.
3. Minutes of MUG meeting 16 December 2021  
The minutes were agreed.
4. Matters arising not covered later on the agenda

Wendy asked about whether the link on keeping fit in parks was followed up. Christine said that she and Clare looked into Our Parks <https://ourparks.org.uk>. She said that there didn't seem to be any sessions in Hackney and that the classes seemed very active with some quite vigorous exercise - too much for her and Clare and probably for many older people. If anyone has time though they should contact them to see if there are options for older people.

Wendy asked about whether there'd been any progress on the LBH consultation with older people discussed at the last meeting. Christine said Cllr Maxwell had asked one of the Council Officers to get in touch with us, in due course. Christine said that if she doesn't hear anything in the next few weeks she'll follow it up in time for the next MUG meeting.

5. Updates on the Park
  - a. Clare, Celia, Dominic, Tim and Christine joined one or both of the plantings in South Millfields. Clare said that there was a fantastic turnout on the Saturday and the event felt a bit like a community festival especially as the sun came out and we had refreshments from the tree musketeers and Mojo's, the Chai Wagon.
  - b. The meeting noted developments with the new cycle track in North Millfields.
  - c. The meeting noted details of the final phase of the UKPN works in South Millfields.
  - d. The meeting noted that Millfields Park staff have put fencing around the tree circle to contain leaves collected from the park. The meeting thought this was fine as a way to contain the leaves but there was concern expressed about all the leaves collected by two big machines this year - which seemed like a huge enterprise and which damaged the grass.
6. Activities for Older Users of the Park

The Council is proposing to upgrade the basketball courts in South Millfields and are suggesting that the space at the end of courts could be used as a roller skating area. Wendy said that she was taken aback by learning that the Council can find money to resurface basketball courts which are barely used when we've been fighting for a couple of years for table tennis tables. She said that the basketball courts were put in by National Grid - and shouldn't they have responsibility for maintaining them. Having the Council resurface them does not make sense to her. Wendy suggested that as a way of compromising with the Council they should make one of them a multi-use court. Bhavesh said that the Hackney Downs multi-use court is fenced off to contain the different games and we don't want fencing around the basketball courts in South Millfields.

Celia asked whether the North Millfields paddling pool space next the playground could be used as a roller skating area? She said it's just a concrete circle and it would be great rolling skating area. It would also make sense to put roller skating next to the children's play area. There was general agreement about this; the old paddling pool space was not properly thought through, has a giant puddle around the tree after rain and has almost no attraction.

The meeting agreed to ask the Council to put table tennis tables next to the basketball courts. It was noted that Adrian and Harry have, separately, been preparing a report on table tennis tables to submit to the Council.

## 7. Tree circle cinema: Saturday 4 June 2022

The tree circle cinema date is confirmed for Saturday 4 June. Bhavesh has gone for June 4th as it's half term beforehand, which gives him time for organising. It's just after the two bank holidays in June. The films will start a bit later than normal (when the event is in September) but it shouldn't be a big problem for us or most of the audience.

Bhavesh has just specified the cinema at this stage because that's what we have funding for and know how to do, and the arrangements for that are all underway, including applying for licences, H&S and security. But we were talking about live music and Bhavesh is looking into applying to the Queen's Jubilee Fund. He's speaking to people about music and equipment and trying to prepare an application based on real costs. He's anticipating attracting live music with local bands and performers but not wall-to-wall music. We have the whole evening that we could use for entertainment. We might be able to get favours from some people to do something.

Bhavesh went through his to-do list:

- a) Source and secure PA system suitable for music. Bhavesh is dealing with this.
- b) Apply for additional funding from Queen's Jubilee fund, Deadline 28 Feb. Estimate costs of additional equipment, payments to artists etc. Bhavesh has this in hand.
- c) Design publicity. Bhavesh will look into this.
- d) Print and distribute flyers and posters - Bhavesh said that although we can't expect to distribute flyers across the whole area around Millfields Park we could ensure that shops and cafes display them and we could leaflet around some of the local streets to start spreading the word. Several people thought that they could help with this.
- e) Recruit event volunteers to help set up & clear up after the event. We also need stewards. The event will go on until late in the evening and Bhavesh suggests we organise three hourly shifts. Christine offered to help with this.
- f) Find and retain event caterer. From Chats market? Sodo Pizza? Bhavesh asked about Mojo's as they'd obviously been a hit at the tree planting event. Christine said she'd already asked them and they said they didn't usually operate through the summer.
- g) Source or make barrier to fence off the generator. Christine said she'd look into this.
- h) Source floor covering for audio wires - carpet offcuts?
- i) Have first aider on site - St John's. Christine said she'd cover this.

- j) Book generator, waste disposal, Bhavesh is looking at this.
- k) Celia offered to help with fundraising.

Film, music and other parts of the event - all suggestions welcome!

The films won't start until 9.15 so we're looking for a family film suitable for older kids. Bhavesh presented some suggestions for films including ET and Fabulous Mr Fox.

Bhavesh suggested that we show a couple of short films too. Christine suggested Ian Phillips' film on pollution in the River Lea.

#### 8. Dates of 2022 meetings

Proposed dates for future meetings every eight weeks or so and different nights so that those with regular commitments can attend at least some of the time:

Thursday 7 April (brought forward to avoid Easter week)

Monday 30 May

Tuesday 26 July

Decision required: to confirm date of next meeting

#### 9. Any other business

- a) Dominic thanked MUG for asking around for a photo of the bandstand in South Millfields. Christine said that she tweeted the request.
- b) Wendy asked if we knew about a planning application for the rangers lodge in South Millfields. Christine said that she knows about plans to upgrade the depot - this may not be the same thing and she will check.
- c) Christine said that if anyone is interested in doing some garden survey work to let her know. Kentish Town City Farm are hoping to get a basic site survey carried out with data produced around soil, sun, exposure etc and a base map for their community garden and they're looking for volunteers to help.

There was no other business.