

MINUTES OF MANOR HOUSE GARDENS USER GROUP MEETING  
TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2009, PARK CAFÉ

1. Apologies were received from Rosalyn Burbidge (Secretary), Rowan Bosworth-Davies, Pat Humphrey.
2. Present:  
Jim Mallory Chair (JM), Angela Joy Co Chair (AJ), Elizabeth Bentley (EB), Aysin Djemil, Pistachio in the Park( AD), Adrian Wickham, Glendale(AW), Charles Batchelor, Lee Manor Soc (CB), Sue Byford(SB), Ruth Guinness(RG), Baz Golin(BG), Jeremy Garden(JC), David Plumer (DP), Olive Ryder(OR), Carolyn Bosworth-Davies(CBD), Peter Richardson(PR), Lewis Stuart Neighbour Hood Watch Team (LS), Jane Clark (JCK), Judy Cole, (JCL), David Browne (DB) and Philip Kestelman(PK).
3. Minutes of Last Meeting  
It was agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting by those assembled.
4. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting  
JM had written to LBC to express that the Lewisham Cultural Strategy document was not the most helpful of documents regarding parks as there was a lack of detail.

Northbrook School. No changes since the previous meeting JM has attempted to talk with officers in the Council to establish their current 'thinking' regarding the Gardens and will reactivate the steering group. It was felt it is important to establish what the school is doing for provision of games when it returns to the site.  
EB said that the staff had been told that the schedule for completion and reopening in January 2011.

Picnic Bench – is being well used. The plaque is on its way. JM gave formal thanks to Glendale for installing it

Borough's Bird Champion competition. The MHGUG will appeal for Users to give details of unusual birds sighted in the Gardens.

Composting Bin and the positioning of it. The 'bin' according to AW is 8feet by 8 feet and 4 feet high. AW said the dog area is currently the preferred area and suggested along the wall of the Taunton Road end of the dog area. CBD/JCL claimed this would put residents at risk of intruders who would use it as a stepping stone into properties. Users said any use along the walls of the Park should be considered carefully for

these reasons. The preferred feeling of those present were for it to be put at the Old Road Entrance ( where the Xmas trees disposal plot was) either on the Manor House or Penfolds side. This was voted by the majority at the meeting – PR felt that the Council would not like this given the restoration of the Manor House. JM that before any decision would be made on placement the Users should be allowed to see a scale model.

5. Manor House Library.

The Official opening for VIP on 5 May. Plus various events on weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> May but publicity about had not been very visible or precise. JM said the MHGUG had thought that they would also like to celebrate the opening of the House at around of the Green Flag or later in June.

Proposed two dates either 20/27<sup>th</sup> June for a community orientated event. A bike event such as the Tour de Jardin ,this the Neighbour Hood Watch team would pursue for the Group.

Also discussed that there were possible plans being made by the Mizen Family and JM suggested that it would be right and appropriate to liaise with them and that perhaps Gemma at Glendales would do this.

JM asked for volunteers for the steering group for this event . AD abd BG agreed to assist.

CB said the Ice House could be open.

CB suggested approaching the Conservatoire to see if any choirs might like to perform.

Reporting on the House itself SB said on the whole everything was mostly favourable. The Front was still rather ‘raw’ with new grass yet to be established. But she felt people would be impressed by the ceilings and stairways.

Disabled parking was limited and Security was a potential issue (but there were cameras)

The House would now be open seven days a week.

JM gave formal thanks to both SB and PR for all their work in seeing the completion of the project.

6. Green Flag judging from the beginning of April to early June.

7. Summer Activities in the Gardens for 2009.

Believed there to be a sports academy during the Summer

The Bouncing Castle on farmers market days will continue for a couple more months

Tennis sessions – more funding of extra session has come available.

(Elizabeth Bentley sent through an email re tennis from the Northbrook sports teacher) Extra sessions are :

4 pm-4.45 Local primary schools

5 pm - 6 pm Family sessions - £1 for 1 adult plus 1 child

There will be posters in gardens and at Hither Green station.

It was asked if the lines and posts on the courts could be improved fixed and re painted. AW said this would be done.

AW said Glendales will do the athletic tracks again if requested by the schools. Requests for asked for Drama and Theatre activities – none so far planned.

#### 8. Youth Bus Visit – Rolling Bus

The first visit had been on the previous Saturday – not hugely attended but it was felt this was early days – the project was seen as worthwhile and positive and it would be useful to get feed back on the following sessions. Thus far it is the only facility supported by the Youth Services in Lewisham here.

9.Safer Neighbourhood Team represented by Lewis Stuart, was asked to look into the issues of youngsters climbing on the park walls and being a ‘nuisance and intimidating ‘ to house owners.

LS said that they were patrolling Park early evening and would pass back the comments requesting more policing of the ‘quieter’ areas of the Gardens.

PR said that with the completion of the Manor House he envisaged more issues that will require ‘policing’ within and around the Gardens.

When it was asked about patrolling on weekends, LS said the Team only worked one in three.

9.Clarification on the actions and future of Dogs in the park was asked of AW. He confirmed that dogs don’t have to be on a lead but must be under control.

AW also confirmed that dogs were not going to be excluded from the park in the future.

#### 10 Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at either the Café or Manor House.

#### AOB

PR commented on the lack of flowers in the Gardens.

Signs for advertising events on railings. What is permissible? Community Events only ( not huge Circus ones) AW admitted that this must be looked into.

Nesting boxes on lake need attention.