Friends of St. Georges Park, Planning Group meeting
Friday 2nd October 2009, Children's Centre, Radford Avenue

Present
Spike (SP) – Chair
Paul O'Sullivan (PO) - Community Housing Warden
Justin Bryant (JB) – Secretary
Roger Mayo (RM) – Resident
Stan Reeves (SR) – West Mercia Probation Trust
Sian Lloyd (SL) – Resident
Mumshad Ahmed (MA) – Cllr & Resident
Fran Oborski (FO) – Treasurer
Deb Johnson (DJ) – West Mercia Constabulary PCSO
Gehardt Kruckow (GK) – Resident

Apologies
Sue Tew (ST) – St George's Church
Shaun Healey (SH) – Resident
Chris Martin (CM) – Resident
Howard Martin (HM) – Cllr & Resident
Jane Abrahams (JA) - Friends of Broadwaters
Mike Abrahams (MAB) – Friends of Broadwaters
Jason Thomas (JT) – West Mercia Probation Trust Partnerships Manager

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. **Report back at the next meeting on how many people have attended the Samba and how much FoSG will need to contribute – JD –** 6 sessions @ £3 = £18.00

2.2. **Find out if tennis coaching sessions are being planned by WFDC Sports Development this year – JB –** JB read out email from Dale Evans giving details of street football in the park during the summer for 8-14 year olds 5-7pm. There will also be street football sessions in the park on a Friday evening 8-9pm for ages 16-19 yrs. This will run from 4th September to 24th October

2.3. **Speak with Loz Samuels to find out if hut artwork will be returned – JB –** JB confirmed that due to damage the artwork has now been removed and the

hut has been painted. The artwork will be returned to KC1 School. The group discussed commissioning some graffiti artwork in the hut. It was agreed that if the artwork was directly on the walls there would be less to damage. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

ACTION – Discuss hut artwork at future meeting

3. AGM Feedback

3.1. **GK** commented that he enjoyed the AGM as it was a chance to look back and see what the group has achieved. The group agreed it was a positive meeting

3.2. **JB** reminded the group of the fact that Joe Scully, Head of Park WFDC, said at the AGM that "99% of the developments in the park have been down to the group"

3.3. **SP detailed the results of the priorities exercise conducted at the AGM. The results have given us the top 3 priorities for this coming year:**

Priorities identified

3.3.1. **Urban Meadow Area**

JB has started the bid to O2 for £1,000 funding and a site meeting has been booked with Alan Breen for Wed 9th September 2.30pm at the park. This meeting will be open for all to attend but will be strictly only about the specification and details of the Urban Meadow project. There will not be time to discuss any other issues with Alan.

HM suggested that we may want to link in with the WFDC Rangers service (Paul Allen). Who may be able to support and advise on the project

ACTION – JB to make contact with Paul Allen and discuss

3.3.2. **More Community Events**

SP informed the group that he and **JB** had submitted a funding application on 30.08.09 to WMC Community Development Fund to put on a 'Bark in the Park' event. This would be an event aimed at dog owners/walkers that will promote responsible dog ownership etc.

Ideas of people to invite included local Vets/RSPCA/dog trainers/Happy Staffies Charity/K9 defence league/Dog photographer/Blue Cross Dog Rescue/Wilsons Pet Stores/Pet Deli/WFDC Dog Wardens- Enforcement.

Funding will be used to provide free dog poop bags, commission a display board on the cultural differences concerning dog ownership & attitudes towards pets, advertising & refreshments. We will know the outcome by 30th September. The group discussed putting on the event even if funding was not secured. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next meeting but one idea could be to charge stallholders in order to fund advertising etc.

The group agreed the provisional date of PM on Saturday 21st November 2009.

ACTION – JB to make contact with charities etc who may be interested in attending

ACTION – Discuss exact details at next meeting

3.3.3 **Community Spaces Bid**

This bid will look at the pathways in the park. **JB** has a meeting arranged with Sheena Griffiths, External Funding Manager WMC, 11.09.08 to discuss the next steps with the application. **SP** requested that he feedback to the group at the next meeting.

4. Funding Update - FO gave the following update to the group

4.1. **Out**

£18 – SAMBA – 6 x sessions @ £3
£12 – FoSG T-shirts for playday & future events

In

£500 – Continuation of Samba /Arts project - WCC
£6269.00 – for Grey Play idea WCC - JB

Unrestricted funds = £409.29
Restricted Funds = £6769.00
Total - £7178.29

4.2. **Propose new signatories** – FO, JB, SP, CM. Forms were given out for completion. Once completed they are to contact JB who will arrange for all to attend Nationwide with ID. The group agreed that we will require 2 out of the 4 signatories in order to withdraw funds.

4.3. **Decisions**

SAMBA - The group decided to continue the weekly funding of the Samba spaces for local young people. If these sessions are successful then the £500 continuation funding will be used to carry the group on. If not then the group will look at what else the funding can be used for.

Grey Play – FO gave an update to the group of the current situation with the grey play funding. She explained that it would now be used in Baxter Gardens and that Vicky Morris had been working with Monica on a 'Peoples Millions' application. Once the outcome of this is known then we will have a greater understanding of what we can do with this funding. FO suggested that WFDC may be able to take the money and order some equipment to store until the further funding is secured.

4.4. **HM** asked if the group had any contact with the current County Cllr in respect to the funds he may be able to allocate to the group. There may be Positive Activities for Young People & Health Funding available. JB explained that

Mumshad Ahmed normally attends the group and he's not here as it is Ramadan. **SP** offered to catch up with **MA** and discuss

ACTION – SP will discuss funding opportunities with Cllr Mumshad Ahmed

5. Newsletter

5.1. Group agreed that the next Newsletter will be produced for delivery at the end of October to advertise the 'Bark in the Park' therefore it will be discussed, and roles agreed, at the next meeting.

5.2. **GK** has produced a wildlife update that can be included in this newsletter

6. Probation Update – Stan Reeves/Jason Thomas

6.1. **SR** explained they have continued to paint the railings around the park. The group thanked them for this and commented that it looked good from the ring road side. **PO** asked if more care could be taken with the finish as on closer inspection it was messy in parts. **SR** acknowledged this and explained there were issues with the paint drying whilst it was on the brush etc.

6.2. **SR** & **JT** thanked **SP** for sending the letter requesting that high vis jackets are not worn in the park. This work party went better without people shouting at them etc.

6.3. **SR** confirmed that once the railings were painted then they would be looking for additional work in the park to continue with.

6.4. **JT** said there may be an opportunity for some funding for the group and he would like to discuss this further. It was agreed that he would meeting with **JB** to discuss
ACTION – JT & JB meet to discuss funding opportunity

6.5. The group thanked Probation for their continued support

7. Wildlife

7.1. **GK** reported that there had been 96 fledglings from the bird boxes put up in the park this year and thanked **SP** & **RM** for their work in keeping an eye on the boxes

7.2. **GK** has written to Worcestershire Wildlife Trust about the positive work that has happened in the park

7.3. **JB** gave **GK** a wildflower catalogue to look through so that he can advise best plants for the Urban Meadow Area

7.4. The group thanked **GK** & **SH** for all of his work with the bird boxes this year

8. AOB

8.1. **Heritage Day 12th Sept** – St. Georges Church have event going on both the Saturday & Sunday. **ST** passed around leaflets

8.2. **Advertising - ST** suggested that the group could advertise in the Parish Magazine. She will pass on the details

8.3. **St. Georges Church Coffee Shop –** Fridays 10am – 12pm all welcome. **ST** explained that it's not a 'service' and the whole community are welcome to come along for a coffee

8.4. **Friends of Baxter Gardens –** 1st meeting held yesterday which went well. Once the group ahs met a couple of times they will decide if they want to amalgamate with FoSG

8.5. **Playday –** July 30th went really well

8.6. **Press release for FoSG – JB** suggested that press release & picture be sent to the Shuttle with the new priorities etc. All agreed.

ACTION JB – to organise

8.7. **Tidy Days** – Greenhill 12th September, Broadwaters 19th September – volunteer needed, all welcome

8.8. **Pictures of the Park – SP** passed around some copies of old pictures of the park. It was suggested that at future events the group could ask people to bring along old pictures of the park which we could collate.

8.9. **Bargain Booze – HM** explained that in October 09 Bargain Booze will be rebranded as a 'Nisa'. The group agreed this will be good for the image of the local neighbourhood and ultimately the park.

9. **Future meeting dates** – 7-8pm, Rainbow Children's Centre, Radford Avenue

SP thanked everyone and confirmed the next meeting dates will be:

Friday 2nd October 2009
Friday 6th November 2009

Copies of minutes also sent to:

Bryan Ryder – Resident
Graham Ballinger – Councillor
Lucie Manning – Resident
Dave Timmins – Resident
Shazu Miah – Resident
Louise Meeson – West Mercia Constabulary, Sergeant
Paul Harrison – Councillor