

## **The Friends Of Red House Park Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

- Steve West explained that the tree gang will mulch and chip so there is no need to hire. Steve Robinson should be asked if he will leave on site.
- The tree to be taken down outside the house will be used as a bench, so it will still be part of the park. The tree is to be replaced.
- The pump house has been approved for demolition, at a cost of £350.00 + vat. Sarah asked if it was possible to have it covered over with silt? Steve said it would be.
- Tony Potter was thanked for the new notice board.
- Litter picks still need to be followed up. (Hopefully in the next few weeks)
- Carol gave two dates for the band day, the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. The 10<sup>th</sup> was chosen provisionally, however if the marquee is unavailable the 17<sup>th</sup> would be fine. The band is going to be Black Country Brass. It will take place at 2.30-5.00. Glen needs to know the dates as he may have other bands interested in playing.
- Steve will chase up someone to come out to see the monument.
- The gangs that have been causing trouble in the park are a concern. There is a lot of police patrols taking place at present, but people must continue to contact both police and the Anti social behaviour line on 0845 359 7500. The council also has a place to report problems on their web site [www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk). It was decided that it really is a police matter and not something the friends can deal with.
- Paving slabs are still sticking up in the lake. Sunish Patel is aware of the situation and will get it sorted. The water level is a worry to some. It is something to keep an eye on.
- Carol was welcomed back in an official capacity.
- Steve West informed the group that health and safety had been involved in the incident where a girl got stuck in the silt. It is thought no further action will be taken. The fence has now been put back
- Steve West also explained that there is a possibility that the Toddler play area may not be completed in time for the fun day. (It was pointed out that promises had been made at the last meeting) The delay was due to bad weather at the start of the

project. Although concerns were expressed as to how hard the men were working (they had been seen taking very long breaks) assurances were given that Sunish Patel would be pushing for it to be ready in time. It is still possible.

- Sarah asked how people felt about spending some of the money raised from the fun day on the Rose Garden and on other low maintenance planting of shrubs and bushes like Rhododendrons. Everyone agreed this was a good idea. Suggestions were made of different places to purchase these items, it was thought that going through the council may be the cheapest option, however prices would need to be checked at a number of places to be sure the best price was obtained. Tree planting had already been agreed as an area to spend money raised. Sycamores and Beeches need to be removed but it was felt that other varieties of trees should replace them. Judas, handkerchief, Red Oak and other native Oaks were mentioned. Members were asked to think about which would be best to decide at a later date. It was discussed that these vulnerable trees should not be planted next to main areas where they could be vandalised.
- Insurance against rain on the day was decided against, the best quote cost £500.00 for cover of £2000.00 (An inch of rain would need to fall)
- First Aid will cost £385.00 + VAT, an increase of £200.00 due to the numbers. (There will be 8 first aiders and an ambulance)
- Pete and John were introduced from the Scouts. Sarah explained that if they could help with parking, litter picking and a couple of runners there would be no £50.00 charge for them running a barbeque. Ideally 6 people would be needed from 8.00am.
- Jenny has sorted out the tea earns, J will sort out concrete blocks. Sarah still has coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Sarah offered to pick up 10, 6 pint bottles of milk, Sarah will also get 500 plates and 1,000 cups, polystyrene cups will be needed for the hot drinks. More thought needs to be put into the cold drinks this year, the question was asked if more diet drinks are needed. Sarah will also buy pop. It was mentioned that shade will be needed for the cakes. Cakes should be dropped of by Saturday, if this is a problem it was suggested that people phone and let people know what they will be bringing so prices can be prepared in advance.
- Holy Name 5 aside football is unlikely to take place, it is hoped that they may do something on the day and that a proper tournament will be able to be arranged for next year.
- It was decided only one tent was needed, however if the weather forecast looks bad more can be provided.

- Guy will be in charge of all money, he asked if money from each stall can be bagged up with the stall name clearly marked. Guy will also be responsible for providing floats. It was suggested that there should be one stall which will hold extra change, if £200.00 is left at the cake stall, all other stall holders will now where to go. Everyone seemed happy with the idea. The Barrel Organ and others will need paying on the day so Guy will have the cheque book with him on the day.
- 9 sets of walkie talkies will arrive on Saturday, cost £45.00
- Mary Wilson agreed to do the programs again.
- It was agreed that the same amount of hay will be needed for the Punch and Judy as last year. The library is now coming, it was felt that along with the story teller, these should all ideally go in front of the house. Glen will need to be told about this for the program.
- The council have agreed people for the main gates.
- Disabled toilets will arrive on Sunday morning. The toilet block will be open, concerns were raised that the block should be watched. People on parking duty will be asked to keep an eye on them.
- The question was asked if enough tables will be available. It was felt there should be enough. However Anthony Harris will help if there is a problem. People were told that garden furniture would be useful. If anyone has any or anything else that needs picking up J said he would be happy to do that, however it would be appreciated if people let him know by Friday.
- Dawn has offered to do the PA. Tony is also available. It will be picked up Friday afternoon. It was decided that the PA would not be used for the opening of the play areas, which should take place at 11.00am it was decided that the karate and dance shows should not start before 11.20am. The times for these shows were still up in the air. It was explained that if the dance group clash with the dog show (1-3) the PA will not be available and they would need to sort out an alternative. Sarah pointed out that Glen would be away from June 22<sup>nd</sup>, so there was very little time to confirm arrangements for the program. It was decided to enter the events in the program without times.
- There are benches on order but unfortunately they won't be here in time for the fun day.
- Sue Willets would like things for the Tom bowler before the day to allow her to stick numbers on, Sarah will accept any books or plants. Although the halls have yet to confirm that they will man the book stall, it looks hopeful.

- Steve West said Mr. Sanders still needs to be chased about crime prevention.
- Carol said she would help with advertising, she requested 60 posters to put in libraries, leisure and community centres. Guy, Bill, Carol, Kay and Sonia wish to know when they are ready. Guy also requested laminated posters. Members were asked to use their initiative and try to get advertising on radio, in papers or any other appropriate way.
- Bill was asked to help with friends table. He asked if the collection boxes are going to be used this year. He was told they would be. It was suggested that the money from the tins went towards new bins.
- Tony asked if there would be any layout changes, from a risk assessment point of view. Unfortunately it was not possible to give an outline plan, as the Fair rides need flat ground and until they arrive at 12.00 on Friday there would be the chance of changes needing to be made.
- It was agreed that the Dog show needs to be more included, may be in front of the monument.
- The Scouts have offered to bring hi-vis vest in case the 10 from the council are not enough.
- Steve West informed the group of a cheque for £1,800 on its way. He also informed the group that West Bromwich Town Team have local area project money up for grabs. He said to ask Tony Ward to chase it up as there was a possibility of £3,000-£5,000 for bins.
- Mary Wilson spoke about how she has been looking into using the Red House for a Youth Club. As yet she has had no luck.
- Sarah asked if anyone was willing to man the Friends table at the Tanhouse Centre on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. (Date to be checked) Bill kindly offered to do this.
- It was asked if people thought it necessary for another meeting before the fun day. The majority thought it was not needed. The next meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July.