



## Friends of St. George's Park

Friday 7th September 2012, 7-8pm,  
The Blue Bell, Hurcott Road, Kidderminster.

**Present:** John Stevenson, (JS), Carol O'Brien, (CO), Rob Brown, (RB), Nicky Griffiths, (NG), Sue Tew, (ST), Howard Martin, (HM), Fran Oborski, (FO). Justin Bryant (JB), Roger Mayo, (RM), Andy Forbes, (AF), Kelly Irvine, (KI), Spike Betterton, (SB), Emily Moore, (EM). Gehardt Kruckow, (GK),

**Apologies:** Monika Boehmer, Mary Rayner, Alan Breen, (AB) Adrian Sewell.

1. JS welcomed all and introduced the new committee members to those present.

JS, Chair. CO, Vice Chair, RB, Treasurer. ST, Membership Secretary. SB, Secretary.

2. Finance summary & agree signatories. No transactions have occurred since last update. With change of committee members signatories on Nationwide passbook need to change. FO and JB to come off. RB and JS to be added. RB, JS, and SB (the three signatories), to arrange a convenient time for all three to sign passbook at Nationwide.

3. Location of future meetings, due to the closure of the Sure Start Centre in Radford Ave. a new / temporary venue needs to be agreed. All agreed to research local venues before next meeting. (This to be Blue Bell again unless advised otherwise).

a. FO following up future of centre with County Council.

**4.** Co-op Nursery, JS updated group on his correspondence with the Co-operative Childcare that have recently purchased the former Edward Parry Centre adjacent to the park. They hope to be represented at future meetings. The group agreed that this was welcome news and hope to form a strong relationship with them.

a. JS has raised the condition of the boundary walls of former Coventry St School with Joe Scully at WFDC. He is making enquiries into ownership.

**5.**

a. The group discussed the recent Coffee in the Park event. AF and KI representing the Police that ran them agreed that they had been successful in discouraging Anti-Social Behaviour and interacting with residents. It is hoped to run them on the second Friday of the month for the next few months. The use of the group's Event Here Today banner would be useful to lessen the possible negative impact of passers-by seeing a police van in the park. The group offered to support where possible and to explore whether it would be feasible for them to organise a similar event on alternate weeks to those planned.

B.The group discussed whether they could run an event as part of 'The Big Draw' in the October half term and what they could do for it. Suggestions included artwork on temporary boards and chalk work on the slabs surrounding the paddling pool. Discussions would continue before next meeting. Enquiries would also be made as to whether WFDC are running an event that week in the park.

Carols in the Park: Friday 14th Dec

St. George's Day event: Saturday 20th April 2013

JB will assist in booking park and advise on risk assessments.

**6.**

a. An order for extra benches will be placed as soon as possible once costs and available budget are agreed.

b. SB informed group that there was a recurrence of the damage to trees caused by bark being torn off by dogs. At least one tree has been 'ringed' and will need to be removed. Group will look into what preventative measures are available including greasing trunks. AB had stated that the hedges will be cut by the end of September. Bad weather and bird breeding season had delayed the cutting this year.

c. Group was thankful to WFDC for keeping the paddling pool open over the summer and extending this period after the school holidays had finished. It was agreed that the pool is a great asset to the park and was enjoyed by a great many during the summer.

d. After feedback from youngsters in the park it is suggested that a secure bike rack be installed. JS had sourced bike hoops at a reasonable cost and it was agreed that if possible the group would arrange to have four installed between the notice board and MAPA. FO offered to supply funding. If possible it was hoped that we could publicize bike safety and security at the Big Draw event at half term. AF and KI to investigate police involvement in this.

e. There had been a request for some form of netting or raised fencing on the MAPA (Multi Activity Play Arena). The group would look into the feasibility of this.

7. ST informed the group that the history/nature trail project was progressing. This is hoped to include St. George's Church, Park and Baxter Gardens Park. She thanked GK for his detailed wildlife contribution. All agreed to help where possible.