

Blackheath Joint Working Party – 08/04/2014

Attendees

- Tony Butler – Friends of Greenwich Park
- Cllr David Grant – RBG
- David Walker – St German’s Terrace Association
- Martin Hyde – LBL
- Philip Craig – Greenwich Society
- Margaret Dinkeldein – Tidy Blackheath Group
- Shirley Broughton – Westcombe Society
- Mike Norton – Westcombe Society
- Roger Marshall – Blackheath Society

1. APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Cllr Alex Grant
- Lee Beasley
- Sue Corlett
- Cllr Maureen O’Mara
- Cllr Amanda De Ryk
- Barbara Morris

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – CORRECTIONS

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Attendees

Rob Widdicome is not from the Blackheath Society.

Matters Arising

Line 3, paragraph 1, this should read: “irrespective of fencing, protective tracking is required”.

The note received from BM regarding the Blackheath Botanical Survey will be recirculated with the minutes and discussed at the next meeting.

Annual Public Meeting

Accuracy

Page 3, paragraph 4. The minutes should be amended to note that the BJWP had met with, not the Blackheath Society.

In relation to Cllr Grant's point about a lack of collaborations, he asked that the minutes be updated to note that there was a lack of collaboration is from both sides not just Lewisham.

Again in relation to this point, RM noted that the posts on St Germans Place needed to be replaced. MH noted that a quote had been sought of circa £10k and that he had asked to share the cost with Greenwich. There had been a negative response from Greenwich.

Cllr Grant agreed to speak to Lee Beasley regarding the matter, although he reiterated the savings context within which all boroughs were working.

The group noted that Blackheath Preparatory School could make a contribution to improve the situation and the Blackheath Society and the Westcombe Society will approach them for a third of the money. DW suggested that this might encourage the boroughs to contribute the funds.

3. ON BLACKHEATH FESTIVAL

The group noted that the Good Hope Festival organisers were going right up to the line as the process of granting a licence had taken a long time. MH noted that OnBlackheath already had a licence so this was dealt with more quickly.

MH noted that Kevin Sheehan has in principle approved the event which will be limited to 15,000 attendees per day; the noise limit will need to be limited to 70db measured over 15 minutes from 1m from the façade of properties.

The event would be closed at 10pm on the Saturday and Sunday and the organisers have been invited to the ESAG meeting.

MH noted that noise representatives from RBG will be present at ESAG.

MH noted that the organisers are waiting to meet KS regarding the conditions he has set out in his in-principle agreement and OnBlackheath are waiting to sign an agreement until this meeting has taken place.

MH noted that terms of the licence state that they should have the full draft EMP prepared and disseminated three months before the event.

MH noted that the BJWP should be registered as an interested party and the group requested that the secretary of the BJWP contact OnBlackheath to register the group's interest.

MH noted that the organisers should hold a public meeting regarding the event although the terms of the licence do not note when this should be held. MH will raise this at the ESAG as this is a weakness in the terms.

MH noted that positioning the stage north-easterly offers the best management of the sound.

RM noted that a hotline and feedback mechanism should be in place and used. If the noise is 70.5 and there are complaints this should be put down to 70.

RM asked to discuss the £15k that would be levied through granting a licence to stage the event.

MH noted that Glendale would make available £15k in order to make improvements to the heath. MH noted that the funding would however need to be spent through Glendale. DW noted that the money was in kind rather than cash.

SB noted that the Wilkie Report was 10 years out of date and this should be updated. MH noted that the group could discuss this with Glendale who could commission someone to revise the report.

The group noted that a decision would be taken at the next meeting on how the funding should be allocated.

DW will contact TFL to verify if with them if they are intending on carrying out the bunding work along Hare and Billet road. DW noted that if TFL do intend to do this work, there would be no need to consider using the available funding to carry this work out.

ACTION: BJWP Secretary to register the BJWP as an interested party in relation to the OnBlackheath event

ACTION: Funding allocation to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting

4. UPDATE ON UPCOMING EVENTS

MH noted that the Council are trying to spread the events on the heath in order to maintain its ecological integrity.

MH noted that LBL had listened to BM to ensure that school fun runs do not unduly damage the acid grassland.

Race for life

Updating the group on the Race for Life, MH noted that the organisers have moved the 10k race to earlier in the day earlier so that the event finishes in a more timely fashion. This will mean that the latest road closures will be at 3pm.

MH noted that estimated 10,000 will take part in the 5k and 2,500 will take part in the 10k.

MH noted that he will ensure that there will be restrictions around the wild flower bunds to ensure that they do not get damaged this year.

General events timetable

MH agreed to send out an updated timetable of events on the heath once updated and the group requested that RBG send through their proposed timetable of events in order that the group has a complete picture of planned events during the year.

On this point, RM noted that it was unacceptable that Greenwich officers were not in attendance to provide details on the Greenwich events that are due to be held on the heath.

The group noted that Greenwich should be honest about the amount that they are charging for fairs and that some of this funding should be allocated to the Blackheath Fireworks.

The Marathon

RM noted that fencing has been put out earlier than it needed to be for the marathon.

MH noted that a patch of tarmac has appeared in an area of the heath and MH will investigate this. RM noted that this 'creeping tarmacisation' should be stopped.

SB noted that thanks should be given to both boroughs for the role they have played in working to maintain the heath.

Christmas events

MH noted that there could be an event at Christmas to draw in business and footfall to Blackheath.

DW noted that a village day is proposed for December and MH noted that he would be keen to liaise with the group about any plans Lewisham might have going forward.

MH noted that there was a potential to have the big wheel that was used at the live site.

Cllr Grant noted that this should be itemised for the next meeting.

ACTION: LBL & RBG to circulate their updated/proposed timetable of events for the heath

ACTION: Plans for Village Day in December 2014 to be discussed at the next meeting

5. PROPOSED MEADOW MANAGEMENT

MH provided an update regarding plans for meadow management.

Glendale are commissioning a local farmer to undertake the cutting process. In regards to the extension of the meadows, MH noted that LBL are unable to do a huge amount more due to financial constraints.

MH will provide an update on this to the group via e-mail due to the nature of the technical detail discussed about the plans. MH will however try and achieve the channel that will run through the heath as outlined in RM's proposals.

6. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The group agreed to meet in mid/end of June and requested that the secretary discuss the timetable for next year with the chair and circulate this to the group once complete.

RM flagged that an election should be conducted for the group.

ACTION: BJWP Secretary/Chair to discuss timetable for next year

7. AOB

The Greenwich Society has objected to the proposed fencing around the conduit.

RM noted that a major tree on the roundabout was lost in the poor weather and there has been a promise to replace the tree in the autumn from TFL.

RM also noted that the donkeys should come back to the heath as they were an excellent attraction and an asset to the area.

RM requested an update on what was happening with the changing rooms on the heath. MH has discussed the possibility of a combined bid for a replacement facility on Talbot Place. No money has been forthcoming from the school at present and this issue is with the sports department at present.

The group noted that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

SB asked that a small sub group to deal with nature conservation on the heath. This will be tabled for the next meeting as an agenda item.

MH noted that for the next agenda we should consider an autumn clean-up. He noted that this should certainly be at least an annual event. MH noted that there should be a big thank you to all involved in the clean-up which was very successful.

RM thanked Cllr Grant on behalf of the group for his service to the group and the community during his tenure as councillor and group member.

ACTION: Changing rooms on the heath and feasibility of establishing a sub-group looking at nature conservation to be included on the agenda of the next meeting