

**Blackheath Joint Working Party**  
**7<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 6.30pm**

**Chapman House**

**Attendees:**

<b>Cllr Chris Maines (chair)</b>	<b>Blackheath Ward Member (LBL)</b>	<b>CM</b>
<b>Cllr Amanda de Ryk</b>	<b>Blackheath Ward Member (LBL)</b>	<b>AdR</b>
<b>Cllr Alex Grant</b>	<b>Blackheath and Westcombe Park Ward Member (RBG)</b>	<b>AG</b>
<b>Anna Townsend</b>		<b>AT</b>
<b>Roger Marshall</b>	<b>Blackheath Society</b>	<b>RM</b>
<b>David Walker</b>	<b>Blackheath Society</b>	<b>DW</b>
<b>Rob Widdicombe</b>	<b>Blackheath Society</b>	<b>RW</b>
<b>Philip Craig</b>	<b>Greenwich Society</b>	<b>PC</b>
<b>Gemma Buttell</b>	<b>Glendale</b>	<b>GB</b>
<b>Lee Beasley</b>	<b>Parks and Open Spaces (RBG)</b>	<b>LB</b>
<b>Barbara Morris</b>	<b>Westcombe Society</b>	<b>BM</b>
<b>Shirley Broughton</b>	<b>Westcombe Society</b>	<b>SB</b>
<b>Margaret Dinkeldein</b>	<b>Tidy Blackheath Group</b>	<b>MD</b>
<b>Lionel Lewis</b>		<b>LL</b>
<b>Helen Reeves</b>	<b>Blackheath Society</b>	<b>HR</b>

**1. Apologies And Introductions**

Apologies were received from Martin Hyde, David Grant, Tony Butler, Sue Corlett, Maureen O'Mara and Mike Norton

**2. Minutes Of Last Meeting**

19/11/13

Accuracy:

- Page 1 – Shirley Broughton is from the Westcombe Society, not the Tidy Blackheath Group
- Page 5 – Addition to the sentence that begins on line five of the discussion item regarding OnBlackheath and Good Hope 'Most of the members of the group felt that the intentions and aims of the Good Hope festival were more favourable than the OnBlackheath proposal, and that allowing **only** one festival to take place would be a good way to test the tolerance of local people for such events **and assess the possible damage to the heath**'
- Page 5 – additional bullet point to be added under the OnBlackheath festival concerns – 'Great concerns were raised that noise level will exceed the code of good practice as outlined in the acoustic engineers report.'

Matters arising:

- CM asked GB for an update on the funfair proposals. GB confirmed that a pre-approval questionnaire had been sent to organisers but that she had no further updates. The group raised a number of issues regarding the plans. MD said that if there was to be fencing around the event, protective tracking must be in place. AdR asked for confirmation as to whether fencing was an absolute requirement by the police. LL summarised his interpretation of the legal position

regarding enclosed spaces on the heath. The group agreed that fencing along Shooters Hill for children's safety would be endorsed by the group. CM said that given the funfair would be held in April, it might not be possible to wait until the next meeting of the BJWP to review the proposals.

**ACTION: LL to write to the Greenwich legal team asking for confirmation on their position regarding enclosure on the heath. GB to ask Janine Whittaker to contact the police to confirm their position on fencing. GB to ask Janine Whittaker to email the pre-approval questionnaire to BJWP members.**

- RM asked for an update on the new meadows. As Martin Hyde was not at the meeting, CM asked for an update on the cutting regime to be added to the next meeting agenda.

**ACTION: Martin Hyde to provide an update on the cutting regime at the next BJWP meeting.**

### **3. Update On Pre-Approval Questionnaire (Good Hope Festival and OnBlackheath)**

CM confirmed that he held discussions with Kevin Sheehan following the letter sent to him on behalf of the BJWP. Kevin Sheehan has yet to make his decision on the proposals.

LL raised concerns that the application from OnBlackheath contained information which was not truthful. In particular, he said he was concerned about the experience cited by the organisers in their application. LL told the group about a letter he sent on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to Harvey Goldsmith regarding his involvement in the event. Although he had not yet heard back, LL said that he has ascertained that the company were aware of the event via a telephone call to their office.

**ACTION: LL to keep the group updated and when a response is received it will be sent to Kevin Sheehan.**

AdR asked for confirmation on the timetable and informed the group that she was aware that organisers had been contacting people at the council regarding their application. She said that there was commercial imperative to be the first event on the heath and that this could be impacted by the Good Hope proposal which is in July (OnBlackheath is scheduled for September).

RM said that if the Good Hope festival goes ahead, the organisers should still be asked to come back to the BJWP to discuss opportunities to minimise damage to the heath. BM raised concerns about the location of the event because of the presence of acid grassland in that area. The group discussed possible alternative sites. GB said that the organisers had already made some concessions on the location to protect the heath. CM reminded the group that they could only consider the applications received, if approval was granted then the application would need to go through licensing and this will provide a further opportunity for discussion. CM also said that the organisers had been willing to work with the BJWP and would be invited back at a later stage to discuss any concerns the group had.

LL asked whether it was possible to reduce the event to one day. CM reminded LL that the organisers had said that it was not commercially viable to run an event for one day and that the group had therefore not made recommendations to this effect.

SB recommended that Lewisham Council look for three sites which are least vulnerable to damage and offer these to organisers of events. These sites could then be rotated. This approach would be similar to the approach taken by Greenwich Council with the Circus Field site. GB said that they do actively try to encourage organisers to make applications for areas of the heath where damage would be minimised or for other sites entirely. However, GB said that this option could be explored.

**ACTION: GB to speak to Nick Pond regarding identifying sites which could be used in this way.**

RM asked the group to note that if the BJWP recommendations for the heath were not accepted by Kevin Sheehan, Kevin would be expected to provide a written response to the group and also provide an opportunity for the group to meet with him. This would need to happen before the applicant is informed. This process is outlined in the Blackheath Events Policy which was written by the BJWP and has been approved by Greenwich and Lewisham Councils.

**ACTION: The group agreed that RM, SB and PC would be nominated as the small group to do any further work with event organisers as required.**

#### **4. Event Request – School Fun Runs (Gemma Buttell, Glendale)**

GB told the group that John Ball and All Saints schools had asked to have a fun run on the heath on 27<sup>th</sup> April for 200-400 participants (children and parents) to raise money for charity. The event would run from 9-12.30pm and the only things on the heath would be water points and first aiders.

AdR told the group she thought it was important to support events such as this as we needed young people to use the heath if we wanted to ensure that they protected it in the future. The group agreed that an event such as this should be supported.

BM raised some concerns that, even for an event of this size, the heath could be damaged. She said that minor amendments to the route could protect the heath.

**ACTION: BM to make suggestions to GB about changes to the route.**

#### **5. Draft Event Calendar 2014**

GB talked the group through the draft events calendar. She updated that because there was a clash between the circus and the marathon, the circus was going to be moved to the Old Donkey Field so as not to disturb the marathon feedback. GB confirmed that this site does not have acid grassland. The groups suggested that this would be a good 'sacrificial site' like the Circus Field site in Greenwich.

BM asked whether it would be possible to show the events calendar on a map format so that you could see whether there was heavy use of the heath in any particular areas.

**ACTION: GB to show future events in a calendar and map format.**

#### **6. Arrangements for Community Spring Clean (March 2014)**

The group discussed the funding which has been made available for spring clean events. PC said that he would be happy to work with the other societies to submit an application.

**ACTION: Martin Hyde to email all societies explaining the application process.**

#### **7. Any Other Business**

The group discussed donkeys on the heath and that there had been some problems following Len's death. His children had their vehicle stolen and now have no means for transporting the donkeys from Eltham to the heath. AG said that he would be happy to attend a meeting with the family to see what support could be offered.

RM asked what the plans were for the tree which was removed from the Prince Charles Roundabout. LB said that this was a matter for TfL. The group asked LB to recommend to TfL that the tree is replaced.

MD praised the de-cluttering of St Germans Place mini roundabout both in terms of the speed of resolution and the aesthetic improvement.

AdR commented on the rubbish which had accumulated on the path between the Railway pub and Chapman House.

RM confirmed that the Blackheath Society would be moving to the Age Exchange shortly and that a new venue would to found for meetings of the BJWP.

### **8. Future Meetings**

The BJWP will hold their public meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. The location will be confirmed in advance of the meeting.