

# BOGGART HOLE CLOUGH COMMUNITY ACTION TRUST

Protecting and revitalizing Boggart Hole Clough Ancient Woodland Park

## Minutes

### of Executive Committee Open Meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006

at Boggart Hole Clough Visitor Centre, Charlestown Road, Manchester, M9 7DF.

Manchester City Council (MCC) departments – **ML**: Manchester Leisure, **NMP**: North Manchester Partnership (**NCA**: North City Arts, **Zest**: Healthy Living Project).

**1. Present:** Ada Nzeribe (NCA Cultural Regeneration officer), Barry Noble (ML Play Areas Development manager), Basil Curley (Charlestown councillor), Daniel Ilisevic (Dam Head RA member), Eric Hobin (Charlestown councillor), Ian Lees (GMP Plant Hill Police Station sergeant), Kylie Ward (ML North Area Parks manager), Mark Hackett (Trust deputy chair, Charlestown councillor, MCC Executive member for Culture & Leisure), Mervyn Romain, Pam Angelucci (Crosslee TARA member), Peter Milner (Trust secretary), Shelly Meadows (Our Lady's RC Sports College teacher), Shirley McCardell (*Zest* Harpurhey & Moston Hub coordinator), Suzanne O'Callaghan.

**2. Apologies** for absence: Jean Finch, Sam McCormick.

**3. Resignation.** Letter 28.2.06 from Sam notifying that due to family circumstances regretfully resigning as Treasurer. Peter requested to write thanking Sam for her enthusiastic and energetic work. Prior to meeting Jean indicated willing to be Treasurer pro tem until AGM and perhaps beyond. Elected unanimously.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting 30.11.05** (revised Minutes dated 1.3.06) agreed as true record.

**5. ML management** (see also items 6, 7, 8, etc).

**5.1 Tree Preservation Order (TPO)** application for 16 trees, within David Lewis Recreation Ground perimeter, along Lewis Avenue. Kylie: "*New legislation should mean it's okay to apply a TPO in this case...*"

**5.2** Survey (carried out 25.2.06 by Neil Ashton & Peter: results being compiled) of Ancient Woodland **trees felled without MCC authorization** during November and December 05 by groups of offenders supervised by Probation Service in 3 areas of Clough. Basil: "*...This is criminal activity...Don't give offenders saws, take the saws off them...What on earth are we letting them in the Park for?...must be proper agreements about what done, what not done...*"

**5.3** English Nature **Local Nature Reserve (LNR)**. Kylie says, following discussions with Jon Follows (MCC Environmental Strategy officer), that application to designate Clough as LNR set for 2007-8.

**5.4 Rochdale and Charlestown Roads corner**, site of building demolished 2004. Kylie has quotes: £1.5K to take down mistakenly built high wall, £6K to replace with railings. Idea for city-wide scheme of *beacon trees*, e.g. Giant Redwood at rear of this corner area.

**5.5 Boathouse.** Letters 16.1.06 and 21.1.06 from Peter to Kylie: "*...Some members believe the Boathouse is an underused, underdeveloped, largely wasted asset. At least a quarter of the interior is partitioned off for no purpose beneficial to the Clough. The partition could be removed...to create a flexible community space for holding workshops, meetings, performances, exhibitions, etc...which would significantly enhance the Clough's community events...whilst simultaneously increasing the capacity and custom of the café...The Trust could perhaps obtain a grant for this interior remodelling...*" Letter 6.2.06 from Kylie to Peter: "*...I have asked David Wilson (present Boathouse Café leaseholder) to prepare a draft plan for the future of the Boathouse and surrounding areas. I am happy for the Trust to view any plans and make comment. I would also be happy to support any partnership that is formed between the Trust and David Wilson...*" Copies of correspondence distributed.

**5.6 Lakeside Café hygiene.** Suggestion that promenade in front of Boathouse should be hosed down every morning to wash away bird droppings so more hygienic for customers sitting outside.

**5.7 Shackliffe Green/White Walk**, upper reach of Clough, landfilled 1960s with domestic waste. Eric: "*By historical accident this area is responsibility of MCC Education Department but they put nothing into managing it. If incorporated into Park under ML management should see improvements...*" Agreed write MCC Executive to get this resolved.

**5.8** Mervyn says that cars park along both sides of winding section of Charlestown Road adjacent to Booth Hall Hospital causing **dangerous congestion**; cars park there because charges for parking in Hospital carpark. Action ?

**6. Conservation** (see also items 5, 8.4, 8.5, etc).

**6.1 Restoring Ancient Woodland biodiversity** (see also items 5.1 to 5.4). Nature Conservation Group & Wildlife Gardening Club volunteers – particular thanks to regulars Neil Ashton, Rose Mason, Sue Dippnall, Tristan Jones - working with Peter on Saturdays: clearing invasive Rhododendron from area above Avenue between Fish Pond Clough and Middle Clough.

**6.2** *Zest* have offered £300 contribution towards covering **Conservation Volunteers' expenses** (administration, insurance, safety clothing, tools, site materials, refreshments, etc). Offer accepted with thanks.

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### 7. Health activities, Play & Sports (see also items 6.1, 8.4, 8.5, 9.1, etc).

7.1 *Wheels for All/Cycling Projects* and *Zest* scheme enabling disabled people to ride adapted cycles in Clough on regular basis. Ann Williams & Saul Mearns (ML North Area Parks wardens) now running weekly Wednesday sessions on Athletics Track.

7.2 **Children's Play facilities** (see also item 9.1). Present provision consists of under 12s playground and multi-court area on David Lewis Rec. On opposite side of Clough presently no play facilities; playground at rear of Visitor Centre fell into disrepair/removed early 1980s. In this area need for playgrounds for all age ranges; also demand for skateboarding facility (a playground suits a particular age group; a skatepark suits all age groups). Heaton Park's Play Area (opened 2003): adventurous, imaginative, popular; scheme for Clough should be equally exciting, innovative, memorable. Lot of local interest and support. Consult widely including with children re planning/choosing designs. Basil: "*We need dedicated paid officer sitting at centre of project...*" Barry: "*Scheme could be built in stages...MCC policy to create 2 new playgrounds each year...We could perhaps generate extra money through bidding jointly for grants with local schools...I'll get together some costs and designs...*"

### 8. Arts & Heritage (see also items 5.5, etc).

8.1 **Carol Singing** 7.12.05 at Visitor Centre, with Blackley Brass Band accompanying – well attended.

8.2 **Funding 8.8.04 Brass Bands Concert**. Voluntary Action Manchester (VAM) Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest final grant reporting. Closure letter 1.12.05 with £2K cheque: deposited Trust a/c - to be paid to NCA when invoiced.

8.3 **Summer Sunday Lakeside Afternoon Concerts**. Ada: "*...this year perhaps contain concerts within August, themeing each event...*" Suggestions for themes: Tea Dance, Mambo Dance, Andean Flute Band, Steel Band, Wind instruments, Jazz, World Music. Keep acoustic, not electric. Favourites from 2005: Marimba Soloist, Saxophone Quartet.

8.4 **Local Schools History & Arts Boggart Project** (see also item 8.5). Three MCC CAS:H grants totalling £9K awarded: £6K for 4 schools (£1.5K per school) in Charlestown Ward (Charlestown Primary, Crosslee Primary, St John Bosco Primary and North Manchester Boys High), £1.5K for 1 school in Harpurhey Ward (Holy Trinity Primary), £1.5k for 1 school in Moston Ward (Moston Fields Primary) - funding for consultant artist's fee, 2 community artists' fees, artists' materials, transport costs, etc. Budget managed by *Zest*. Development meeting 11.1.06 at NMP office.

8.5 Proposed new **St John's Eve Event** 23.6.06 (pilot event with idea of annual event), complementing Local Schools History & Arts Boggart Project which works up to this event (item 8.2). Development meeting: same as item 8.2. Event celebrating Clough's heritage (including Schools Boggart Project exhibition, documentary exhibition exploring Clough's literary connections, talks re 19<sup>th</sup> century local resident, radical & writer, Samuel Bamford, dialect prose, poetry & musical performances, lantern procession commemorating traditional gathering of St John's Fern seeds on St John's Eve) and 10 preparatory events (poetry evenings, lantern-making workshops). Green Space *Park It!* £5,000 grant bid, submitted 29.10.05: unsuccessful. VAM *Community Learning Chest* £1,713.73 grant bid: successful (23.2.06 letter) - funding for flyers & posters, lanterns & exhibition materials, refreshments for preparatory events, musicians & speakers fees, etc. Thanks to Heather Mawhinney (PhD in Comparative Literature) for writing grant applications and for taking on role of project facilitator. Development meeting to be arranged.

### 9. Security issues (see also items 5.2, etc).

9.1 **Persistent illegal off-road motorcycling** (see also item 7.2). Law needs enforcing. Ian: "*We need addresses where these bikes are kept so we can confiscate and crush/cube them...There's a shop on Old Market Street, Blackley Village, that sells off-road motorbikes; we tried to close it down but we couldn't...*" Giving young people wide range of play/sports facilities should alleviate problems of illegal motorcycling and other anti-social behaviour, e.g. in Clough providing new children's playgrounds and skatepark, and somewhere in North Manchester providing legal indoor and/or outdoor off-road motorcycling facility. Mark: "*People are clear they don't want off-road motorcycling facility in Clough with houses so close. There are potential sites in lower Irk Valley...BMX (robust pedal bicycles) don't have engines, don't make noise, but they provide element of risk for riders...Challenge to persuade people off motorbikes onto BMX...state-of-the-art BMX facility next to Velodrome with specially constructed tracks...*" Shelly: "*...require public information campaign advising parents to buy BMX rather than motorbikes.*"

9.2 **Truancy**. Letter 25.1.06 from Mark to North Manchester Boys High School headteacher: "*...at BHCCAT, problems of students being present in the Clough during school hours without apparently having permission, have...been noted...*" Copies of letter distributed. Ian: "*We carry out Police truancy sweeps...*"

10. **Treasurer's report** (see also items 3, 6.2, 8.2, 8.5, etc). Current account (Trust's only a/c) balance at 1.3.06 of £2,814.11p. Copies of accounts distributed.

11. Next meeting: **Annual General Meeting** - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 06, 6.30 p.m., Visitor Centre.