



Friends of St. George's Park, Planning Group meeting
Friday 4th December 2009, Children's Centre, Radford Avenue

Present

Spike (SP) – Chair
Justin Bryant (JB) – Secretary
Roger Mayo (RM) – Resident
Mumshad Ahmed (MA) – Cllr & Resident
Fran Oborski (FO) – Treasurer
Gehardt Kruckow (GK) – Resident
Chris Martin (CM) – Resident
Sue Tew (ST) – St George's Church
Brian Cornibert (BC) – PCSO West Mercia Police
Robin Piper (RP) – West Mercia Police

Apologies

Paul O'Sullivan (PO) - Community Housing Warden
Sian Lloyd (SL) – Resident
Shaun Healey (SH) – Resident
Jason Thomas (JT) – West Mercia Probation Trust Partnerships Manager
Howard Martin (HM) – Cllr & Resident
Deb Johnson – (DJ) – PCSO West Mercia Police

1. Welcome & introductions

- 1.1. **SP** welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves

2. Update on Actions not covered on agenda

- 2.1. **Signatories** – **SP** has dropped the forms off to **CM**. **JB** has completed form to remove **JD** as a signatory. Once all forms are completed for new signatories ID will need to be taken to Nationwide.

ACTION – SP & FO to organise

Update – **SP** is now added as a signatory to the FoSG bank account. **JB** will ensure that Justin Daniels is now removed as a signatory. **FO/CM** will liaise with **SP/JB** on being accompanied to Nationwide to add their signatures.



3. Funding Update

3.1. **JB** gave the following update to the BITP budget

Funding for event - £450.00

Actual Spend (budget distributed) - £434.17

Remainder - £15.83

The group agreed that the remaining £15.83 could be contributed towards a dog fouling sign in the park.

ACTION – JB to get costings

3.2. **FO** gave the following update to the group

Out

£434.17 - BITP

In

£450.00 – WFCSP BITP funding

Unrestricted funds = £425.12

Restricted Funds = £6769.00

Total - £7194.12

3.3. £500 Worcestershire County Council Funding – **JB** explained that FoSG has arts based funding remaining in the budget. It was originally bid for by the group to continue funding the Samba classes (which unfortunately didn't work out). Various ideas were discussed on how this money could best benefit the area. It was agreed that a good use of the funding would be to engage the local young people who currently use the park in an arts project in the youth hut. Ideas included a graffiti project? **FO** suggested talking with Loz Samuels WFDC about this. **CM** also suggested speaking with local artist who might be interested in the work? **ST** suggested that some type of sculpture/earthworks/totem pole could be a nice feature. This idea will be explored along with the others.

ACTION – CM discuss with local artists

ACTION – JB will contact LS to discuss

ACTION – JB will feedback ideas to group at next meeting

4. **Bark in the Park** – **SP** gave an update to the group on the BITP event held on November 21st. The day was a great success despite the rain with over 120 'doggy' bags given out to dogs and their owners. These contained treats for the dogs and information on responsible dog ownership for the owners. 4 x charities were invited and all were able to raise money, Vales vets gave free dog dental health checks and Rod Wilson gave free dog training advice which was very popular.

RP passed on the apologies of the West Mercia Police dog unit who were due to attend but were called out on a job.

Forest Dog Rescue has offered to plan a 'Fun Dog Show' in the park during the summer. The group thought this was a great idea and will take them up on this offer.



5. Urban Meadow Project

- 5.1. The bid to O2 was not successful. The original bid submitted in September was carried over until the October funding panel. This resulted in the bid not meeting the new 'youth focus' criteria. The group were disappointed with this. **JB** has feedback to O2 that we were unhappy with this process.
- 5.2. Following advice from Sheena Griffiths it has been agreed to include the Urban Meadow as part of the Big Lottery Community Spaces bid (see below)
- 5.3. In order to firm up the wildlife aspect of the bid **JB** will arrange a meeting with Paul Allen & **GK**
ACTION – JB to make contact with Paul Allen and discuss

6. Lottery Bid

- 6.1. **SP & JB** met with Sheena Griffiths, External Funding Manager West Mercia Police, on Friday 9th October. Following this meeting Sheena has completed a draft copy of the application. SP asked the group to provide some input into this application by suggesting words that could be used when answering the following questions. This information will be passed to **SG** as part of the group's feedback. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- 6.2. **Q11 – Current condition of the park?** – Improving, changing, ongoing, attractive, reintegrated, playful, green, not easy to walk around, not intuitive, poor layout, bad lighting, dark, no signage.
- 6.3. **Q14 – What will happen as a result of this project?** – Safer routes in and around the park, Increased people using it, Meadow will get young people involved in the park from an early age, user friendly, entire community accessing it, you can walk around it, you could wander in it, more people using at night because of lighting, more families using it, educational facility (meadow), young people involved in the park, investment in the area, social capital.
- 6.4. In order to keep the timescales to a minimum the group agreed that **JB, SP & FO** could work with **SG** on the rest of the form and submit it on behalf of the group.

7. Wildlife

- 7.1. **JB** apologised for putting a picture of the wrong type of Owl in the last newsletter.
- 7.2. **GK** is setting up a bird box with a viewing section. This will be at the end of his garden – viewing into the park.
- 7.3. **GK** recently visited a park in Birmingham that had several projects/initiatives that we might want to look in our park.
 - **Leaves** – as leaves a great food & habitat source for bugs etc (which feed the birds) they collect up the fallen leaves and deposit in compost heaps (neatly in



pens) around the park. Community members are welcome to take compost home for their gardens and it can also be used around the park.

- **Deadwood** – they have several logs etc around the park that is left to rot. This provides a vital winter food source for the birds etc.
- As previously mention **JB** will arrange a meeting with Paul Allen, Conservation & Countryside Officer & **GK. ACTION JB**

7.4. The group agreed that both ideas were really good. Some practical concerns about the leaves but it's an idea that would benefit the park, the local community & WFDC Parks department. The deadwood could be incorporated into Urban Meadow project. Both ideas will be fed back to WFDC via the planned site meeting in January 2010.

7.5. Members of the group noticed that a Conifer tree, next to the MUGA, had been cut down and the Pyracantha at the Coventry street end of the park. Several community members have asked representatives of the group why this has been done. The group are unsure why this has been done therefore could not answer. The group felt that this information could have been included in the recent newsletter which would have informed the immediate community. **JB** will relay this information to WFDC Parks Dept. The group agreed that it could be useful to include this type of info in future newsletters.

8. Newsletter

8.1. **JB** thanked **GK, SP & SL** for distributing the Nov 2009 newsletters.

8.2. The group agreed that the next newsletter will be ready for distribution at the beginning of April 10. **JB** will have draft copy for March 2010 meeting. **JB** will ask **SP, GK & WFDC** for short reports so they can be included.

8.3. The group agreed it could focus on the proposed event/activity on Saturday April 24th to celebrate St. George's Day (April 23rd) – See AOB

9. Probation Update

9.1. **JB** has sent the initial project list to Probation and has emailed Alan Breen to ask if there is any other specific work that an unpaid work party could do in the park.

9.2. **JB** mentioned that Probation have sent a press release to the Kidderminster Shuttle detailing the great work they have done with Friends of St. George's WFDC & St. George's Park. The press release does sort of imply that FoSG obtained the funding for the BMX track & MUGA which is not true. **JB** has contacted Joe Scully to clarify. The group agreed it was a good sign of Probations ongoing commitment to the park.



10. AOB

- 10.1. **Site Meeting – SP** proposed that in order to make the site meetings with WFDC more effective it would be arranged for **SP, JB & GK** to meet with a representative of WFDC Parks Department. The next meeting will be arranged for early January 2010.
- 10.2. **Membership – MA** enquired how many members the group currently has. **SP** explained that there are currently 70 group members, 12 organisational members and over 70 members of the Facebook site. The 70 group members include people who only want to receive information on what the group is doing etc. The 'active' members are those that meet on a regular basis at these meetings. This number is approx 25. **MA** also mentioned that the group needs to engage with the young people who currently use the park. **SP** said how the group had been currently doing this by setting up the Facebook site for the park. This is a great way for local young people to comment on the park without attending the meetings. It was suggested that a leaflet could be produced giving details of the facebook site. These could be distributed to local schools & to the young people in the park. The group agreed this is a good idea. **JB** will take forward

ACTION JB to develop a draft leaflet

- 10.3. **Grassroots Funding – JB** explained there is a new pot of funding available. Community groups can apply for £250 - £5k. The group suggested projects/ideas this could be used for. It was agreed that a 'Welcome' sign/Lockable & damage proof notice board would be a good idea. **SP & JB** will discuss with WFDC as part of site meeting, get costings and submit application on behalf of the group.

ACTION SP & JB - Complete Grassroots application

- 10.4. **St. George's Day Event –** the group agreed to plan a community event (probably Saturday 24th April 2010) to coincide with celebrations to mark St. Georges Day (April 23rd 2010). The nature of the event is not decided but the group agreed that it should be an inclusive event that challenges any negative associations with the popular view of 'St. George's Day'. The event will aim to bring the diverse communities of the Horsefair together. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

ACTION – Discuss at next meeting

- 10.5. **Music event in summer – GK & SP** suggested that we should look to organise some type of music event for the summer. The group agreed this would be a great idea. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION – Discuss at next meeting

- 10.6. **Boxing Club – RP** informed the group about the Boxing Club that the Police have organised for young people from the Horsefair area. It will be starting in January 2010 and will specifically target young people who are currently using the park. The exact evening this is starting has not yet been confirmed. **RP** will keep the group informed



- 10.7. **Church Coffee Morning 18th December** – **ST** passed around invitations to the 'Coffee Shop' being held in St. George's Church on Fridays. On the 18th December there will be free mince pies. **ST** also requested that future copies of the FoSG newsletter are given to the church. **JB** will ensure this happens.
- 10.8. **Bark in the Park** – **SP** thanked **JB** & **ST** for their hard work on the day.
- 10.9. **SP** thanked everyone for coming, for their support this year and wished all a happy holidays.
- 10.10. **SP** also confirmed the next year meeting dates as:

Friday 8th January 2010 – **PLEASE NOTE** – This is the 2nd Friday of the month

Friday 5th February 2010

Friday 5th March 2010

Friday 2nd April 2010

Friday 7th May 2010

Friday 4th June 2010

Friday 2nd July 2010 – **Annual General Meeting**

NO MEETING - August 2010

Friday 3rd September 2010

Friday 1st October 2010

Friday 5th November 2010

Friday 3rd December 2010

All meetings will be 7-8pm, Rainbow Children's Centre, Radford Avenue

Copies of minutes also sent to:

Graham Ballinger – Councillor

Lucie Manning – Resident

Dave Timmins – Resident

Shazu Miah – Resident

Louise Meeson – West Mercia Constabulary, Sergeant

Paul Harrison – Councillor



Friends of St. Georges Park are supported by the Horsefair, Broadwaters & Greenhill Partnership



Additional information added following the meeting – Agenda item 7.5

WFDC Parks activity. Alan Breen has been able to confirm the following recent activity:

- WFDC removed the conifer as it was out on its own and was not a good very good specimen.
- They removed the Pyracantha by Coventry Street end of park in anticipation of new gate (this will be part of the Lottery funding application)
- The hedge to right of Radford Ave entrance (alongside tennis court) has been completely removed to provide visibility for play area. This is to make it more accessible to families and help them feel safe using the park.
- The hedge to left of Radford Ave entrance (alongside BMX track) will be staying but will significantly reduced in height to provide increased visibility of this area.

WFDC – Proposed work to be carried out week commencing 14.12.09

- Just behind the hut (ring road side) there are 3 x hedges and a planted area. These will all be removed and the area will be grassed. All established plants taken out will be replanted at rear of paddling pool. Again this will 'open up' the walkways providing more natural surveillance of the park.
- 'Lift' lower branches of Holly tree (on main pathway in park) this will help reshape it into a 'tree' shape rather than a large shrub. This will also help the neighbouring Beech hedge to flourish.

WFDC – Proposed work to be carried out January 2010

- To offset the impact of hedge removal in the park a Hawthorn hedge will be planted to the left side of the tennis court (along boundary wall).

