



**Dear Friends.**

**There will be a general meeting of 'Friends of Red House Park'**

**On: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7:00pm**

**Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Pages Lane entrance, Great Barr. Birmingham.**

**I hope that it will be convenient for you to attend.**

**Yours sincerely**

**Sonia Vaughan**

**Joint Secretary**

**To the Friends of Red House Park**

**Agenda.**

**Chairman's opening remarks**

- 1. Attendance**
- 2. Apologies for Absence were received from**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting**
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**
- 5. Reports**
  - a. Chair**
  - b. Vice Chair**
  - c. Secretary**
  - d. Treasurer**
  - e. Sandwell Council**
- 6. Events**
- 7. Environment**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Date of Next Meeting**

## **Minutes of General Meeting of 'Friends of Red House Park' held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 7:00pm**

### **Attendance:**

Bill Gunn (BG)	Joe McNamara (JM)	Sonia Vaughan (SV)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)	Darryl Magher (DM)	
Alethea Hegney (AH)	Steve Melia (SM)	

### **Apologies were received from**

David Fisher, Christine Horton

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Were accepted as a true record

### **Matters Arising**

(SM) commented about the Friends event held on 27th August and suggested that Discover Sandwell shows all forthcoming Sandwell events to help avoid clash of dates.

### **Reports**

#### **Chair (BG)**

(BG) again discussed the pool pollution. (SM) queried whether it is the same as in previous years and said he would like to see the historic paperwork which (BG) has relating to the pools/pollution.

(BG) discussed the removal of the bell tower and chimney pots by the developers from the Red House. He and the Friends would like them to be reinstated.

(BG) queried whether work carried out by Community Payback has to be paid for.

#### **Vice Chair**

(DF) sent his report.

He has contacted Christine Phillips (Sandwell planning dept.) with details about the bell tower and chimneys. She was due to have a meeting with the architect.

(DF) informed the group that the bat walk on 20<sup>th</sup> September was successful and £80 was raised for park improvements.

#### **Secretary**

(SV) reports that following a park walk about on 11th October 2017 with John Satchwell (Sandwell council) and Matt Darby (Serco) it was decided that all bins will either be replaced, painted or reset as needed by SERCO and the council. A couple of bins are to be repositioned and we will gain a new bin at Pages Lane gate. Serco hope to have their work completed by 30<sup>th</sup> October. And (SV) will follow up on progress.

During the walk about John Satchwell took note of issues raised in the past by the Friends (eg **leakage of water and mud over balancing pool path, welding in of the second 5 aside goal post, tennis courts, rose beds, and grounds maintenance routine for the park**) He said he will follow up on each issue to see what progress has been made. He also said that he feels that the park is not far off Green Flag status.

(SV) reports that during a walk around the park on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Richard Marshall (Cabinet Member for Leisure and Councillor for Smethwick Ward) told (BG) (SL) and (SV) that he had noted the issues in the park as highlighted above. He also noted the pool pollution, broken wooden fencing between the two pools, extension meshing for the tennis court fencing, and more. He said that some of the minor works we had highlighted with him will start soon. A programme of works for the park will be drawn up by the council. This will be sent to the Friends group for discussion, agreement and to be put in priority order.

Richard Marshall told (BG),(SL) and (SV) that it had been agreed in January 2017 to go ahead with installing the disabled footpath from the pavilion car park to the main park avenue and could even include extra disabled parking spaces at the same time. **Good news!**

Richard Marshall also told (BG),(SL) and (SV) that he would look into any 106 money which may have been or is due for community use in the park.

(SV) and (SL) mentioned to Richard Marshall that the Friends group were thinking of buying some litter pickers. He told them that the council can provide some.

**Treasurer**      No Report

**Council**      Updates to the Council items are included in the relevant sections of the Action / Wish List

#### **Events:**

Santa in the Park will take place 10.30am-3.30pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### **Environment.**

(SV) asked whether a private water analysis of the balancing pool could be an option to waiting for the council to request one. . She will follow it up.  
(SM) told the meeting that the pool is owned by Severn Trent

Zip Wire still broken.

**Developer update from (JM)** Joe and (SV) met up with the developer on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017:

- 4 out of the 6 houses should be occupied by end of November 2017
- 5 out of the 8 apartments should be occupied by end of December 2017
- The developers are hoping to start reducing their workforce in the park by the end of December, although some staff will still be overseeing the site.
- The bell tower. The developers are in discussions with council planners.
- Gr8Space have now handed back all the unwanted black metal railings to the council (as agreed) for re-use within Red House Park.

## **Any Other Business**

On behalf of the Friends group, (JM), is intending to ask the developers for a donation to the Park before they finish. Joe would like a list of items any such donation would be used for in the park, (benches, trees, nature walk in the woodland, bins etc.)

PLEASE GIVE THIS SOME THOUGHT AND BRING YOUR LIST TO THE NEXT MEETING ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER FOR DISCUSSION. If you can't get to the meeting, email it to one of the secretaries (Sonia Vaughan, Sandra Lloyd or Chris Horton) who will bring it up at the meeting for you.

The group was given names of some useful contacts:

At Sandwell MBC .....Katherine Kirkpatrick, Melissa Graham, and Max Cookson.

Big Lottery Funding: Giselle Browne at Big Lottery funding offices, Edgbaston 0121 345 7657. Big Lottery Funding may be available for feasibility studies and Heritage lottery funding may be available for the bell/tower.

(DF) applied for funding from Tesco Bags of Help to help towards creating a nature walk through the woodland at the bottom of the park. We've been short listed and could be awarded £1,000, £2,000 or £4,000 (DF) has put details on the Friends face book page. To vote, ASK for the blue voting disc each time you buy at Tesco. Keep ALL your discs no matter which store they're from and then take them all to Tesco express Hamstead, Tesco express Stone Cross or Tesco New Square, West Bromwich and put them in the instore voting box marked for Red House Park. Please spread the word. Voting is from now and ends 1st January 2018

**Next Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in the pavilion at 7:00pm**

## **ACTION/WISH LIST OF THE FRIENDS AND THE COUNCIL**

1. History of House on a plaque – Will be funded by the English Heritage. **ongoing but waiting for completion of development**
2. The care of the Mulberry Tree has been passed to the Tree Gang. **COUNCIL - ongoing**
3. Graham reported in July 2017 that Darren Jones said he would grass over the rose beds and design new plantings. He will forward suggestions for the layouts of the new beds. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED – ongoing...**
4. The group have been informed that the disabled access pathway from the pavilion car park to the park main avenue will go ahead. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED - ongoing**
5. The second 5aside goal post still has to be welded in on the old bowling green. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED – ongoing...**
6. (JM) will be arranging another meeting with the Developer.
7. Sandwell planners are in discussions with the Developers re the removal of the bell tower and chimney pots. **COUNCIL - ongoing**
8. Bins. These will either be replaced, painted or reset by SERCO and the council as needed. A couple to be repositioned and one new one at Pages Lane gate. **ongoing**
9. The surface of the children's play area is still lifting and is considered dangerous by the Friends but the Council considers this to be low risk. This work has gone out to tender. **COUNCIL Ongoing 2015...**
10. The notice boards need keeping up to date and repairing where necessary. It was mentioned at a previous meeting that the foggy Perspex would be replaced by Sandwell MBC. This was originally passed to Gary Bell. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED ongoing 2016...**
11. The Box Conifers that have died need taking out of the flower beds. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED - ongoing**
12. Gr8Space have handed back all the unwanted black metal railings to the council (as agreed) for re-use within Red House Park. Suitable sites have been identified for its use. **COUNCIL**
13. Tennis courts again need repairs/maintenance. **COUNCIL ACTION**
14. Zip Wire is broken and still waiting to be repaired. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED**