

Friends of Markfield Park

Meeting on Monday 7pm 7th February at 'The Cottage' 2011

Agenda

1. Agree on last minutes
2. Update from FOMP secretary and (treasurer - JW in NF absence)
3. Cafe – signage, child friendly issues
4. Sports activities update – table tennis table, children's football and tennis coaching courses in park
5. Community Outreach Officer's update: Community Garden developments, local school children's activities, Age concern talk & presentation
6. Spring Event on 30th May – Ideas/suggestions of events & activities
7. Check action points from last minutes have been discussed
8. AOB
9. Date of next Meeting

Introductions and apologies

Present –

Janis Wales (Haringey Council- Community Outreach Officer, Markfield Park) JW
Corinne Roberts (Friends of Markfield Park) CR
Maggie Hulson (Gladesmore School representative, teacher and local resident) MH
Michael Bury (BTCV) MB
Ken Brereton (Friends of Markfield Committee Member and museum trustee) KB
Fred Clark (Friends of Markfield Committee Member and museum trustee) FC
Remie Djemil (Interim Pistachios manager) RD
Lottie & George (Publicity support and friends of Pistachio's café)
Jonathan & Francesca (Pistachio's kitchen support & friends)

Apologies –

Uma Nathan (Markfield Project) UN
Deborah Cawkwell (Web manager of FOMP & Vartry Residents' Association) DC
Aysin Djemil (Founder Pistachios Cafes) AD
Nadine Fraser (Friends of Markfield Park and local resident) NF
Paul Thompson (Friends of Markfield Park and local resident) PT

- 1.0 In FOMP treasurer's absence, JW reported the bank account was in the process of being opened but three members were needed to visit the bank together to sign. This would be happening very soon.
- 1.1 NF had enquired at ETTA (English Table Tennis Association) as to whether they could supply the FOMP with an outdoor table tennis table. Unfortunately, this was not possible. They sent information and prices about various types of tables and also suggested applying for a Sport England small grant to fund this. The table would be sited in front of the cafe and the bats loaned out from the cafe.
- 2.0 FC received an email from a member of the Haringey Parks Forum who was concerned that when she visited on a Saturday morning, the cafe was nearly empty and suggested that the cafe needs much larger and clearer signage perhaps on the wall facing the towpath and where it crosses Tottenham Hale. She suggested Waterways & Haringey council could fund this but also that the cafe should perhaps take this on them selves to increase business. She suggested other commercial enterprises to increase awareness and business. She also mentioned they had competition from the cafe in Springfield Park just five minutes along the towpath. RD said the café have put out some more signage but these are not permanent fixtures. They also have some banners that can be put up.
- 2.1 CR has put in an application for a Safer Parks award. She has found the registering process difficult and thinks she is supposed to have return acknowledgement on what she has filled in but nothing has come as yet. She says will keep trying.
- 3.0 CR talked about the incident that happened recently in the cafe where a lady, part of a group of mums who come from the under fives drop in from the Markfield Project, was extremely upset by being spoken to, she thought, in a not very helpful way when her two year old son was tempted by the toys on show and kept picking them up. In effect, she was asked to leave if the child could not leave the toys alone. She did leave and vowed never to come back. Herself, family and friends have supported the cafe from the outset. The committee suggested that a selection of display wooden toys be screwed down, or else put behind glass doors or much higher, so they were out of children's reach. They thought the cafe needed to redress this situation plus it was suggested they should build bridges to curb any hard feelings from the customer so she would return to using the cafe
- 4.0 Haringey Parks and Leisure department will be starting a free children's tennis course starting Saturday 5th March for 6 weeks. 5 years to 8 years 10-11am and 8 years to 12 years 11-12 noon. Also starting Saturday 12th March, football coaching by a CRB qualified coach from 2-3.30pm. All welcome. JW agreed to send out poster to all local primary schools.

- 5.0 JW has liaised with Ferry Lane primary school headmistress, Maxine Pattison for an activity day in the park for some of their children. This will include an environmental/gardening project with BTCV, a visit to the MBeam Engine Museum and lastly, hopefully a session between 2-3pm in the Markfield Project Adventure playground. These all need to be discussed more with the respective groups. JW was asked to find out if there was any funding available from the school. There is also going to be a meeting of local primary school heads at the cafe at 2pm which has been booked by JW. Hopefully this will be a good showcase for other schools to arrange other activity days.
- 5.1 JW mentioned a meeting this Thursday, with the Sonshine Club, a Jewish group who would like to explore whether they could have access to use the community nature garden for an after school club. Micheal from BTCV will also be attending.
- 5.2 JW has contacted Age Concern about visits to the MBeam Engine Museum plus a guided walk around the park and perhaps lunch in the cafe. She has no response as yet. KB said that funding would be needed for such events as the museum has overheads to pay and the oil for the engine for one day's steaming is approx £200.
- 6.0 MBeam Engine museum is proposing a local history day on Saturday 14th May. The event will go on into the night with 'Night Steaming'. Interest for the event has come from: GLIAS; Walthamstow HS; Hornsey HS; Leyton & Leytonstone HS; Blackhorse & Standard Morris Dancers; East London Brass Band; Friends of the Gunpowder Mills; 72nd Highland Division (Re-enactors); Enfield Motor Museum. Issues need to be resolved asap about event's licensing, car parking for exhibitors etc. JW will send KB event forms from the council with information on H&S and insurance (Museum have own public liability insurance). JW will also ask Lee Valley Bats about the possibility of a bat tour that evening. The Jewish community would hopefully be able to attend the evening events after sun-down.

It was agreed by the committee to combine this day along with the FOMP Spring event day instead of the previously agreed date of Monday 30th May. The cafe has agreed to open late into that evening perhaps serving a special menu to be confirmed. We are still looking for more ideas from the community, cafe and schools to make 14th May a great day for everybody. One idea was a sponsored penny farthing bike ride to fund the steaming of the Beam Engine. JW to approach any interested groups.

- 6.1 A Model Engineering day is also proposed by the MBeam Engine Museum on Sunday - 26 June. Information is to follow when exhibitors are confirmed.
- 6.2 It was also suggested they do a Victorian evening maybe in August with costumes, Bazzalgette family and perhaps a penny farthing sponsored bike ride? JW to investigate Haringey Arts, who in the past did a Victorian Mayhem event with the museum.

- 7.0 Action points from meeting on 9th January where relevant people were present, were discussed and agreed and actions points from 4.0, 5.0, 6.1, 6.5, 6.8 to be carried on to next meeting.
- 8.0 MB (BTCV) stated that their funding had been reduced but was secured to still carry on volunteer environmental projects at Markfield Park but now with only himself and Catherine staffing them. He has secured £3,000 funding for tools, plants, beds and a mural project with a graffiti company called 'On the Level'. He has also acquired a long hose to maintain new plants and pots this year. He suggested community groups (FOMP and others) look on the BTCV website to join the BTCV's Community Network for £35 a year, one of the benefits being which public liability insurance cover for events plus other benefits. 01302 388 834, or email Local-Groups@btcv.org.uk
- 8.1 JW to be supplied with keys of the pavilion for community use on 14th May and explore other options.
- 8.2 MH asked if the Gladesmore Community School could have a mutual link on respective websites. Action point for webmaster, DC.
- 8.3 JW was asked by MH for Gladesmore School to supply technical information for two basketball hoops to be installed in the Multi Use Games Area in the park. This is to gauge the feasibility of any help from the school.
- 8.4 The café is arranging a meeting with 'Rucksack Music' to offer musical instrument lessons to children.
- 8.5 KB has lots of children's arts and craft material for use. A children's workshop was suggested on the event day on Saturday 14th May.
- 9.0 The date of the next meeting is either Sunday 6th March am or pm in the cafe or Monday 7pm, 7th March at The Cottage. Please email janis.wales@haringey.gov.uk with preferred date and time by latest 28th Feb.

NB: ALL ACTION POINTS UNDERLINED