



Friends of Broomfield Park

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on 30th January 2017 at Ruth Winston House

www.friendsofbroomfieldpark.org

Chair

Ivor Evans(IE)

Attendance

25 attendees signed in

Apologies

David Burrowes MP, Loretta Hoy (new Public Realm Development Officer PRDO), David Williamson, Karl Brown, Chris Kaufman, Sue Cook(SCo) (late)

Minutes

Agreed. No matters arising.

Membership

Tony Elliott(TE) reported back from committee on difficulty of keeping track of payments. TE had replies from 6 other Friends of Parks groups who all reported similar problems with collecting subscriptions and all of whom had decided not to have any fees.

However, we still need to know our members - according to the constitution .

Derek Honnor raised problem of those who are no longer members still having voting rights. Agreed to check with membership lists when votes are being taken at open meetings.

Updates

Conservatory - currently concerned with horticultural housekeeping. Programme of events for 2017 is available - see Friends website and conservatory noticeboard for details.

Orchard - now in its 8th year since first planting. Next event is Blossom Day, followed by Bee Fun Day and picnic in July. See website and noticeboards for details.

Wildlife Pond and Growing Space - pond was dug out last year and is now being prepared for installation of butyl liner on 9 February. All helpers are welcome - bring wellies, stout gloves, wheelbarrows and spades. A hedge will be planted subsequently.

Wildflower meadows - 2 meadows currently, first is a perennial meadow which is still going but is being dominated by certain flowers; second is an annual meadow. This has not been so successful in its second year. Plan to rotate and have planting on a spiral pattern so it is possible to walk between and to weed.

View expressed that this may make it look more like a garden than a meadow.

Question concerning funding for pond and meadows - £5000 from Enfield Residents Priority Fund and £1000 donation from Ralph and Anne Hutchings. Cost of liner is £3000.

Playground - Tessa Davies thanked Friends for support. Playground group has expanded and has a committee. Have met with Nicky Fiedler, Asst Director Public Realm - Environment - and Matt Watts,

Parks Business Strategy and Partnerships Manager, Enfield Council. They will provide S106 funding of £12k but there is no extra money.

EC had some definite views types of equipment, has to be metal and not wood. Play Quarters will help with funds for a noticeboard. Playground users request more shade and seating and buggy friendly paths. Hoping to have a slope in the playground although this may be beyond budget. Would like more play areas for younger children.

Remembrance Garden- Enfield Council submitted an application to the War Memorial Trust at the end of December for a grant of £60,000 towards the cost of restoration and essential repairs to the Remembrance Garden. The work, which has been recommended by a conservation accredited architect, covers:

1. War Memorial Temple - roof repairs and new stained glass windows replicating the original design.
2. Memorial cairn - repair of damaged stones
3. Terrace paving - repair and replacement of paved areas and steps in front of the Memorial.
4. Pond and fountain - repair of damaged plinth and new urn with working fountain.
5. Bird bath - Levelling the base and new stone bath installed
6. Pergola - replacement of rotten timbers.
7. Entrance archways - repairs to brickwork
8. Handrails installed for disabled access (by the steps under the pergola and at the Broomfield Lane entrance)

We should find out between the middle and end of February whether the application has been successful. It is expected that the shortfall between the actual cost and the grant will be made up by Enfield Council.

There was a discussion about whether handrails could also be installed by the steps leading down to the pond. They are not included in the WMT grant but SY said she would consult Graham Deal at the Council.

The Friends wanted thanks to be conveyed to Graham Deal for all the work he has put into this WMT application.

Palmer's Greenery Community Cafe - 2016 was a good year with new volunteers on board. Plan for 2017 is to consolidate. Thanks given to volunteers and supporters.

Noted that the drinking fountain was vandalised and removed. Need replacement. Also noted that protective bar across the back window needs repair. Letter to Council **ACTION: SCo**

NB. Without Netball League during the winter months takings drop dramatically. On-going maintenance of the courts is a big concern and this winter sessions have been cancelled because of poor upkeep.

Letter to be sent to Cllr Daniel Anderson **ACTION: SCo**

Cafe will soon have idea of profits which can be bidded for - see next Open Meeting for details.

Broomfield House - It was noted that had the 2012 joint Council-Broomfield House Working Group bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to rebuild Broomfield House been successful, as it nearly was, we would be approaching re-opening later this year.

Though continuing to work with LBE on the bid to the HLF Enterprise Grant scheme, the Trust and FoBP representatives felt the approach was less inclusive. At the last Partnership Board, the meeting had been faced with an unannounced set of proposals from a previously unknown consultancy. Some of the options are in conflict with the Trust's charitable objectives, and the Council's public opinion survey. The funding challenges and the need for commercial partners is understood, but the balance with community benefit is the problem. Proposals for housing in the Stableyard and over-commercial uses of the House in some of the 16 options are unacceptable. We are meeting Council officers on the 2nd Feb.

The Trust is developing a separate bid to the HLF to create a digital history including trial restoration of mural sections. This may be the subject of an exhibition in the Dugdale Centre in mid- 2018, and we will need help to do this. We have a particular problem in engaging with local schools in this, so any help in getting "a foot in the door" would be welcomed. See www.bromfieldhouse.org for more on this.

Concerns were raised about any renewed efforts by the Council to set aside restrictive Covenants on developments in the Park which had led to a major legal challenge by covenant holders in the past. It was noted that even should the covenant be set aside, the fundamental issue of opposition to controversial development might still arise.

Other Possibilities for the Park in 2017

Message from David Williamson - Talkies Community Cinema

.. the idea of a stage on the bowling green is now put into hibernation - it was a good idea but we need an organiser to give it momentum - and that is not me!

Outdoor screening - Sept 1 would be the date we did it if we proceed. Sponsorships are drying up which means that events are a higher risk than when there is some funding support...

Scream 2017? - nothing much to report until we make a bit more progress. More news at the AGM on 15 May.

Annual happenings

PG Community Festival confirmed - 3 September

Circus Zyair - 25-30 May (provisional)

Coggers funfair -27 April to 1 May and 4-13 August (provisional)

Concern expressed re siting of circus and possible damage to Avenue of small leaved lime trees. Suggest that council marks out a route for vehicles in the park and provides boards to help prevent damage. Letter to EC

ACTION: SCo

Photographic Competition

The good news is that this will go ahead again this year. The committee, together with input from David Abrahams and Basil Clarke, have been exploring ways to rejuvenate the competition and attract more entries. Further discussion will happen at the next committee meeting and decisions will be publicised via the website, email and through schools and local camera groups.

Setting Up volunteer groups and working parties

Realisation that we need to improve our strategy to increase volunteers. Suggestion that Friends establish a Really Useful Group (RUG) for fund raising and specific volunteering activities. Interested people who don't necessarily wish to join the committee but have an interest in a particular project - e.g. planting bulbs, manning stalls at the summer music events, supporting Talkies outdoor screening - can sign up and volunteer on an event by event basis. Each event will need a list of what needs doing, time slots and contact details of organisers. Volunteers need a clear picture of what is expected. If we are to increase involvement in the park and increase fund raising, we need to contact all those on our membership lists and ask for support.

ACTION: committee

Question about laminated notices appearing on gates and railings around the park

Need to have permission so we should notify the council - Parks Business Unit - for clarification. Also useful to contact local councillors - Southgate Green ward covers the park.

Date of Next Meeting

AGM and Open Meeting, 15 May at 7.30pm in Ruth Winston Centre, 190 Green Lanes, N13.