

## **Friends of Sanders Park- (Community Group)**

Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>TH</sup> May 2010

The meeting opened at 1800hrs

### **Attendees:**

Jackie Boreham BDC  
Jeff Sharp BDC  
Joanne Hall BDC  
Colin Plenty  
Mike Chinner  
Sue Chinner  
Jenny Edington  
Jan Tipton  
Conrad Palmer  
Colin Measham  
Neil Phillips  
Kay Bunting

### **Welcome**

J.S welcomed everyone to the meeting and a quick introduction was done by all around the table with some new faces.

Minutes from the last meeting had no arising matters. Confirmation was given that the bouncy castle will be moved to the other side of the pond and it will be monitored.

### **Catering facility**

The café is currently under going a refurbishment. It has been stripped back, redecorated and new catering equipment will be put in.

We are hoping to have the café open for the May spring bank holiday. A sample menu was shown to members of the meeting. A discussion was had regarding the roof being repaired after the current refurbishment has taken place. JB explained that the roof needed to go through procurement and works will be scheduled during the Autumn/Winter to reduce the negative impact of the opening of the café facility and the demand through the Summer Season.

A suggestion was made to increase the number of chairs around the café exterior with the possibility to have dog posts and water in the area to increase the usage.

### **Events**

A copy of the programme of events was shown to members. These have been distributed around Bromsgrove as per your suggestions at the previous meeting.

We are still looks at increasing the events that are held within the park. A suggestion was a toy / antique fair. JB informed the group that there are

certain events that could not be used within the park due to the covenance in Sanders Park.

We will invite the Events Officer to the next meeting to discuss ideas in more detail.

### **Green Flag**

**The date for the Green Flag judging is 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

JB will send out the format for the day. JB informed the group that the judges are from:

- Sandwell Metropolitan Council
- Natural England

The result of the Green Flag judging is sent through to The Council around Mid July.

JB informed the group of the BCTV (British Conservation Trust Volunteers) will be in the park during May to help to create an informal footpath around the natural area to the west of the park – opening this up to more users and it is hoped the pathway will lessen the impact of footfall directly along the brook course where planting has been carried out to protect the water vole.

As usual at this time works will be carried out also along the entire length of the brook to remove rubbish and debris. It has been noted that we do have brown trout within the water course, kingfishers and herring have also been seen.

JB will be organising for the fencing to be removed around the woodland at Watt Close which will open the area out and at the same time remove the brambles from around the playing fields. This will hopefully deter any gatherings inside this area where bottles and cans have been found. We hope to enhance this little wooded area over the next few years to increase numbers of bluebells and wild flowers.

### **Signage**

Procurement of a new notice board is under way which will be displayed by the main entrance to Sanders Park welcoming people in to the park. This board will also include a map of the park. A copy of the map was made available to the group.

Water vole interpretation signage will also be included along the brook course to inform walkers of the habitat works being carried out and the reasons why.

### **Watt Close Bridge**

County Council have informed us that the cost to repair the bridge for vehicle access will be between £45- £55 thousand pound.

Due to the excessive cost and budget issues we are reviewing alternative options, working with the County Council, to see if we can make

improvements to the current access point and make the bridge pedestrian only.

The key areas that we looked at were:

- How to make the area safe for both vehicles and pedestrians to use.
- To bring the barrier forward so that the cars are not stopping on the road.
- Suggestion by the group - would it be possible to have a mirror on the corner to make it safer to pull out of the junction – this will be fed back to county.

## **AOB**

Further points raised by the group:

CM made the group aware that baby ducklings have been taken from the pond. This was witnessed by a member of the public and it has been reported to the Police. We are currently reviewing our CCTV footage. If anyone does witness this we would ask that they report this to The Police/The Council and if possible take car registration number plates.

The kids have been back in the Tennis Courts causing damage. JB has advised that netting will be repaired and we will use anti climb paint and signage.

CM reports that the toilets were flooded and now this has been dealt with.

Concerns have been raised regarding young people drinking within the park which may increase due to the light nights and warm weather starting. JB and JS asked everyone to continue to report to The Police. **The non emergency contact telephone number for The Police is 0300 333 3000 and in the case of an emergency always call 999. When reporting an incident please ask for a crime reference number.**

We will also place contact details for The Police telephone on the notice board in the park.

CP asked if it would be possible to invite Inspector Dave Shaw, West Mercia constabulary along to the next meeting so that we can discuss our concerns. JS will look into doing this.

The meeting closed 19.30hrs

Date of the next meeting: September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Venue Sanders park Café