

Friends of Preston park Committee meeting

23 May at 6:30pm at the Park View

Present: Sue Shepherd, Clive Shepherd, Carol Cole, Sue Shanks, Dimitri Mehandziski, Keith Upton and Rose Jones

Apologies: Garry Meyer, Joe McNulty and Siriol Hugh-Jones

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

- The new backing for both noticeboards is in place and looks good. But we are now unable to open them, consequently the boards are looking scruffy. Sue will contact the appropriate BHCC person and urge them to fix the problem by the end of next week – we'll need to display notices for our next event.

2. Conservation Management Plan Update

Sue to email updated plans to the Friends' group after her call with Paul Campbell (Parks Projects Manager)

- The planting of the Rose Garden has taken place - mostly finished. We are waiting to hear from Alan Griffiths before organising a volunteer group to help maintain it on a weekly basis
- Semi-circular benches have been put out for tender for the corners of the Rose Garden. The benches are bespoke and do have arm rests.
- Pride have given BHCC £5,000 for the park - this will go towards renovating the shelter in the Coronation Garden.
- In order to improve access in the Coronation Garden the crazy paving will be taken up and will be replaced by tarmac.
- There were concerns that re-leveling the area into the croquet lawn will spoil the picturesque integrity of that part of the park.
- There are ongoing discussions regarding planting in the Coronation Garden. Main idea is still for a grassed area with paths cut through but in addition for circles cut out enabling people to sit and relax or have picnics etc.
- There are ideas to improve habitat diversity in the park in the future.

3. Future of Events

- Sue intends to stand back from organising all events. She has provided a sheet to show how to organise the Halloween Lantern Walk in detail, and info sheets on other events have been written. Preferably there will be 3 people to volunteer to run the events which will be organised during preceding meetings. It was felt that 3 volunteers would be required to ensure smooth running.
- We need to buy a new gazebo - Clive will source this. It was felt that it would be better to buy a stronger more expensive model as the cheaper ones tend to break easily - especially when different groups of people are putting them up!

4. Preston Village Open Day

- It was decided that we would hold a tombola on the stall. Rose has offered to donate a couple of photographs of the park as prizes as well as folding raffle tickets beforehand as unable to help on the day. Sue will email the FoPP group for prizes. Perhaps contact the new gym for a free session. Any money made would go towards a new tree for the park.
- The stall should also have sign-up sheets, a quiz (supplied by Sue) and a Friends of Preston Park leaflet.
- We discussed ideas about what should be included on the leaflet. One idea was to have a tree ID sheet. Sue to talk to Peter Bourne. Rose to photograph the tree and leaves, if required, of the main types of trees found around the park.

5. Pride Event

- We have paid for a gazebo and table in the VIP area. Dimitri to organise groups to run the stall from 12 - 7 pm, in 2's or 3's. We need to find out how many tickets/passes they will give us for the event.
- Discussions about what we should have on the table varied. Clearly FoPP leaflets, sign-up sheets. It was felt that it would be nice to have small FoPP gifts to hand out for donations or to buy. T-shirts probably too much but perhaps we should have some printed for the event for the committee/volunteers who man the stall. Other thoughts were bracelets, key-rings or cakes - though there maybe rules against food sales.

6. Litter in the park

- Poster being done by Sue. Will include information such as - 'If the bin is full please take your rubbish home because the foxes, gulls and wind will scatter it across the Park.'

7. Parking in the Park

- Carol mentioned that she had spoken to some of the Albion in the Community about parking their vehicles in the Park. She was informed that it was because of the equipment. They wanted to know if there was any Parking Permits to enable them to continue this. Sue to email the Albion to them to ask them to park in the area provided.
- We also discussed if there are separate rules for parking near the velodrome. Again the same rules apply. The council did outsource the area for large deposits of sand and bark earlier this year for the sandpits and flower beds around all the different parks in Brighton and Hove. Otherwise it should only be for emergency use.

8. Any Other Business

- Dimitri raised the issue of GDPR which comes into force this week - EU directive. It was felt that this would not affect us. Currently people not wanting to continue to receive emails send them directly to Sue who removes them at source.
- Dimitri also raised his worry about mothers and babies/nursery workers and babies running around the velodrome. He had seen two occasions when children had been knocked down by bicycles. It was felt that it was for the council to manage. It was also pointed out that some people also let their dogs run around there.
- If anyone would like a separate FoPP email they should let Clive know and he will set it up for them.

9. Next Committee Meeting

- Wednesday 11th July at 6:30