

Blackheath Joint Working Party

12 July 2015

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Cllr Aidan Smith	London Borough of Greenwich
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Phillip Craig	Greenwich Society
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
Joe Beale	Resident
Martin Hyde	London Borough of Lewisham
Steve Ruell	London Borough of Greenwich
Gemma Buttell	Glendales
Paul Aladenika (mins)	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies and introduction

Apologies were received from Cllr Amanda De Ryk; Tony Butler; Margaret Dinkeldein and Cllr Mehboob Khan.

Paul Aladenika was introduced by Cllr Kevin Bonavia (KB) as the minute-taker for the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting 16 April 2015

a. accuracy

Cllr Aidan Smith (AS) noted that he is minuted as not having attended the meeting on 16/04/15 when he *was* in fact present. AS added that Cllr Gareth Siddorn, who was minuted as having attended the meeting, was *not* in attendance.

Shirley Broughton (SB) noted that she was minuted as representing the SMINC, when in fact she represents the Nature Conservation Group.

b. matters

On the advice of Martin Hyde (MH), KB asked that the order of the agenda be adjusted to allow Gemma Buttell (GB) from Glendales to present agenda items 5, 7 and 8. This was agreed

3. Blackheath Nature (SMNIC) Conservation Group

SB presented a report and noted that due to wear and tear it would be nice if the number of events taking place on the heath could be limited. SB also thanked both

Lewisham and Greenwich Council's for their continued co-operation in maintaining the heath.

Helen Reeve (HR) also noted that there had been very good feedback on the nature aspects of the heath at the AGM.

4. Review of Blackheath Bye-laws

MH presented this item and noted that a report on updated Lewisham bye-laws is to be presented to Mayor & Cabinet. Following that, the report will be presented to Full Council on 21st September for approval. MH noted that bye-laws are set by Central Government and that any changes proposed would need the approval of DEFRA before the Council can enact the bye-law. David Walker (DW) expressed frustration at the bureaucracy affecting the changing of bye-laws and mentioned that a similar process had been undertaken in 2004, that had led to nothing.

Working Party members then discussed the communication of bye-laws and whether it would be useful to put up signs with details of the main ones.

KB raised questions about the enforceability of bye-laws. In response MH noted that the initial sanction to breaking a bye-law would be a strongly worded letter, with prosecution being the ultimate sanction for non-compliance.

5. On Blackheath 2015 update

GB presented this item and noted that all relevant documentation had been received for the On Blackheath festival and that a (returnable) £10k ground damage fee will be collected. GB added that the stage set up for the event, will begin on 5 September.

In response to concerns raised by DW about accessibility, MH advised that a temporary footpath will be provided for people to pass through.

Discussions then turned to noise nuisance and abatement. HR asked whether Working Party members would be interested in undertaking a repeat survey to compare noise at this year's festival with that of last year. HR advised that the equipment to undertake the survey had to be rented for a year and would cost about £550 (up from £200 last year).

Action

KB asked for someone from the Blackheath Society to email the details about the cost of the survey to him and MH and they would look into it.

KB also asked that any other concerns should be emailed to the group.

6. Funding update

MH presented this item. Set out below under each item is a summary of key points:

- Hare and Billet Pond – agreed that a 'shopping list' of equipment and materials to the value **of £500** will be worked up for Glendale to purchase. This will be checked by Nick Pond of Lewisham Council.
- Bee Bank - Glendale to commission David Notten regarding Bee Bank advice (**value £750**).

- Sign - Glendales will pay the Blackheath Society **£4,800** plus vat for them to purchase the new sign from MA Studio Ltd.
- St German bund and scrape – Glendales to undertake the works as soon as possible (**value £3,831**). MH to arrange site visit in advance as there are a number of inspection covers that must not be covered. Noted that Greenwich may be able to contribute to the cost of this project.
- POW Pond – after much discussion it was agreed that two bird islands should be built. The rationale for this is to avoid the risk of fighting birds. The Working Party noted that the total cost of the project would be about £11k. This cost would be made up of £4.7k from the Blackheath Society, with the possibility of a match-funded amount from Ian Smiley a local benefactor of the Blackheath Society. A further £1.7k was quoted from SB of the Nature Conservation Group.

It was agreed that the company Miles Waterscapes would be commissioned to undertake the work. Other work to be undertaken as part of the project would include screen planting and native whips, which would be undertaken by Glendales.

Action

It was agreed that MH would meet with SB to discuss how the POW Pond money and the project would be managed.

7. Review of ‘Race for Life’

GB gave an update to Working Party members and noted that the ‘Race for Life’ had been a great success, with 6,200 runners participating and a substantial sum of money raised for charity. GB noted that no complaints were received and the last road re-opened at 2.55pm.

SB raised concerns about the lack of rubbish bins at the event and asked for more to be made available in future.

8. Update on forthcoming events

GB presented this item and noted that the ‘Magic of Thailand’ event was scheduled for 1st and 2nd of August 2015. GB advised the Working Party that whilst other relevant documentation had been received on time, the Temporary Events Notification had been received late. Responding, Phillip Craig (PC) asked whether the event would actually be taking place at all.

A discussion then ensued about the location of the event, who would be attending and whether it might be possible to relocate it to an alternative site. A possible alternative venue suggested was the ‘donkey field’.

GB then handed out copies of the events calendar and noted that a new date of 5th September is proposed for the London to Paris bike ride. No new events have been added to the calendar.

9. Any other business

Heath-keeper

HR advised that LB Greenwich has appointed a heath-keeper to live in the heath-keeper's house. HR advised that she has requested a copy of the job description of the heath-keeper to see how it relates to the maintenance and management of the heath.

Action

The Working Party agreed that the heath-keeper should be invited to attend a future meeting to talk about their role.

Grass-cutting at Vanburgh Terrace

JB raised the issue about grass-cutting Vanbrugh Terrace and noted that during recent maintenance work, too much grass had been cut. In response SR apologised and advised that it was a one off and would not happen again.

Coach parking in Greenwich park

PC raised concerns about the actions of coach drivers at Greenwich coach park. In particular he noted that the drivers often leave their engines running and disturb local residents. Reading from a email that he had been sent to him by a local resident, PC advised that residents had tried to address the issue with the coach drivers, but to no avail. PC added that drivers may also be relieving themselves in bottles and leaving them against the wall of the coach park.

AS noted that as chair of Greenwich's Highway Committee he has asked for a paper of coach parking and would feed back to the Working Party after the next Committee meeting.

Action

AS to feedback to the Working Party once Greenwich's Highway Committee has met.

Miscellany

MH noted the following:

- Blackheath's 'Green Flag' status has again been confirmed – this time with an improved points score
- A meeting took place with Transport for London regarding planned works
- Blackheath ward assembly has approved benches for the heath
- All Saints School is undertaking works to site a small dept at the top of a flight of stairs

Date of public meeting

KB confirmed the date of the public meeting as 23 February 2015. It was noted that AS would not be able to attend the meeting.