

# Red House Park Friends Group

## 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005

### Meeting Notes

William Gunn, Vice-Chair opened the meeting at 7.20 p.m.

#### Present

William Gunn, Vice-Chair  
Jenny Hale, Secretary  
Jill Fisher, Treasurer  
Kay Clash  
Jean Jones  
Dawn & Glen Williams  
Oliver Franklin  
Lynn Foord  
Mike Steele

#### Apologies

Sarah Carter, Chair  
Steve West  
Carole Calloway  
Jason Cross  
Walter Barber

#### 1. General Business

- Lynn Foord began by updating the group on the current situation with the replacement gates, which are being funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. LF met with 3 different companies to explain what the Friends wanted and asked them each to supply us with quotations. Unfortunately, only one, Brooks Forgings, responded. LF supplied the group with their design of the gates and, after discussion, the design was altered slightly to make them look more ornate. LF will put the amendment to Brooks Forgings and, unless there is a vast difference in the quotation, will give the go ahead for the work to begin. **The gates have to be in place before the end of the financial year** in order for the group to obtain the funding. LF has informed Steve West, SMBC that the work needs to be carried out as soon as the gates are ready. OF raised the issue of correct installation, considering that the new benches were not installed correctly and some were subsequently stolen. LF assured the group that this had already been taken into consideration and the safety and security of the gates themselves had been included in the design. The initials RHP will be picked out in gold paint.
- LF also recommended that the group apply for a grant from B & Q 'You Can Do It' Awards scheme. The company will grant up to £5,000 worth of B & Q goods to successful applicants. LF suggested that we should apply for equipment and supplies to renovate the remaining railings once the new gates are in place. JH to complete application.
- LF confirmed that the Red House Park Lakes Restoration Project was proceeding as planned and she will keep us informed of any developments.
- JH advised that a recent application for a grant to fund refurbishment of the tennis courts had **not** been refused but required further backing and support from the local community. Using the information from the groups Consultation Report, JH has supplied the Groundwork team with

evidence to support the application for improvement and development of the tennis courts. We await the outcome.

## 2. Fun Day

- It was agreed that this year's Fun Day will be held in the park on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, between 11am and 4pm (this is an hours extension on the previous Fund Day).
- It was also agreed that the group would use it's allocation of the Band (this is a once a year offer from Sandwell MBC to supply each park with a band for free for any one occasion) for the Fun Day. It had been suggested that we hold another separate event in the park and use the band for that instead. Unfortunately, the band was only available for use within a 3 week span either side of the Fun Day and the group felt that another event so close to this would be poorly attended, difficult to arrange and that the band played a very important role in the enjoyment of last year's Fun Day.
- KC had made enquiries with the Scout Group that attended last year's event and confirmed that they are able to attend this year's as well.
- JJ wanted to know if the Morris Dancers would be performing again. Due to the cost and that the event will be later in the year (i.e. not May Day), they would not be required.
- OF had been in touch with a folke dance club, that had agreed to perform free of charge, expenses only. It was agreed that OF should go ahead and book them. OF will also contact the Climbing Wall again to see whether they are available.
- JF suggested having donkey rides on the day. This was agreed to in principle, depending on cost and the health and safety aspect. JH to contact CC, SMBC, for clarification.
- The Friends received a grant to help fund last year's Fun Day. This year's event has to be covered by the group's own funds. Therefore, the charges/donations were debated at length and agreed upon as follows:

Charity stalls	Free
Normal craft stalls	£10
Commercial stalls	£50
Ice cream vans	£50

- All members are asked to contact any previous attendees and any new contacts with an invitation to this year's event, as soon as possible.

## 3. Any Other Business

- JH had written to Great Barr Sawmills requesting a donation of wood to make bird boxes for the park. They have agreed to supply us with enough wood to make 48 bird boxes at half-price. At the same time KC had been in contact with the Rotary Club and they have very kindly agreed to pay for the wood supplied by Great Barr Sawmills. Once the Rotary Club has collected the wood they will deliver it to Dartmouth High School, who has agreed to make the boxes for us. It has not yet been decided who will install them – JH to discuss with SW.
- David Brown, SMBC, had confirmed that funding to deliver a programme of play improvements across the borough had been approved. Red House Toddler Play Area is one of the recommended sites but final confirmation will be made in March after the report goes to committee.
- The possibility of a Youth Shelter and its site location was discussed. The Committee felt that the presence of a youth shelter would be a target for abuse and only increase problems in the park not solve them. Should the park receive complete security, i.e. fencing surrounding the whole park, in the future, then the situation would be quite different and the idea could be looked at again. The Committee felt that a far better solution would be to have a Youth Club inside the Red House that could be monitored and managed properly. Therefore, the suggestion of having a youth shelter in the park as it stands at the moment was unanimously voted out.

- The question was asked as to whether the new gates, that are to be installed on the Newton Road, can be regressed slightly from their current position to prevent youths from using the adjacent wall as leverage to climb over the gates. This would give added security whilst the gates are locked. JH to contact LF.
- JH to arrange a press release regarding the funding obtained to renovate the pools. The grant obtained from Living Spaces requires that the group measures and monitors the benefits and outcomes of the project on the wider community. JH suggested that the group might need to produce another questionnaire later in the year.
- WG raised the issue of the funds that should be made available to Red House Park from the new building development on Newton Road (next to Post Office). There should be approximately £30k coming to the nearest 'green space' via B106 Fund. JH to make enquiries.
- An application for a Multi Use Games Area (M.U.G.A.) has been made. We await the outcome.
- The issue of cricket fixtures taking place on the Fun Day was raised again. Last year the group was informed that the cricket field could not be used because there would be matches taking place. On the day no one turned up to play cricket and the opportunity to use this space was squandered. The group has been informed in the past that, as the Friends of Red House Park, we are quite within our rights to insist that 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2005 be kept free of any sports fixtures so that the group can use the site. Undoubtedly, this would be subject to Health & Safety Regulations and ensuring that the future use and quality of the pitches are not jeopardised. JH to obtain confirmation.

#### 4. Next Meeting

- The next meeting has been arranged for **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm**. This will be open to all members of the Friends Group and will be the main forum for discussing this year's Fun Day.
- KC holds the names and addresses of all those who noted an interest on their questionnaires and invites are to be sent to them as well as current members.
- GW suggested producing flyers that give a clear message to all that we require their help with all aspects of the Fun Day.