

## Friends of Preston Park Committee meeting

11 April at 6.30pm at the Park View

**Present:** Sue Shepherd, Sue Shanks, Siriol Hugh-Jones, Joe McNulty, Clive Shepherd, Garry Meyer

**Guests:** Councillor Leo Littman, Councillor Julie Cattell

**Apologies:** Keith Upton, Carol Cole, Dimitri Mehandziski, Rose Jones

Sue began by welcoming Leo and Julie to the meeting as guests to discuss parking in the park.

### 1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

To correct the minutes from the previous meeting, Pride have given FOPP almost £2000, £942 of which had been passed on to Neil Brothers in the Council's Tree Department to spend on three new trees for Preston Park.

It was stated in the minutes that we will be asked to help recruit volunteers to maintain the Rose Garden. This is currently on hold as planting has not yet commenced.

### 2. PARKING IN THE PARK

Sue set the scene by reviewing the progress that had been made to date.

Joe expressed the view that the main obstacle to removing cars from the park was the disabled parking at the Chalet Café. This encouraged others to park along Lime Tree Walk and elsewhere. He suggested that disabled parking be moved.

Sue distributed photos of problematic parking as supplied by Carol.

Sue Shepherd said that, if disabled parking was moved to the main North East car park, the surface would have to be improved. Joe suggested that this was not necessary as parking could be allowed at the East end of Lime Tree Walk and the barrier moved further along to the Chalet Café.

Siriol said that people had driven on to the Velodrome to park.

Garry suggested that some of the parking monies could be used to improve the road surfaces and marking, and to replace posts.

Leo advised that a proper legal process was required to move the disabled bays.

Joe suggested that a large number of people could vote for moving of the disabled spaces. Julie said that, if there were any objections at all, it is highly unlikely that this request would be approved.

Garry said that the best remedy would be more visits by the enforcement officers, particularly at weekends.

Leo suggested that the gate to Lime Tree Walk could be fitted with an entry phone or keypad, although both were problematic as far as the widest possible disabled access was to be allowed.

Garry referred to the difficulties people found parking during the Park Run. Leo suggested that parking could be allowed along South Road (adjoining the A23) on an exceptional basis on Saturday mornings. Julie warned that this change would also require a formal legal process. Sue Shanks made the point that a move like this simply allowed more parking in the park.

Leo recommended putting up better signage advising park users to call parking enforcement if they saw cars illegally parked. It was agreed that this was a sensible first step and that it should be tried for three months.

Leo and Julie advised consulting with all stakeholders including sports teams, café owners and the cycling club.

Leo and Julie then left the meeting.

Sue will find out who the Park Run contact is and ask for their cooperation in stopping their participants from parking in the park.

Sue will contact the parking services company to get their approval for putting up posters in the park carrying their phone number.

Sue will contact Alan Griffiths to get his approval for posters about parking in the park, and to ask if we can use the BHCC logo as well as ours on the posters.

Clive will design the poster and, with Sue, put some up around the park and in the noticeboards.

We decided to monitor the parking for about 3 months after the posters go up, and review the situation after that time.

### **3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clive reported that takings from the Easter event were just over £400. FoPP has been refunded for the gazebo that did not turn up on the day along with a £50 donation.

The bank balance stands at £3400 with no outstanding obligations.

### **4. NOTICE BOARDS**

Garry reported that work is under way to repair the notice boards.

Garry and Sue Shanks had to leave the meeting at this point.

Without sufficient numbers to discuss other matters, the meeting ended at around 7.30pm.