

FoPP committee meeting 7.30pm 15 May, Park View

Present: Carol Cole, Dimitri Mehandziski, Clive Shepherd, Keith Upton, Andy Jeavons, Kerry Pickett

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

New committee members, Andy Jeavons and Kerry Pickett were introduced and welcomed.

1) Minutes of last meeting and action points.

Action:

- Dimitri, Carol to attend Park Run on 15 June to recruit volunteers
- Andy Jeavons to attend future committee meetings on an observer basis, and his help and views related to gardening issues in the Park will be particularly welcomed
- Carol to check with Garry whether a full tree survey has already been carried out, and if not, the estimated cost of a new survey, as discussed with Pride.
- Clive to talk to Alan Griffiths to ensure picnic tables and new bins are installed before Pride in August. Dimitri also noted that the picnic tables north of the coronation garden also need replacing
- Questions related to the container situated near the Chalet café were answered by Andy who confirmed that it is being used as a temporary tool store whilst work is undertaken at the café

2) De-brief of Easter Event 21 April

The Easter Trail/Quiz event was a success. Around £500 profit was made from the participants and face-painting. The gazebo and 8 trestle tables bought from funds donated by Pride were used for the first time. (The furniture is being stored at the Chalet Café until the next event).

The Sussex Peasant gave us apples at cost price, which were very popular. Sainsbury's donated 90 crème eggs. 300 chocolate bunny lollipops, vegetarian eggs and crème eggs were bought.

The rock painting competition also went well. The aim of the event was for the children to write and decorate stones that would later be placed in the Park to promote a message regarding litter. There were two winners from the under 8s and under 13s categories. Thank you to Sue for her role as quiz-master.

• ACTION:

- Carol to contact Paul Gorringe regarding the current whereabouts of the rocks from the rock painting competition
- Rose to post rock painting winners on the FoPP website

3) Preston Village Open Day on 22 June

The suggested Bake Off competition event for this year was not taken up as the organisers thought that there would be too many cake orientated stalls. Instead it was decided that a classical ensemble would be a nice way to promote the work of FoPP as part of its recruitment drive. Andy also suggested 1 hour tours of the rockery. Two tours will take place and Andy will act as guide. Donations will be requested.

ACTION:

- Dimitri to investigate and book a classical ensemble for the day
- Clive to print some posters to advertise the event
- Rose to post the event on the FoPP website
- Andy to confirm time of tours for advertising purposes
- An informal committee meeting will take place at the Chalet Café at 12.00 on 15 June to discuss and finalise issues related to the Open Day. Anyone who is available is welcome

The team for the Open Day will be:

9.30 set-up: Clive, Carol, Andy and Dimitri plus two others TBD (setting up the gazebo needs 6 people)

Clear-up: TBD

4) Fields in Trust Organisation – ‘Have a Field Day’, 6 July

Whilst committee members were happy to participate in this event it was thought that it was too late to organise properly for this year. Therefore a decision was taken to address the proposal for next year.

• ACTION:

- Carol to invite people to have a picnic in the Park on 6 July in the FOPP newsletter and to politely remind them to respect the use of the park with regards to litter and noise

5) Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum

Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum have invited applications from local volunteer groups. Joe will make an application for £1000 on behalf of FOPP to cover on-going costs.

6) Volunteer Gardening Groups in Preston Park

Volunteer gardening groups have been set up by Andy. Three groups are currently running, (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00 until 13.00), but more leaders are needed to take on more volunteers. There are courses, but that would need to be organised. It was noted that Keith is already a qualified group leader, but is generally only available at weekends.

It was also suggested that volunteer bulb planting could be organised. Andy suggested daffodils and camisas could be planted under the trees facing the rockery.

It was noted that the front flower beds near the London road were in need of re-planting.

ACTION:

- Carol to advertise the need for leaders and volunteers in the newsletter
- Carol and Andy to meet with Stella Richardson from Brighton and Hove council to discuss the possibility of using car-parking funds to finance the volunteer bulb planting project

7) Green Flag Judges

The Green Flag Judges viewed Preston Park on 9 May. Carol and Andy met with them. It was noted that the judges were impressed with the number of members in the FoPP and with the volunteer gardening attendance. The result of the judges will be revealed next month.

ACTION:

- Carol to include a note on how to join the Brighton and Hove volunteer litter- pickers in the FoPP newsletter

8) Parking

It was suggested that although the number of vehicles parked illegally has reduced, it would be perhaps useful to get the newly elected councillors involved. Some of the wooden posts still need replacing to deter parking on the grass. The red signs on the litter bins and about parking are thought to be quite successful.

ACTION:

- Carol will invite some of the new councillors to the next committee meeting to discuss what can be done to rectify the illegal parking issue
- Reprint the signs about parking and bins

9) Fencing

The fencing that has been removed near the wild flower beds has generally been seen positively by the general public although there have been a few negative comments.

Andy has suggested that if the Dahlia Walk between the tennis courts was to be re-planted it would be necessary to have a small fence erected to stop dogs and people walking through the plants. The committee agreed that it would probably work and supported the proposal.

Kerry also suggested fencing to help the survival of the rose beds on either side of the slip path leading from the rose garden up to the Rotunda Café and toilets. People are taking the shortest route and walking on the roses. The beds are being destroyed and look terrible. A few pieces of strategically placed hip height fencing (smaller fencing on the other side is stepped over) would channel people back to the footpath and save the roses.

ACTION:

- Carol will discuss the issue of fencing between Dahlia Walk and the rose beds near the Rotunda Café toilets with Stella Richardson

10) Clock tower

The temporary fencing on the clock tower remains in place to prevent anyone being hurt from falling debris. However, this has been there for a number of months without any work being undertaken on the structure.

ACTION:

- Carol will discuss the issue of work starting on the clock tower with Stella Richardson

11) 'Foster a tree'

A number of new Elm trees have been planted in the Park. Kerry suggested that particularly at this dry time of year that a 'foster a tree' system could be set up whereby members of the public could commit to looking after a tree, i.e. watering it and checking for damage. This would help them survive the early stage of growth. The committee thought it would be a good idea.

- **ACTION:**

- Carol to speak to Alan regarding the proposal

AOB and next meeting

It was noted that people are walking in the newly seeded wild flower area. The former pathway is now the seeded area. However it hasn't been temporarily fenced off while it grows as in previous years not have there been any signage. It is confusing for the general public and it was noted that signs and temporary fencing are needed to save the plants trying to grow.

Clive provided a quick demo of how **Slack** works. He pointed out that it would only work if people monitor their messages. It was decided we would discuss this further at a subsequent meeting when they are more committee members present.

Andy offered the services of the drumming band he belongs to for future events subject to their availability.

The next newsletter is underway and Carol expects it to be completed in the next few days. Andy offered photos of volunteer gardening in progress if needed.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16 July at 6.30pm.