

Minutes for the Friends of West Park Meeting: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013  
6.30pm

- 1) Apologies – Cllr Grundy, Andy Harrison, Nigel Potter, PC Dean Peacock
- 2) Present – Tony Cooper, Rob George, Neil Brimer & Joanne, Jackie Buckingham, Andrew Buckingham, Ben Ridley, Claire Edwards, Nick Leeming & Pippa Smaling

3) Site Maintenance

Paths: - The price for the paths had gone up considerably; the original price was £2000 for 100 lineal meters. The revised quote for the budget of £8000 was that only 230m of path could be done. Therefore it was decided that the paths be cambered as part of the Richmond close works.

Richmond close works: - There were 6 tenders sent out and 3 have come back. We are looking to start the work march/ april. The friends asked if the proposal could go onto the website.

**Action: Nick Leeming to send Tony Cooper the proposal. TC to forward onto AB. AB to put on the website.**

Ponds: - The work hasn't been done due to the weather conditions; the contractor was waiting until the 1<sup>st</sup> hard frost so that the machinery didn't get stuck.

**Action: PS to check with contractor when they will do the work.**

Bike track: - The gap in the fencing will be repaired once the wire has been delivered. The bike track has been temporarily closed due to the vandalism by motorbikes. Council staff will check the track to see what work needs to be done whether it is a full redress or some sections being redressed while others are swept. There were suggestions to change the track muted at the last meeting therefore the group decided to do a temporary repair as any major work that could potentially take place would need to be discussed further. (See AOB section). The group also asked if they should get a contractor on a retainer to do maintenance. The group decided that the main

priority was to get the motorbike fencing in situ first as any repairs to the track would be wasted if this was not done. **The friends group agreed that £500 could be spent on the track to get it used again.**

**Action: PS to arrange a site visit with Peter Stockdale (Play area officer) to assess the track s surface (once snow has gone)**

#### 4) Events

West Park Activity Day – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 11-4pm

PS asked the group if it would be okay to reduce the size of the marquee from 60 x 40ft to 30 x 20ft as this would allow more of the budget to be spent on other activities for the day. The reason behind the large marquee has been that it could act as a wet weather venue; the group decided that it was okay to reduce the size of the marquee. There is a company called Empire Adventure who have been to previous events at the denes and they did a good deal on 3 activities (such as zorbs, climbing wall & archery) for £800 these activities would be free on the day. They will charge less if the activities have a charge on the day (travel expenses and staff time).

**Action: PS to send brochure around of activities (Empire Adventure)**

Ben Ridley suggested a Birds of Prey show; he is going to ask a family member who does do birds of prey display to see if he is available on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Action: BR to ask family member if they can do a display.**

Other ideas for the event are community stalls and fancy dress etc to get more community involvement. We need to start at the school, they could deliver events e.g. scarecrow comp to bring to the west park event. It would be good if the friends group have a stall to promote the group and sign up new members. We also need to decide on a theme for the event.

If people would like to man a Friends of west park stall please let Pippa know.

**Action: PS/ NB to speak with school regarding competition ideas and how they can be involved at the next community meeting.**

Halloween – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> 6pm, details of the event TBC.

## 5) Community feedback

There is litter and overgrown foliage in west beck behind No. 4 Timothy Hackworth

**Action: PS to ask Habitat team to tidy up area**

Facebook: - NB said that the group had 4 new members, the total is now up to 34 members.

There were lots of people sledging on West Park, Emma Reah (DBC's sports dev team) took her children there and had a great time. She has pictures of people sledging; these would look really good on the website.

**Action: RG to ask EH for sledging pictures so AB can put them onto the website.**

Bike track changes: -

At the last meeting in October a representative from the newly formed 4x club suggested making changes to the track. Any changes to the track would need to be passed by the friends group and a consultation would need to be carried out prior to any development. BR has written a rebuttal to the track changes as he is concerned that changes will be for the more technically skilled rider instead of all abilities.

It was suggested that the 4x group come up with a brief & costings of the changes they would like to be made.

**Action: RG to arrange site visit with Nigel Potter**

Flooding : - Flooding occurring at the boundary of the bike track & Timothy Hackworth. Bussey & Armstrong provided pumps to BR so that he could pump the water away from the property.

**Action: TC to speak with RG regarding this issue.**

## 6) AOB

Trim trail App could be approx £1000 due to different software needed for the range of phones. More research needs to be done on this.

The group asked if a contact page could be added to the website as well as a tool to send out alerts regarding information, events & meetings.

**Action: AB to change the time of the meeting to 6.30pm on the website as well as add the date of the Activity day.**

Green Flag:-

Should we apply? The fee for the application will be paid by the council, not the levy. NB & PS have been working on the 2013 application and believe that we are in a stronger position than we were last year but can't guarantee that we will get it. The feedback by the judges has been taken on board and the management plan has been amended and physical work will be done prior to judging day. Also proposals and plans for physical work such as path improvements have also been added to the document. NB, PS & RG have a meeting to discuss the green flag management plan on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan it was decided by the friends group that a decision would be made at this meeting whether to apply or not.

**Action: NB, PS & RG to make a decision at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

New Leaflet: -

The feedback from green flag raised a suggestion that a new West Park leaflet be produced as there have been new additions to the nature reserve that aren't in the current leaflet i.e. New play area, bike track and new art work. Research into the costings of producing a leaflet is to be made.

**Action: NB to obtain quotes from companies that produce and print leaflets.**

7) Time of next meeting

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013, West Park Café, 6.30pm