

# Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) Meeting Minutes

## 30 April 2019

### Venue: Old Bakehouse Theatre

---

#### Attendees

Cllr Kevin Bonavia (chair)	London Borough of Lewisham
Cllr Aiden Smith	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Geoff Brighty	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Tony Butler	Friends of Greenwich Park
Sue Corlett	Hare & Billet Action Group
Shirley Broughton	Nature Conservation Group
Mike Norton	Westcombe Society
Dame Helen Reeves	Blackheath Society
Vince Buchannan	London Borough of Lewisham
Margaret Dinkledein	Blackheath Society
David Walker	Blackheath Society
Gemma Buttell	Glendales
James Bravin (mins)	London Borough of Lewisham

#### 1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Amanda de Ryk, Cllr Juliet Campbell, and Gemma Buttell, Cllr Geoff Brighty, Cllr Mariam Lolavar, Rachael Hook, Philip Craig.

#### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1. Correction in 2.7 Vince Buchannan spoke to Josh Learner on cycling team – he confirmed that the signs on the Heath were correct.
- 2.2. Several of the amenity societies have not uploaded the minutes to their respective sites as they were unsure where to find them on the Lewisham website. *The minutes can be found at the following location - <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/neighbourhoods/blackheath> and scrolling to the bottom of the page.*

**ACTION:** Amenity societies to link to BJWP minutes on their own websites.

- 2.3. Gemma Buttell will resend the Events map to Shirley Broughton.

**ACTION:** Gemma Buttell to resend the Events map to Shirley Broughton.

- 2.4. Cllr Kevin Bonavia asked in Greenwich Cllrs to write to Miranda Williams to ask if an agreement can be found for the funding of support for the BJWP.

**ACTION:** Greenwich Cllrs to contact Miranda Williams to ask about alternative funding arrangements for BJWP.

- 2.5. Dame Helen Reeves received an email about the damage to the Heath that is occurring in several places due to desire lines forming, and cyclists and pedestrians. She asked the BJWP what action could be taken to prevent or reduce the damage.

- 2.6. The BJWP discussed several options including:
- Fencing off the area to allow the grass to recover
  - Increasing enforcement of the bye-laws to prevent cyclists from cycling on the grass
  - Engaging with Lewisham Cyclists to remind cyclists to remain on the paths.
  - Paving over the desire lines to create a permanent route.
  - Blocking the entrance to the desire lines
  - Contact cycling lead at Lewisham Council to discuss further options.
- 2.7. Fencing off was not considered to be a viable option as it was felt that a new desire line would form adjacent to the old one.
- 2.8. Increased enforcement was considered to be a potential option once other solutions had been trialled.
- 2.9. The paving over of the desire line was rejected as an option at this stage.
- 2.10. Dame Helen Reeves said that the recovery of the ground was only part of the issue. As a walker the prevalence of cyclists riding off the designated paths could be quite frightening.

**ACTION:** Vince Buchannan to discuss enforcement options with colleagues at LBL.

**ACTION:** Vince Buchannan to discuss further options to with Josh Learner at LBL.

**ACTION:** Vince Buchannan to engage with Lewisham Cyclists to ask them to remind the cycling community that cycling across the Heath is forbidden in the bye-laws.

### 3. OnBlackheath

- 3.1. Cllr Kevin Bonavia introduced Nicky Hodgson from Festival Republic. Tom Waite from OnBlackheath had invited Nicky to meet the BJWP as Festival Republic were now managing OnBlackheath. Nicky said that she wants to ensure that the Festival continues to be a success and to ensure that residents are on board.
- 3.2. Nicky said that the new date for the event was 13 -14 July but apart from that change, there are no other changes to how the festival is organised. There will be a residents' pre-festival meeting on the 27 June and a post festival meeting on the 24 July.
- 3.3. David Walker asked if they intended to use more directional speakers to minimise the sound to surrounding areas. Nicky said that they did and one of the advantages of Festival Republic running the festival means that there is better access to that type of equipment.
- 3.4. Sue Corlett asked if there were specific arrangements to prevent people selling tickets on Viagogo. Nicky said that the resale market is a huge issue and can be difficult to prevent, but Festival Republic take significant action to try and prevent touts.
- 3.5. Dame Helen Reeves asked if there had always been a total of 2.5 weeks on site, as she felt it might have been slightly less at previous years. Nicky wasn't sure off the top of her head but she would look at the production schedule to double-check. Nicky confirmed that Whitsfield Mount is not going to be part of the festival site.

- 3.6. Nicky said that there will be a residents' pre-festival meeting on the 27 June and a post festival meeting on the 24 July. Both events would be held at the Clarendon Hotel. Mike Norton confirmed that this will be advertised in the June edition of Westcombe News.
- 3.7. Nicky asked if there were any local charities that the BJWP would like to put forward to be involved with the event. She advised that Jimmy Mizen and two other charities were already involved. Cllr Kevin Bonavia suggested the Mayor's Charity the 999 Club, and Age Exchange, and invited other members to put forward any ideas.

**ACTION:** BJWP members to put forward any local charities that they would want to be involved with OnBlackheath.

#### **4. Feedback from London Marathon**

- 4.1. Gemma Buttell said that the London Marathon went well, with not major issues reported (on the Lewisham side).
- 4.2. Margaret Dinkledein said that while in general the organisation of the event had been very good, several people had been parking on the Heath. Mike Norton agreed and said that there had been several people parking on Circus Field, mainly on the Greenwich side. Cllr Bonavia suggested that a stronger enforcement of parking violations would prevent this from happening in the future. Gemma Buttell said that this type of enforcement is possible but it can be difficult as some vehicles are permitted to park, and as parking was once allowed for everyone in that location it might phase out once people understand that parking is no longer permitted there.

**ACTION:** Gemma Buttell to speak to Rachael Hook to discuss the enforcement options relating to parking on the Heath.

- 4.3. Cllr Kevin Bonavia said that he had received one complaint about the lack of Portaloos around Blackheath Station. Gemma Buttell said that the majority of the Portaloos were located nearer to the actual event as this is where they are needed most.

#### **5. Race for life**

- 5.1. Gemma Buttell said that the Race for Life event was taking place again this year and that it would be organised in the same way as last year except men are now allowed to join in.

#### **6. Response to Blackheath Gate: RBG Road Design consultation**

- 6.1. Cllr Kevin Bonavia confirmed that the letter had been circulated to members of the BJWP. David Walker commented that the he thought the design was fine, but the only issue was that coaches travelling from the East would not be able to turn around.
- 6.2. Mike Norton said that the easiest solution would be to prevent Buses and Coaches from passing from the East.

#### **7. Nature Conservation Report**

- 7.1. Shirley Broughton said that she didn't have any particular updates but asked if there would be any discussion about the OnBlackheath fund as the Nature Conservation group would like to suggest replacing some of the shrubbery with Gorse.
- 7.2. Shirley said that the Group were looking to produce a combined map of the Heath locating all the different types of flora. It would cost £10 to print. Vince Buchannan said that if Shirley shared the files with him then he would be able to organise the printing of the maps.

**ACTION:** Shirley Broughton to provide map files for Vince Buchannan to print.

## **8. Update on Previously agreed projects**

- 8.1. *Replacement of Trees* - Vince Buchannan said that the replacement of the trees had been completed. There had been several complaints about one tree in particular; a pine tree. As far as Vince was aware this tree had been a like for like replacement of the tree that had been there before, so it was unclear why so many complaints had been received. He agreed to check the tree database to ensure that the tree had been replaced with the correct species.

**ACTION:** Vince Buchannan to check tree database to ensure that the correct tree had been planted.

- 8.2. *Completion of Prince of Wales Bund* - Vince Buchannan said that the completion date for the bund was the 13 May.
- 8.3. *Wildlife Walks* – Dame Helen Reeves said that the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the wildlife walks would be completed in the next couple of week.
- 8.4. Dame Helen Reeves said that it had transpired that the Blackheath Society had received £15,000 from OnBlackheath, and it was unclear why the funds had been paid to the Blackheath Society and not Glendales as before. The holding of the funds by the Blackheath Society could be problematic as any money held by the Society would need to be spent on the charitable aims of the Society (not a huge problem, as most activities relating to the betterment of the Heath would be covered). In addition Gift Aid could only be claimed if the source of the fund was donations. Vince

**ACTION:** Vince Buchannan to establish the source of the OnBlackheath community to see if it had come from charitable donations. Tom Waite, Dame Helen Reeves, and Cllr Kevin Bonavia to discuss via email the next steps.

**ACTION:** Vince Buchannan to establish whether it is possible for GreenScene/Glendales to hold the funds should it not be necessary for the Blackheath Society to do so.

- 8.5. Cllr Kevin Bonavia agreed to send out an invitation for ideas for potential community projects to spend the OnBlackheath community fund on.

**ACTION:** Cllr Kevin Bonavia to send out invitation for community fund ideas.

- 8.6. The BJWP agreed that the leftover money from the previous fund could be added to the next year's fund if this was possible.

## **9. Options for resourcing Blackheath Joint Working Party**

**10. A.O.B.**

10.1. Shirley Broughton said that there have been several reports of ducks being run over. Part of the problem is geese chasing them into the road, as well as drivers going over the 20mph limit.

10.2. It was agreed that action should be taken to better enforce the speed limits to prevent that from happening.

**Date of next meetings:**

- 7pm - Tuesday 16 July 2019
- 7pm - Tuesday 17 September 2019
- 7pm - Tuesday 29 October 2019
- 7pm - Tuesday 21 January 2020

DRAFT