

Blackheath Joint Working Party

15 March 2016

Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Cllr Mehboob Khan	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Phillip Craig	Greenwich Society
Sue Corlett	Hare and Billett Action Group
Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
Nicholas Stabeler	London Borough of Lewisham
John Thompson	London Borough of Lewisham
Janine Whittaker	Royal Borough of Greenwich Events
Ian Andrews	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Gary M	London Borough of Lewisham
Gemma Buttell	Glendales
James Bravin (mins)	London Borough of Lewisham

1. Apologies and introduction

Apologies were received from Cllr Aiden Smith, Tony Butler, Robert Goring, and Margaret Dinkledein, Chris Devine and David Walker.

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

2 (i). Minutes of 19th January

a. accuracy

It was noted that Chris Devine was not present and should be removed from the list of attendees. In Item 5 it stated that there are allowed to be “up to 5 large events per year”, this was incorrect, it should state “up to 2 large events per year”. In Item 5 it was stated that “the attendance of the events has gone up to a maximum size of 10,000” which is incorrect. This should state “the attendance of the events has gone up to a minimum size of 10,000”.

b. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the meeting on 19th January

2 (ii). Minutes of Public Meeting (23rd February)

a. accuracy

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting were accurate.

b. Matters arising

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (KB) stated that at last year's public meeting it was agreed that BJWP meeting minutes would be published online. Therefore all minutes from the last meeting onwards would now be published online. If there are any confidential matters that are to be discussed this needs to be stated beforehand. KB stated that going forward the minutes would be posted on the Blackheath section of the London Borough of Lewisham (LBL) website, and a suitable place for the minutes would also be found for on the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) website.

3. Pre-Event Questionnaire – “Foodies Festival”

Sue Hitichins (SH) the founder of the Foodies Festival was introduced by KB. SH thanked the BJWP for inviting her to present the Foodies Festival. She explained that she started the Foodies Festival eleven years ago. Since then she has run events in Brighton, Birmingham, Bristol, Tatton Park, Syon Park, Edinburgh, Harrogate Ripley Castle, Alexandra Palace, Oxford, and the Truman Brewery. SH explained that they always target “foodie” locations and that is why they are very keen to hold an event in Blackheath. The Foodies Festival team have always focused on running family events that are welcoming to all ages. SH described some of the attractions that will be at the event which include; a Chef's theatre, a kid's cookery theatre, a cake and bake theatre, stalls dedicated to local chefs and restaurants, and street food stalls. SH noted that the Foodies Festival have always been champions of street food as they feel it is the ideal way to eat food in an outdoors environment. SH explained that the event will run from 11am – 7pm, so there is no need for a late licence.

SH outlined the plans for the festival site. The site will be built by a team of contractors who have been building sites for the Foodies festival for 10 years, are very experienced and have a full schedule and build plan. The event will be a three day build, three day event; followed by two day take down (the breakdown is comprised of one day's deconstruction, followed by one day to ensure that the site is clear). SH explained that Foodies Festival employ 4 litter pickers who work from 8am – 9pm to make sure the site is kept litter free throughout the event. SH also noted that all nearby residents will receive a letter informing them that the event is going ahead and it includes a personal mobile number so that they can contact SH directly if they have any issues. SH invited the BJWP to ask any questions they had relating to the Foodies Festival.

Sue Corlett (SC) asked if there are any precautions for preventing chefs and staff from depositing of cooking oil on the heath. SH said that they make sure all staff dispose of cooking oil into bottles, and that the cooking utilities are set up with grates underneath to catch any spillages. KB added that the proper disposal of cooking oil could be put into the licence as an additional requirement.

Helen Reeves (HR) asked whether all local restaurants and traders will have a chance to be involved. SH advised that all local chefs and restaurants would be asked to take part. HR said that Blackheath farmer's market would be a good place to contact traders. JW advised that if Foodies festival needed to promote the event to local traders that RBG could help.

Shirley Broughton (SB) asked that if any damage occurs during the event, who would be responsible to pay for reparations. Janine Whittaker (JW) noted that if either LBL or RBG are not happy with the state of the event site after the event is over, that Foodies Festival would have to pay for the reinstatement costs.

Ian Andrews (IA) asked what criteria is used to select the local traders from a food safety point of view. SH noted that they have to have a 3 star or above food hygiene

rating, and a gas engineer certifies the gas before the any of the chefs or staff are allowed to use it.

Phillip Craig (PC) noted that on the website it states that there will be no parking at the Circus Field but the pre-application seems to contradict this. JW said that originally there was no intention to use field for public parking, but SH noted that as car parking had been allowed for other events that the Foodies Festival had subsequently requested some. JW noted that as all the public parking would be pre-booked she didn't see a problem with it. SH added that Foodies Festival would be promoting public transport and there would be a maximum of 120 car parking spaces at the event site.

HR questioned why there wasn't a lower sound limit for the music provision compared with other events. SH noted that the only music would be ambient background music to create a pleasant atmosphere. JW added that the noise limit is a standard set out in the Code of Practice on Environmental Noise Control at Concerts. The limit set out for the Foodies Festival is the lowest limit of the three possible as described by the Code of Practice.

KB asked what the details of the alcohol licence were. SH said that there was an open alcohol licence throughout the festival, but there was a ban on glass and there would be no glass at all onsite.

Mike Norton (MN) asked if the leafleting of people in the neighbourhood would be the same as for In the Night Garden Live. JW said that for In the Night Garden Live there were 3000+ properties that were leafleted, and that she had a map which identifies which properties are to be leafleted when such events take place.

Action: JW agreed to circulate a map identifying which properties will be letter dropped prior to large events.

4. Community Projects

KB noted that the only prerequisite for a proposal is that it provides a clear and tangible benefit to the Lewisham side of the heath. KB added that this would rule out any work to Folly Pond and Point Hill. KB said that as part of a standing agreement that there will be £500 provided to the Hare & Billet Action Group.

HR presented a new proposal around the funding of high quality storyboards that will be placed around Blackheath to highlight local flora and fauna, as well as detailing the rich history of the area. HR explained that there were plans for a total of seven storyboards to be installed across the heath. Funding has already been found for 5 of the boards so there was still a need to find funding for two more. HR noted that the price per board is £4300. KB pointed out that funding two would be quite a significant cost at £8600, but another option was to just fund the cost of one board. This was seen as a preferred option and it was agreed by the BJWP that £4300 would be provided for one of the seven story boards.

SB suggested that the fund could be used for a soil survey. The cost would be approximately £5000. MC added that a soil survey would be a good idea from an ecological point of view as it would provide valuable insight into the potential of the land.

KB said that one potential project was replacing the bins on the heath so that they all had lids. John Thompson (JT) explained that there were fourteen old-style bins without lids. The cost of replacing all fourteen bins would be £10,800 which works out

at £744 per bin. PC noted that birds and windy conditions mean that the old-style bins tend to spill rubbish across the heath. JT said that replacing the lid-less bins, with bins-with-lids would be beneficial from a maintenance point of view, as less litter would be spread across the heath. SC noted that Glendales appeared to be emptying the bins less and less and this was exacerbating the problem. JT said that he would take this up with Glendales to see whether the frequency of bin collection had reduced and to try and remedy the situation.

KB asked if the planting of more wild flowers on the Lewisham side of the heath might be possible. HR asked if it was possible to rotavate poppy seeds so that there will be another poppy bloom. SB said that that would not be possible as it would damage other plants in the area. JT said that the question was what could be done to improve the cover of flowers in the areas.

KB presented an idea that had been brought to the public meeting; better cycling signage throughout Blackheath, although he pointed out that he felt it was already well signposted. PC agreed that the signposting was already sufficient. The BJWP agreed that better signage for cyclists would not be considered.

KB asked if some improvement work could be done around the tea-hut site. JT added that he had not observed the tea-hut site recently and wasn't sure what the state of the ground around it was. KB added that discussions around the tea-hut site should be considered as a discussion for a later meeting.

SB proposed that a sign near the Prince of Wales pond could be to advise what and what not to feed the animals. A typical sign of this type might cost approximately £2000.

KB summarised that the BJWP had agreed to fund the following community projects

- £500 for the Hare and Billet
- £6000 to cover the full cost of one storyboard and part of the cost of a second one
- £5000 towards a soil survey
- £3500 towards 4 bins with lids

Action: JT to speak to Glendales regarding the frequency of bin removal around Blackheath

5. Upcoming Events

(i) Circus Field

JW noted that the Easter Funfair will be opening on the 24th March until the 4th of April. PC asked where the Funfair fits with Zippo's Circus. GB said that there will be an overlap of Zippos circus and the Easter Funfair due to Easter falling earlier this year. MC asked why Zippos needed longer on site this year, JW said it was because they had a special "megadome" tent this, which took longer to assemble and disassemble.

(ii) 'In the Night Garden Live'

JW advised that following a consultation "In the Night Garden Live" (ITNGL) will be going ahead as planned, and she thanked the BJWP for their contributions to the process. The consultation brought forward two additional conditions for the ITNGL license. Firstly ITNGL will have to liaise directly with the Royal Parks for traffic management. Secondly the Licencing and Safety Advisory Group (LSAG) will review

event management plans for the event. KB noted that the overall review was not down to BJWP but will be up to the LSAG.

6. Update on Blackheath Events Policy

JT found not obvious problems with the policy after an initial review but he recommended a more detailed look at the policy. JT suggested that the BJWP should set up a working party that takes forwards any further work on the policy. KB agreed that a good way for the BJWP's views to inform the Blackheath events policy was to set up a working party. KB suggested that one councillor from each borough, and one representative from each of the amenity societies should be represented on the events policy subgroup.

Action – Amenity societies to decide who will represent them at the events policy subgroup. There should be one person from each amenity society.

7. Blackheath (SMINC) Nature Conservation Group

SB advised that she didn't have anything to update the BJWP with regarding the Blackheath Nature Conservation Group.

8. Forest School – Forries Education

GB explained that Forries Education contacted Glendales about the possibility of running Forest School sessions on Blackheath. GB explained that Forest School is a fun environment where children can play and learn outdoors. JT pointed out that Forest School's operate as businesses and if there was an interest in hosting one on Blackheath it would be important to make sure that other operators were considered. The BJWP agreed that the idea of running a Forest School in Blackheath and agreed to consider this further at a later meeting.

9. Any other business

KB noted that TB had requested that safety concerns around kite buggies be discussed at this meeting. KB asked if LBL and RBG whether there was a policy on the use of kite boards. GB said that she thought the rules governing kite boards were covered in the bye-laws but she would double-check.

SC noted that two areas of Blackheath had been damaged opposite the Clarendon Hotel where a large vehicle had driven over the grass.

PC asked if the BJWP constitution could be recirculated.

Action: GB to check bye laws surrounding kite boarding.

Action: GB to ask Glendales to investigate damage opposite Clarendon Hotel.

Action: Ros Jeffries to recirculate the BJWP constitution.