

# FRIENDS OF MARKFIELD PARK

## FOMP Minutes Wednesday 7 September 7pm-8.30pm at the Pavilion, Markfield Park

**Present:** Tyrone McKay (Higher Heights), Sarah Miller (Markfield Project), Janis Wales (Haringey Council Community Outreach Officer), Sonia & Abed Rabbaa (Pistachios Cafe), Ken Brereton (Beam Engine), Frank Hunt (Area Park Manager, Haringey Council), Theo Thomas (London Canalkeeper/ 'Thames 21: Love the Lee' Campaign), Nadine Fraser, Fred Clark (Beam Engine), Deborah Cawkwell (FOMP Webmaster)

**Apologies:** Chris Watts (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Maggie Hulson (Gladesmore Community School)

### 1. **Agree on last minutes**

Done

### 2. **Area park manager's Q & A - parking issues and AOB**

Discussion re the problem of cars using Markfield Park as a cut-through, driving fast with potential for an accident. The gate at Crowland Road intended to prevent this was often left unlocked. The key for the gate was a 'number 11' key held widely. Additionally, there were issues about the use of the car park, which was needed by the Beam Engine & its visitors, the Markfield Project & their visitors as well as Pistachios Café for the Managers as well as for deliveries.

FH had had an initial meeting with Uma Nathan at the Markfield Project. Part of an initial solution had been the idea to mark all parking spaces for use only by vehicles with disabled badges.

New solution: 3 gates in total: Crowland Road, Markfield Road, by the car park preventing access towards the Crowland Road entrance. The plan was to try to weld the locks to the gates & use locks where the key could not be removed without relocking the gate. FH believed this solution would not be a problem for emergency service access,

as the fire service could cut any lock & ambulances could walk if necessary through the park. There would be 50 keys issued for the new locks where each key would be signed out. NF would hold the register. Cycle racks would be added which would block vehicle access as well as provide a secure place to lock up a bike. Parking bays will remain as they are.

It was agreed that we, with the Council, would continue to try different solutions until one was found which solved all aspects of the problem to the satisfaction of all stake-holders.

### **3. Theo – Love the Lee**

How can FOMP get involved? Starting Love the Lee awareness. The Lee is the most polluted river system in the country. Sewerage system is overloaded. The whole way we are using water in this part of London is broken. Scum in the river. Boats overturning when hit great clumps of sewage. We don't want to treat our rivers like sewers as we have done in the past. Not enough done. Need a non-return approach with a 20/30 year plan - cannot afford to delay.

Information about what the campaign can do? Block of flats, where do the pipes go? Waste water is sometimes going into the river. FC & KB have been involved in this. The Beam Engine installed as last typhoid epidemic killed 4,000 thousand people.

Phosphate is a big problem, creates weed. 8 times the maximum level in the Lee. In July – dead fish passing offices in Bow.

JW: have you targeted industrial units & river dwellers.

FC: In Southgate, Tyrone similar problem in Muswell Hill, some council action.

TT: there has been a patchy response from Thames Water amongst others.

DC: space for Love the Lee on the FOMP website. Front page if TT could write a piece.

Clean rain water -> dirty water, wetland area, common-place in Canada. Solution-finding with UCL.

JW: flooding. Move picnic area.

TT: funding out there. Depends on what people decide not powers that be. Campaign could bring in the expertise to FOMP.

SM: difficult to find solutions that work.

### **4. FOMP Treasurer/secretary update**

NF (FOMP Treasurer) reported that there was £329.80 in the FOMP account including a £25 contribution from the water-balling activity at the last event.

### **5. Steam Engine Museum update**

17 & 18 Beam Engine steaming on London Open House Weekend.

Hoping for a large number of visitors as widely publicised. Gone out on the Markfield Park activities poster. Last steaming until April next year. Have not yet fixed the programme for next year. In process of putting in funding for the oil. Organisation of steam days for schools to get some revenue. FOMP events & Beam Engine ideally requires contribution from FOMP. Engine must pull people in from further afield. Engine & design stuff on Steaming Days: classic cars & model engineering. Educational days: could do with more support. Any funding bid would need to include documentation. JW: education officer at Bruce Castle? KB: trying to put together a package. TM: miniature railway track suggested couple of years ago. JW: tennis coaching, BTCV/nature workshop & Beam Engine package offered to schools. But schools don't want to pay. KB would be interested in using Project space; can only handle 15 people at a time in the Beam Engine Museum.

## **6. Markfield Project update**

Markfield Project

Open day Sat 15 Oct, 12 onwards. All welcome.

Facilities open. Launching on strategic plan on Friday.

New plan from Government's transition fund: adults with learning difficulties: ideas for running businesses. Must be taken slowly with business planning & be self-sustaining. Coalition government set up to make groups less dependent.

## **7. Café update**

SR & AR had had to leave earlier due to childcare requirements.

## **8. Winter Fayre: (17<sup>th</sup> December?)**

Plan for event. Suggestions: Winter Walk; Tombola, bouncy castle (?), mistletoe stand, Carol Singing (Sheets to print), Tottenham Choir (?), Baptist singers (?) Haringey churches Winter shelter stand, Bat Walk (?), Gluhwein & mince pies (?) Beaming Engine steaming (?) Could we steam? KB: requires £200. NF to enquire re funding.

Brainstorm ideas circulated. If lots to be done for the Fayre, separate meeting may be needed.

Woodberry Down Church offered 5 craft stalls plus choir.

## **9. AOB**

### **Football & Sport**

Use of Markfield as home ground. Part of 5-year dev plan by the Football Foundation. Do up Pavilion, do up MUGA.

Team ideas: under 9s, women's, seniors, people with disabilities. FH actively wanting a team or 2 teams. Getting 2 pitches sorted, may not be ready for season. Cf, Broadwater Farm with 9 pitches. FH: what really brings life to a park is the young children/families. Adult

football also good. JW: café tried to support with a trainer, FH suggests getting an interested parent, FH could provide goals. Football page can be added to website.

**10. Check action points from last minutes**

**11. Date of next Meeting**

Monday 10 October