



Friends of Sanders Park Group 05th April 2011 Sanders Park Bowling Pavilion

Minutes

Present: Jackie Boreham, Colin Measham, Sue Chinner, Colin Plenty, Neil Phillips, Luke Mallett, Bob Foxall, Conrad Palmer, Doreen Neal, Geoff Neal, Rachel Kennett.

1) Police in the Park

Jackie Boreham, Parks and Recreation Officer briefed the group that Police will be in the park, mainly Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, cracking down on Anti-social behaviour, Alcohol and youth related issues. This will commence circa 8th April. The activity has not been highly publicised, in the hope that any issues arising will be evident and dealt with appropriately.

Police and JM

2) Roof and Toilets

Firstly there is an onsite issue to address re: skip full of rubbish ~ potential fire hazard. Colin Measham (CM) to address at earliest opportunity following working day (Wednesday 6th April).

CM

Roof ~ Still under construction, Solar Panels installed that will heat the hot water in the café. Funding unfortunately didn't stretch to rain water harvesting.

Toilets ~ Will be stainless steel, hardened to vandalism, not aesthetically pleasing, but will hopefully serve a purpose. Disabled toilet is also being refurbished to include a larger door and repaint.

JB

Building works are hoped to be finished within the week commencing 11th April.

3) Sensory Garden / HM Prison

Bob Foxall (Rotary Club of Bromsgrove) addressed the group and talked about the Sensory Garden idea for the park. There is a trust fund set up and there is substantial amounts of money available for projects such as this within Sanders Park. It will be appropriate to provide draft plan ~ consultation from residents / Bromsgrove Schools. Asset for all in Bromsgrove. The garden will be designed upon the Rotary Logo.

BF and JB

Q ~ Will the tables be removed? ~ Jackie Boreham explained that the tables may be re-positioned, we are aware of café users with dogs needing this space rather than being too close to the food kiosk.



HM Prison update

Utilising resource from prison, community service / probation hours for maintenance jobs in the park. Finding that the supervisors ensure that the work is thorough and they can be proud of their work. Although Bob Foxall did mention that there is maintenance back up by Rotary should this be required.

Sensory Garden Scheme to be completed before March 2012. There will be more work to do involving media ~ specifically Bromsgrove Standard as a regular monthly input geared around fundraising ~ to benefit the people of Bromsgrove.

5) Information Office

We are awaiting the scaffolding to come down before the information office opens, due to health and safety issues. Hopefully sometime week commencing 11th April.

There is a new recruit ~ Steve Rooke, Information Assistant Sanders park, who will man the kiosk and be a port of call for issues arising in the park. He has good background experience in leisure especially BMX activities. Diane Walker will also work in the kiosk on some occasions as will Colin Measham. There will possibly be other BDC staff in the park when events are being run.

6) Cafe

Hope to be up and running week commencing 11th April. Temporary stand has worked well. Munches Catering (the parks contracted caterer, 5 year lease) is looking into a mobile ice cream unit. Munches catering are still in their first year of trading ~ trial and error issues, finding their feet, testing new ideas and custom etc.

Saw a reduce in opening hours over the winter period, obviously not as busy as is in the summer months, although positive feedback from Conrad Palmer in that as long as the weather was reasonable, tended to be activity in the café.

7) Events in the park.

Rachel Kennett, Marketing and Promotions Officer, Leisure and Cultural Services attended to inform of the up and coming events in the park.

Events in May:

First and foremost there is the **Bandstand** that kicks off at the beginning of May and runs through to September, programme available soon.

(NB: Another event in May RK didn't mention is Race for Life; taking place on Sunday 29th May ~ See end of minutes for **Updates**).



Events in June: On Sunday 5th June Bromsgrove District Council would like to invite you to come along and join us in **The Big Lunch** and enjoy a Picnic and Bandstand entertainment in the park.

The Friends group were asked if they would like to set up a Friends group stall, to advertise the group and encourage others to join.

Please contact Rachel Kennett by 21st April 2011 on 01527 881716 if you would like to get involved in running the Friends of Sanders Park stall on the day. Tables and chairs and a gazebo will be provided. It is possible that we will have attendance from LFHW (Love Food Hate Waste) stand and the Master Composter stand. Where we could potentially incorporate the growing seeds idea?

Rachel mentioned that membership / identification badges would be available to the group for the day. And in the event of other volunteer work being carried out in the park, it is suggested that badges are worn, so others are aware that official volunteers are undertaking work on behalf of the council.

Rachel received ideas from the group:

- Compost ~ sew a few seeds, get children involved in planting?
- Strawberries & cream? To entice people over to the Friends stall?
- Sustainable food stand?
- LFHW stand ~ possible that the District / County Waste Team may get on board and put up a gazebo?
- Master Composters stand?

General idea is for the park to accommodate families / residents for a picnic, whilst having the opportunity to enjoy Bandstand entertainment.

Please distribute leaflets / posters as you wish. Would be great if you all can come along and join in on the day and encourage family members / friends to come also ~ the more the merrier!

Weather contingency planning is being done by Arts Development and Events Officer Huw Moseley.

8) **Volunteers**

Question: In what capacity does the Council wish to promote the Friends Group... i.e. as a User / Advisory / Feedback Group or a Group that has a more hands on approach?

Answer: John Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, initially approved the group to develop as an advisory group ~ feedback where the council are doing things right, highlight areas where there were issues that we need to focus on.

Action

ALL

RK

RK to speak with JH and HM

ALL

HM



The Friends identified numerous volunteering activities that they could get involved in. Volunteer work is actively on going, in the park with many groups and more effort to actively involve the friends group in events such as the big lunch and bandstand is underway. Although this needs to be managed to ensure measures are in place to guarantee resource.

Jackie Boreham and Rachel Kennett to write a Friends of Sanders Park Activity List. This will be uploaded onto the internet or can be requested as necessary, and will provide up to date details of what is happening in the park and how Friends can get involved.

If there are activities that friends would like to get involved with please put yourselves forward and these requests / offers will be considered individually on their merit.

Rachel Kennett talked about the registration / application form for Friends of Sanders Park. Please provide feedback if there is anything else you would like to see included / excluded.

9) AOB ~ Car parking issues;

Question: Please can we look into fixing a 5mph zone sign and a no entry sign on the car park as people tear up the wrong way.

Answer: Jackie Boreham will look into this and see what can be done.

Question: Can the Council utilise the overflow car parking at the back of the kiosk in particular busy periods / when there is an event on. Rather than people parking up near to the Bandstand.

Answer: This can be managed better with tape / pigtailed and will be looked into when the park is busy to see how best this can be managed. The customers who park up by the bandstand are 9 times out of 10 marshalled to that area and are 95% disabled / elderly residents. But this comment will be considered and managed accordingly on busy days.

Updates 06/04/2011

Race for Life will be held in the park on Sunday 29th May, there maybe road closures to contend with around the park on this day. More information will be available nearer the time, but anyone with any concerns should contact the Council Events Team via the Worcestershire Hub on 01527. Or call Rachel direct on 01527 881716.

Also update that Colin Measham addressed the Contractors re: skip and potential fire hazard, asked them to get the waste cleared a.s.a.p.

Next meeting: Tuesday 28th June 6pm (location to be confirmed).

Visit www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/friendsofsanderspark for further information.



Action

JB / RK

ALL

JB

JB / CM

ALL to be aware

All to review