

Hackney Environment News

Autumn 2003

London Fields User Group + Lido

Following our successful "SwimTime @ London Fields" event in July 2003 where over 1000 people were introduced to the plans for our Lido and 160 people were shown around the Lido site. We organised a further information meeting at the London Fields Junior School at Westgate Street (facing the Fields) on October 7th as a further introduction to this 50 metre Lido and the role of the London Fields User Group. A model of the design of the Lido was on display.

Mike Martin, the Chair of the meeting, gave a brief history of the User Group and the part they played in saving the Lido. Jon Aldenton of the Environment Trust, one of the developers, went into further details of what developments were possible now. Brian Brinkley, an Olympic medal winner for swimming spoke about the extreme shortage of 50m pools in Britain. He compared the 17 remaining 50m pools in England with the 18 in Paris alone.

This was followed by a Question and Answer session with the developers, Jon Aldenton of the Environment Trust, Matthew Lloyd of Matthew Lloyd Architects and Mike Martin of the London Fields User Group. Danny Russell, a regular swimmer in the audience, told us of her experiences with Market Sports the proposed management group for the pool. She had used 2 of their pools and expressed how well they were run with reasonable prices.

At the AGM we will raise the possibility of forming a Community Trust in order to obtain vital funding needed for further development. This is where we will need your support.

BLACK FENCE GONE

At last the black fence in the middle of the Fields, around the red sand pitch, has gone. Michael Dixon the parks manager informed us it would be going but I did not expect to see it go so soon. The centre of the Fields looks so much brighter and open now. We have plans for its development but we know that there is no funding available as yet.

E-MAIL YOUR COUNCILLOR

Your local Hackney Councillor is the person to get in touch with general complaints, problems or giving support to our London Fields proposals.

Chair: Mike Martin: mike101.martin@virgin.net