



Friends Of St. George's Park

Friday 5th October 2012, 7-8pm,
The Blue Bell, Hurcott Road, Kidderminster.

Present: John Stevenson, (JS), Carol O'Brien, (CO), Rob Brown, (RB), Sue Tew, (ST), Justin Bryant (JB), Roger Mayo, (RM), Spike Betterton, (SB), Emily Moore, (EM). Mary Rayner, Alan Breen, (AB), Susie Mactaggart, Lee Hutton (Park Patrol)

Apologies: Howard Martin,(HM), Fran Oborski,(FO), Andy Forbes,(AF) Mumshad Ahmed,(MA), Nicky Griffiths

1. JS welcomed all to meeting

2. RB reported that new signatories (RB,JS,SB) had all signed new passbook. £200 had been received from Worcestershire County Council on behalf of FO this is to be spent on the bike racks etc. £50 had been banked (£46 proceeds of pub quiz and £4 plant sales).

3. Sure Start Centre. JS, CO, FO, MA and SB had met with Amanda Galvin from property services at WCC to discuss future of the building. It was felt that this was a positive meeting and that hopefully we may be able to use it for meetings / storage again in the future. CO mentioned about logging an interest in the building for possible asset transfer should it come up for sale. It was agreed that this would be sensible. RB informed group of possible sources of funding and support available through the Urban Forum and it was agreed that the group sign up to it. RB and CO to do so and order information book from the same.

4. Co-op Nursery, JS informed group that Co-op hoped to have a manager available from mid October to liaise with. It was agreed that the group would transplant some of the chutney hedge saplings in order for the nursery to re-open the gates into the park should they wish to use them.

5.

a. Police will be running the Coffee in the Park event on the second Friday of the month. The group would have liked to run a similar event on

alternate Fridays but lack of time and facilities prevent this. They would therefore continue to support Police event when possible. ST raised the fact that young children often attended the evening Sunday service at Church in order to keep warm /dry.

b.CO informed group that the park is provisionally booked for 1st Nov. We hope to run an event in the afternoon as part of The Big Draw. Idea is to obtain large 8'x4' boards and attach to MAPA and/or paddling pool railings.

These could then be drawn on with chalks or charcoal as could the slabs surrounding the paddling pool. Committee will meet again and discuss

c. As part of next year's Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF13) it is hoped to hold a prestigious children's event in the park. Loz Samuels from Wyre Forest DC is hoping to meet with some members of the group to discuss. Group agreed that they could provide ancillary events and refreshments for this. ST to raise with St. George's Church.

6.

a. New Benches: The wording for the one using Vale's Veterinary Group donation had been agreed. Group agreed to mark the Jubilee with another and hopefully the 85th anniversary of the park with a third.

b. Tree damage continues. Preventative measures to be researched. SB to liaise with WFDC and all members urged to be vigilant to identify offenders.

c. AB informed group that it is hoped to re-surface the paddling pool next year and to install a water filter and automatic chemical dosing equipment. The group were delighted at this news of investment into what is regarded as a valuable park asset.

d. CO had contacted Spokes about supplying 'Bike Hoops'. Prices were favourable and it was agreed that CO should order 5. Spokes would be asked to have a presence at the official launch which is hoped to coincide with the Big Draw on 1st Nov. The supply of bike safety and security equipment would be investigated with the police (AF) and safety partnership approached (JB). AB and SB to meet in park to discuss positioning 'hoops'.

e. MAPA netting. AB informed the group that the cost of netting would be prohibitive.

7. ST informed the group that a preliminary map of the park had been produced and that plans were progressing. It is hoped to link with Baxter Gardens Park and St. George's Churchyard. SB to liaise with ST about park history.

8. QEII fields: AB to look into the registration process.

9. RM raised concerns over council vans parking on the grass when in the park and rubbish being shredded when mowing took place. It is hoped next year to have a mowing schedule so that 'litter picks' can be performed in advance.

AB raised the availability of Section 106 money and what it could be spent on. The group agreed that lighting has always been a priority near to the shelter. AB will discuss with SB at their meeting in the park.

ST invited all to share in a 'Harvest Barbecue' at the church on Sunday 7th October at 12.30.

Next meeting to be at The Blue Bell, Hurcott Rd. 2nd November 7.pm unless otherwise informed.