

Red House Park Friends Group

2nd April 2007

Meeting Notes

Jason Cross acting as Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45p.m.

1. Present

Jason Cross	Kim Sutton
Steve West SMBC	Tony Fowler
Ray Wheatley	Sandra and Harry Ashcroft
Sonia Vaughan	Maxine Taylor
Bill Gunn	Jackie Ward
Christine Horton	Piara Singh Dosanjh
Jean and Graham Jones	Andrew May
Josh Bannister	Eilen Williamson
Cllr Mary Wilson	L. Bannng
Cllr Tony Ward	P and G Marshall
Edna Forrest	M. Lloyds

2. Apologies

Jenny Hale and Guy Hale
Stephanie Page
Sarah Carter (now Cross)

Glen and Dawn Williams

3. Update on the following:

3 ii. Roses

Jason reported to the meeting that a quote had been obtained for 300 roses of the same variety and it had come back as a figure of £2600.00. This figure was considerable more than expected and it is now too late to plant them for this season. So it has been decided to order a different type of rose by July and plant them in the Autumn. Steve West said they could be obtained from 'Suttons' in Scotland and the variety would be 'Black Country Pride'

3 iii. Acacia Trees

Two have been ordered and will come in the next five weeks. Sites for these need to be decided. Steve West said he would inform the Group when they will be ready for planting

3 iv. Monument

The man responsible is still off sick so a temporary replacement has been appointed his name is Steve Sedgewick and a meeting has been arranged on site at 10.am. on the 18th April.

3 v. 106 Monies

The Group has received communication from David Brown, Development Manager. He said that the 'Friends' had indicated three priorities.

- a) New Litter Bins
- b) Extra Facilities for the Junior Play Area
- c) Re- surfacing of the Tennis Courts

He said the first priority at the present time is phase 2 of the pool, but any monies left would be used for the above. There is already £19,000.00 ear-marked for the changing rooms. As this would only be enough to decorate the changing rooms not re-build them, which is needed, it might be better to use the money in other areas of the Park.

4. The Red House

Jason reported that Hugh Edwards had a meeting with Peter Manley. The Councillor refused to sign a 'Confidentiality Agreement' so the meeting could not proceed. The 'Friends' feel that the Council block every avenue that is taken to save the Red House. The suggestion of Council Conference use has been dismissed by Sandwell MBC despite the annual expenditure of £408,212.00 at non-council owned properties. It would seem they have every intention of selling the House and are not interested in considering the alternatives.

CH asked at what point the public would know the Red House was being sold. Tony Ward said that Councillors attending the meetings would report back to the 'Friends'. It was discussed by the meeting that if the House was sold could the 'Friends' put pressure on the Developers to make improvements to the Park i.e. build new Changing Facilities and improved Children's Play Area if the present one had to be moved. For the foreseeable future pressure is still being put on the Council to keep the Red House and we are continuing with the letters asking the public to write to the Council with their suggestions.

5. The Fun Day

The question was asked if we were having a Fun Day. Jason asked for a show of hands of people to form a committee and discuss the feasibility of running the Fun Day this year.

The following members agreed to meet on Wednesday 4th April to discuss the event.

Josh Bannister
Jean and Graham Jones
Sonia Vaughan
Helen Cliff

6. Any Other Business

Graham Jones wanted clarity on the newspaper articles he had read re Sandwell's proposals for keeping dogs on a lead in public places. Steve West said the newspaper reports were not correct. No decision had been made until a meeting on 15th April and after this meeting there would be a period of discussion before a decision is made.

The 'Friends of the Red House' would like to offer Sarah and Jason congratulations on their marriage and the baby they are expecting later in the year. Jason did tell the 'Friends Group' that because of this they would not be able to be as involved as they had been in the 'Friends Activities' and it is unlikely that Sarah will be able to be Chair for the coming year.

The Next Meeting will be held on Monday 14th May 2007 at the Horticultural Training Centre