

# Friends of St George's Park

## 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011



### Present

Spike Betterton - SB (Chair)  
 Gehardt Kruckow - GK  
 Roger Mayo - RM  
 Sue Tew - ST  
 Justin Bryant - JB  
 Alan Breen - WFDC - AB  
 John Stevenson - JS  
 Gary Brookfield - GB  
 Carol O'Brien - CO  
 Rob Brown - RB  
 Adrian Sewell - AS

### Apologies

Monika Boehmer  
 Nicky Griffiths  
 Fran Oborski  
 Howard Martin  
 Stan Reeves  
 Mumshad Ahmed

Who	What
1	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB welcomed everyone to the meeting.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JB updated the group                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £3,352.14 in the account</li> </ul> <p>Broken down as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Funds - £894.40</li> <li>○ Events Budget - £957.74</li> <li>○ Meadow Project - £500.00</li> <li>○ Benches - £1000.00</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We also have £1500 from Cllr M.Ahmed Divisional Fund - Chq will be issued by Vestia. (not included in the totals above)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Funding bids</li> </ul> <p>Awaiting outcome of the Natwest funding process. The group agreed it was a difficult process to navigate and will not be doing it next year.</p>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Hedge Planting - 15<sup>th</sup> November PM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 420 Trees arriving 8<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>• Planting with St. George's School after lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• SB asked for volunteers to help prepare the ground and assist the groups of children with the planting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nicky Griffiths</li> <li>○ Cookie</li> <li>○ John</li> <li>○ Sue</li> <li>○ Justin</li> <li>○ Spike</li> <li>○ Roger</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AB confirmed that WFDC will send down 2 employees who will help plant, supervise and remove rubbish.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Benches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB informed the group that the benches are due to be delivered next week and it is hoped they will be fitted in the park week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.</li> <li>• SB led a discussion on the idea of purchasing a picnic bench for the top field using the Worcestershire County Council Divisional Funding from Cllr M.Ahmed.</li> </ul> <p>The group agreed this would be a good idea would enhance the wildflower meadow plan.</p> <p>AB suggested there are benches made from 100% recycled materials. The group liked this idea.</p> <p><b>ACTION - AB to send details and prices to JB so he can distribute to the group.</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Meadow Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kissing Gate</b> - AB confirmed the agreed gate (DDA compliant) has been ordered and is due to be delivered mid December. It will be fitted as part of the winter works programme.</li> <li>• <b>Conifers</b> - SB confirmed these were removed by WFDC on 1<sup>st</sup> November. The group thanked AB / WFDC for an excellent job.</li> </ul>

	<p>The stumps will be ground out within the next few weeks and the areas will be replanted with 3 new Sorbus trees.</p> <p>It was noted by the group that they felt informed and consulted in regards to the removal of the Conifer trees. And that it was a good example of how the group and WFDC are working more closely together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wildflower Meadow</b> - The group discussed how and when this could be achieved. AB described the process and explained about annual/perennial sowing.</li> </ul> <p>AB explained that the area could be 'sprayed out' at the end of February. Members of the group felt that they would like to explore other methods of preparation other than using herbicides.</p> <p><b>ACTION - ALL - research methods for preparing seed beds other than using herbicides.</b></p> <p>The group will try to identify funding available to purchase the wildflower seeds. AB suggested that if seen as a priority for the group then some of the Section 106 money available could be targeted to this. The group agreed this would be a good idea.</p> <p><b>ACTION - ALL - group members to source 'free' or cheaper/geographically relevant alternatives.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wildlife</b> - GK reported that the removal has had a slight impact on the park wildlife as it will be a while before the native hedgerows are established. However birds have started to use the neighbouring gardens.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Future Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carols &amp; Mince Pies in the Park - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 5.30 - 6.30pm</b> It was agreed it follow same format as last year with refreshments (mulled wine, hot chocolate &amp; mince pies) served in the park. We will produce a poster and advertise locally (Schools, Churches, and Shops) and ask that people bring a candle/lantern with them. The following equipment is needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CD player</li> <li>○ Rope lights</li> <li>○ Flasks</li> <li>○ Bucket of sand...</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - JB will produce a poster, distribute it and source the required equipment</b></p> </li> <li>• <b>Social event in January</b> - SB explained that FO Baxter Gardens were planning to hold a quiz night in January at a local pub. The group agreed this would be good to support.</li> </ul>

	<p>It was also suggested that a group go out for a meal in January. Ideas suggested were the Chinese, Italian, and Polish Restaurants on Station Hill. The group agreed that this would be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012.  <b>ACTION - JB to get copies of the menu and send out to group.</b></p>
7	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sports Event - 25<sup>th</sup> October 1-3pm</b> - SB thanked ST &amp; Sally Stevenson for volunteering. They gave out free refreshments to young people and families involved with the sports day.</li> <li>• <b>Sculpture (Owl replacement)</b>  JB has made contact with Bishops Wood (Mat Hawes) He charges £150 per day - could complete a carving in 1 day - group provide ideas for a design. It would be through Bishops Wood with the money going to maintaining the facility (as no longer WCC funded)  The group agreed this would be a good use of the remaining stump and that £150 could be used from the general funds. SB suggested it could be done during the community event in April 2012?  <b>ACTION - JB to liaise with Mat Hawes to discuss</b></li> <li>• <b>January Meeting Date</b> - Due to the Christmas holidays the group agreed to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of January (13<sup>th</sup>).</li> <li>• <b>Graffiti in Hut</b> - RM raised the issue that there appears to be a high level of new/inappropriate graffiti in the hut. All agreed that the existing artwork had lasted well but perhaps it was time for it to be refreshed. The group agreed to look for external funding to allow an artist to work with local young people on a replacement mural.  <b>ACTION - JB sources external funding</b></li> <li>• <b>Newsletter</b> - the group agreed that the next newsletter will be issued February 2012 - promoting the work that will take place on the wildflower meadow</li> <li>• <b>Role of Chair</b> - SB informed the group that he intends to step down as chair at the next AGM. He will remain as a committed and active member of the group but feels it's now someone else's turn to take the lead. SB offered to talk to support anyone who is interested.</li> <li>• <b>Memorandum of Understanding</b> - the group were asked to look at and comment on the proposed document drawn up by WFDC. Members of the group suggested they would need time to properly read and digest the document before properly commenting. Some comments made during the brief discussions were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The language is formal and legal so is difficult to understand what it is actually saying.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document is very bureaucratic</li> <li>• The terminology is not 'equal' all of the power is clearly with WFDC</li> <li>• WFDC &amp; Vestia appear to have more 'power' than the groups</li> <li>• The language is very authoritarian</li> <li>• Section 3F - what will be in the schedule?</li> <li>• Insurance - can this be extended to include public liability insurance for the groups? If not it is pretty pointless.</li> <li>• It talks about WFDC removing the groups from the memorandum if they fail to attend 2 consecutive meetings - what about sanctions for WFDC if they do not attend?</li> <li>• What are the sanctions for WFDC if they break any of their obligations as detailed in the document?</li> <li>• If WFDC ask Vestia to withdraw can we still be supported by Vestia?</li> <li>• The parks forum meetings organised by WFDC will need to be in the evenings or at weekends as most of the group work during the day.</li> <li>• We would like the document to state that WFDC will provide a named officer to act as the main point of contact for the group - this will stop us talking to various people in WFDC about the same idea/issue.</li> <li>• "IN WITNESS whereof the parties have signed this Memorandum the day and year first before written" - What does this mean???</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION - ALL - email any other comments/ideas on the document to JB by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011</b></p> <p>SB explained there would be a meeting between representatives of the groups and WFDC so that the groups can formally give feedback. SB asked for volunteers from the group to attend this meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION - JB - email date of meeting once confirmed so people can volunteer</b></p>
8	<p><b>Future meeting dates:</b></p> <p><b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Meeting will be held at the Red Man Pub</b> (JB will meet people at the Childrens Centre, 6.50pm, for those who want to walk down to the pub together)</p> <p><b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b> - Please note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday</p>