

Red House Park Friends Group

Meeting 7th June 2010

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 7.15 p.m

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Keith Wild	Sandra Lloyd
Jean Jones	Martin Baker
Christine Horton	Sonia Vaughan
John Ward	Tony Ward
David Brown SMBC	Tony Fowler

David Brown asked if he could come to our Events Meeting and give us the latest information about the future of the Red House.

David said this was a follow-up to the meeting in November when he discussed the plans for the future of the park including the Red House. He discussed with the Group the options for use of the House and sent these to Corporate Property

It was explained to the Group in November that 'Jumping Jacks' the Squash Courts and the toilet block will be demolished and the area tidied up and this is still in the plan. Also big improvements will be made to the changing rooms and a room for community use will be created in this block

Corporate Property has produced a report going to cabinet on 9th June 2010. The Report states that extensive research has been done on alternative uses of the House. All concluded that maintaining the House for community use was not feasible. The Community Services within the Council have stated that they do not want the House so the alternative is to allow it to be sold to a Developer.

Although the Friends do not accept all possible uses of the House have been explored, the other real concern that if the House is sold it will be demolished and an apartment block will be built in its place. They also voiced their concern that the rose beds that the Friends have nearly finished planting would also be replaced along with the play areas.

We were told that this was not the case. Bill Gunn said that to keep the Red House for community use had been the Group's main aim and the reason it was formed. The Group has fought hard to preserve its future getting together a signed petition and attending many meetings to highlight its merits. They are extremely disappointed with the news from David Brown.

After the meeting the Group have put together an email to the members of the Council concerned asking for a guarantee that the House will not be demolished and the external façade will be protected along with the rose beds and facilities that surround the House.

There is an Events Meeting on Monday 14th June 2010 at 7.15 p.m.