

Friends of Preston Park meeting 6pm on 17 July 2018 at The Park View

Present: Sue Shepherd
Clive Shepherd
Sue Shanks,
Carol Cole
Dimitri Mehandziski
Garry Meyer

Apologies: Rose Jones
Joe McNulty

1. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

Garry mentioned he is having 20 banners printed for the Tidy Up team which will go up on some of the fencing in Preston Park.

The Minutes were approved.

2. Park updates

Sue reported she is trying to get an update from Neil Brothers re the trees.

Carol raised the matter of parking in the park. Garry said he had spoken to Alan Griffiths who will arrange for a park attendant to monitor this in the evening. Alan would welcome photographic evidence of problem parking.

Sue Shepherd volunteered to email Alan Griffiths and David Littlefair (sports bookings officer) on behalf of FOPP. They will make it clear to those using the park for sports that they should not park illegally.

There was some discussion about charging organisations that use the park and speculation about whether they have the right child protection provisions in place. This would be a matter to take up with councillors rather than council officers.

Signage – there was discussion about getting more permanent signage done and signage that makes it clear that parking money goes towards the upkeep of the park.

3. Pride stall

Dimitri will take charge of the stall which we'll use to promote the park and the role of FOPP. It was agreed that:

- Sue and Clive would retrieve bunting, table cloth etc. for the stall
- Dimitri would contact Becky at Pride so he can see the stall the day before
- Dimitri would do a shift 12-2pm and sort cover for the next shift. Sue Shanks and Carol would do the 4-6pm slot
- Sue Shepherd would put Dimitri in touch with the person from whom he can collect badges for access
- Dimitri will get T-shirts printed with rainbow flag and FOPP logo. The committee agreed a spend of up to £100 for this.
- Sue Shepherd would speak to Dimitri about photos of Preston Park for the stall.

Garry suggested taking a supply of cable ties, duct tape, first aid kit and scissors.

4. Mayor's tidy-up event on 9 August

Garry reported this would mainly be a publicity event for the Tidy-Up Team and will be very children-focussed. FOPP has bought acrylic paints for pebble painting. The "super bin" would be going into Preston Park (bin with a cupboard attached from which authorised volunteers can access tidy-up equipment).

There is going to be a lunch with the mayor for which there are four spaces available for FOPP. Sue and Clive, Carol, Sue Shanks and Joe McNulty were all interested. [Sue Shanks has since said she is not available.]

5. Photo competition

To date there have been only 6 entries. Closing date is end of August. Sue Shepherd will send out a reminder.

6. Lantern walk – 27 October

This is expected to be a big event this year. Carol Cole will drive it. Siroil volunteered to help though said she had never attended one. It was hoped Joe McNulty could be the third member of the team and would particularly help with getting sponsorship. Garry can source a platform for decorating. Clive knows of a good entertainer instead of a storyteller and will be in charge of special effects. We may be able to source lights from Keith for judging the fancy dress. We may be able to use the upstairs of the chalet café for pumpkin carving on 26 October. Garry will talk to Preston Manor about combining this with their ghost-hunting event. Sue Shepherd is to share with Carol the list of things that need to be done relatively early on to organise this.

7. AGM – 3 November

Fitness Hub may allow us to have this at the former Men's Bowls Pavilion. There was some suggestion of who we might have as a speaker, possibly Andy Maxted from Brighton Museums. Geoffrey Mead was also mentioned and might be able to do a walk around the Preston Village area after the AGM

8. Dog problem

There had been a report of an over-enthusiastic dog approaching a woman on a health walk and the dog's owner then allegedly being abusive. The woman's carer had reported the incident to Caroline Lucas. There were question marks over the reliability of the account and it was agreed that, in any case, this was a matter for council officers to deal with, not volunteers.

9. Draft City Plan

This was discussed briefly but there seemed little of immediate relevance to the park other than a little on disease management for the elms.

10. AOB

- There was concern about barbeques in the park and the fire risk. There was a suggestion that we could put up signs encouraging people to use the park but to stay safe (Siroil said she would send through examples of cartoons used in Laos).
- A friend of Preston Park had emailed to offer to fundraise to repair buildings in the park. Opinion was divided as to whether this was purely the council's responsibility or whether this should be encouraged. It was felt that we should not discourage this.

- Sue Shanks suggested bringing together different groups with and association with Preston Village. Sue Shepherd was reluctant because she thought there was not necessarily any common ground given different groups would have different focuses and there was no specific reason.
- Tony Upton would like to join the committee. It was thought that the committee is large enough at the moment, so he should be encouraged to help in other ways.

11. Next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on 19 September starting at 6pm. Those planning the Lantern Walk could meet immediately before/after.