

Red House Park Friends Group
20th March 2006
Meeting Notes

Sarah Carter, Chair, opened the meeting at 7.00p.m.

1. Present

Sarah Carter, Chair William Gunn, Vice-Chair Kay Clash Sue Willets Stephanie Page Jason Cross Ray Wheatley	Steve West Cllr Tony Ward Jean Jones Glen and Dawn Williams Anthony Lewis David Hosell
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2. Apologies

Sonia Vaughan
Jenny and Guy Hale

Helga Lutz SMBC Urban Parks Manager

3. Section 106B Funds

Seven local developments were named from which a substantial amount of 106 money has come to Red House Park and has gone towards funding different projects i.e. the Lakes, the MUGA and Children's Play Area.

Monies come through on 50% occupancy of the development. Two developments were highlighted that it was felt Red House Park should benefit; Galton Court and Hamstead Court. Cllr Tony Ward pointed out that '106' money will be channelled into central funds in the near future and it is important the Group applies for any monies we think we might be due before the law changes or it goes back to the Developer as it does if money is not chased within five years.

4. The Trees

Jean Jones raised the query that trees had been removed that were not dangerous or dead. Steve West explained that all the trees removed were marked for removal and were either dead or in some cases growing at an angle that would have meant they would have fallen when the lake was drained. All work done so far has been funded under 'Phase 1'. There are still trees that need attention and these will be identified by 'The Friends' and Steve Robinson SMBC at a meeting to be arranged. Three quotes will be obtained to see which is the most competitive to attend to these trees. There are no funds available for re-planting.

5. Bird Boxes

Three weeks ago twenty boxes were installed. Unfortunately Sarah received such short notice that it was not possible for the newspapers to attend. When the remainder of the boxes are put up it is hoped that it can be arranged for a Thursday when the Observer and Chronicle would be able to come along. Also Steve West said that if he was given sufficient time the Council could arrange publicity as well.

6. Benches

Four new benches are on order and expected middle to end of April. Their position is still to be agreed. It was suggested that around the new pool area would be a good place for one of the benches.

7. List of Meetings

It was decided that Sarah would draw up a list of meeting dates for the next twelve months and this would be handed out to existing and any new members. Any additional meetings that were needed i.e. fun day would be arranged separately.

8. Fun Day

Dawn Williams said that she had obtained some gifts for the Raffle from local tradesman, i.e. Walter Smith donated four £5.00 gift vouchers and paid for a £50.00 advert. Co-op Travel donated a £50.00 holiday voucher. The dentist also donated a £50.00 voucher. ALDI said to approach them nearer the time. It was confirmed that Fun Rides were still being looked into but the following events were booked

Punch and Judy
Stilt Walking Clown
Barrel Organ
Story Teller

9. Brass Band

It was decided not to have a Brass Band on Fun Day. It was suggested we arrange a 'Picnic in the Park' one Sunday perhaps in September and arrange for some local bands to play as well. David Hosell said he would approach the T.A. and see if they could lend some equipment to power the Amplifiers etc. We could also approach Studios in the area and see if they were interested in providing equipment and maybe bands.

10. General Points re. Park

Pools – Due to the weather the silt is not dry enough yet, but when it is it will be graded out and then grassed. There is no date yet for this taking place.

Gates – The Council will put stronger locks on the gates and it is hoped that when they are locked later in the evening the vandalism problem will improve.

Pump House – Although it has been discussed on a number of occasions nothing has been done about this building. It needs demolishing because it is dangerous and provides a hiding place for youths intent on causing trouble. Steve West advised that knocking it down would be expensive but he would look into it.

Monument – Sarah pointed out that the monument needs rendering before it crumbles. Steve is going to look into it as well as the brickwork around the tree in front of the house.

Flower Bed in Front of House – The herbaceous border in front of the house is very neglected. Ray Wheatley advised that this is because it is very expensive to maintain, as it is labour intensive. It was suggested that it could be turned into an herb garden.

Car Park - It was noted that the car park near the changing room is being used more and more for a car park for Scott Arms. It was suggested that this situation needs to be monitored.

Bins – It was pointed out that there is a lot of litter in the park and we need more bins. Steve West said that there was no funding for them. The cost of a bin is £350.00. It was suggested that if there was any spare money in the projects it could be earmarked for bins as priority. It was also suggested that we contact 'Tipton Litter Pick' to see if they would come and do a 'litter pick' for the Red House, Cllr Ward will provide the telephone number.

11. The Red House

General discussion took place about the various suggestions that had been made to the council re. the future of the Red House. A recent suggestion that it could be used as a Sports Academy sponsored by Barclays Bank has not got any further because of difficulties getting any reply from the Corporate Property Dept. Cllr Tony Ward and Steve West pointed out that the 'Friends Group' should write to SMBC and ask why all suggestions had been turned down without discussion or reasons why.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday 8th May, at Hill Lane at 7 p.m.