

Friends of Sanders Park- (Community Group)

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2010.

The meeting opened at 1810hrs

Attendees:

Jackie Boreham BDC
Jeff Sharp BDC
Joanne Hall BDC
Rachel Kennett BDC
Hugh Mosley BDC
Melanie Plenty
Colin Plenty
Mike Chinner
Sue Chinner
J Edington
Mr Neal
Mrs Neal
D Liggett
Neil Phillips

Welcome

J.B. welcomed everyone to the meeting and a quick introduction of Officers. Apologies were given for issues regarding the meeting dates.

Minutes from the last meeting had no arising matters.

Huw Mosley/ Rachel Kennett Events update

HM introduced himself and Rachel as the Events and Marketing team. A copy of the 2009 "What's on " and the "Events Calendar" leaflet was handed out for a discussion and comments for the 2010 delivery.

HM has explained the importance of the input from the local community and asked for feedback via a questionnaire he handed out at the meeting (a copy is on the Bromsgrove District Council web site under Sanders Park). If any persons would like a hard copy please speak to Jackie Boreham. They can be returned to Jackie Boreham at The Council House or returned to Ed and Simon at the park.

The bandstand programme will be displayed at the following locations:

- Sanders Park Information Office and Café
- Bromsgrove District Council Website
- Worcestershire Hub/customer service centre – School Road, Bromsgrove

The members of the friends group asked if the programme could be displayed within local schools and with local traders – HM will take this information and feedback into his marketing meetings/schedules.

RK also asked for feedback with regards to the Web page for Sanders Park which can be found at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk.

Please send any comments on the web page to r.kennett@bromsgrove.gov.uk

New ideas for events that were suggested are:

- Blue cross day
- Ground rescue
- Dog show
- Agricultural show

J Edington commented that during the summer months when the bouncy castle is in Sanders Park daily, could the bouncy castle be repositioned to help reduce the noise as they start the set up process at 8am in the morning. HM will liaise with the supplier and review the position of the bouncy castle.

NB following a meeting with Information Office staff on Friday 12th it was agreed with staff that the bouncy castle is too close to the office and bandstand itself and should look at possible relocation such as near the play area.

Watt Close Allotments

JH stated that the extension for the allotments is looking unlikely to go ahead. It may be that another bid is put forward for next year.

Feed back from members of the group have highlighted that the trackway past the small holding is still in poor condition. JH and JB to investigate

NB JH and JB visited the site to look at the trackway. The recent work carried out by the contractors has improved the trackway although the issue is where the tarmac area joins the track way seems to be holding water. JH will look it the feasibility of a drain, and if this will resolve the problem.

JB updated the group on the situation with the Watt Close Bridge. This has finally been submitted and commented back from the Environment Agency and an estimate of costs has been given by County. JB has arranged a meeting with Senior Officers at WCC and John Godwin from BDC at the end of March to agree funding issues and a way forward as the bridge is currently not registered under either authority.

It was also asked by the group to review the control of traffic over the bridge and if a barrier could be installed? Also to monitor the volume of traffic too and from St Johns.

Management Plan

A copy of the management plan was handed out to the members of the group. A draft of the management plan has been sent to the Green Flag judges. The plan has been reviewed and taken forward using the previous year's recommendations by Green Flag. Members of the group have been asked to take the plan away and feed any comments back to Jackie Boreham. (This can be sent electronically if required)

JS also asked for supporting documents and pictures of the history of Sanders Park. If anyone has pictures of the swimming pool, old mill, waterfall etc please send them in. The historical element of Sanders Park is really important for the management plan and potential funding bids over the next few years. If you have any supporting information that may help please contact Jeff on j.sharp@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Battlefield Brook

Battlefield Brook trial restoration has settled well and being monitored. JB has a meeting scheduled with the EA on Thursday 18th March to discuss this in more detail. We will endeavour to look at further funding streams to continue this improvement work.

Update on Café

All the tenders have been received for the café following the pre-qualification questionnaires and decisions are being made as part of the procurement procedure. We anticipate the café to be opened some time during the Spring following contract agreements.

A suggestion that the Friends group meet up with who ever gets the contract to offer feedback and support to the café.

The Council was unaware of the Ice cream van that appeared last year. This situation will be monitored and looked into if they return.

NB this has been discussed with the Information Office assistants and they advised that they would approach unauthorised sale of refreshments in the park.

End of the agenda

Further points raised by the group:

- The group made Officers aware that there was an incident at the park where a dog walker was verbally abused by someone feeding the ducks.
- Concerns have been raised over the volume of bread that is left by the pond and that it will attracted rates. JB to look into the idea of duck feed and some supporting signs when the information office opens.
- Concerns with the flooded area that is within the overflow car park. Does this need a drainage system?

- Concerns were raised about the speed of cars within the car park and the direction in which they move around.

These concerns will be investigated and liaison will be made with park based staff to monitor any such concerns

Any items required for the next meeting agenda should be forwarded to JB or JS one week prior to the meeting if possible. The minutes and agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting. The meeting closed 17.10.

Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 11th May 2010

Note : No date has been confirmed by the Green Flag judges for Green Flag inspections

NB Re: Café opening – a meeting was held with Legal on Friday 12th March and another meeting has been scheduled for March 24th to finalise and agree detail for the contract. We would like to apologise for the delay in the process for finalising the contract and anticipate opening is end of April 2010.