

## **FoPP Committee Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, 18.30, Park View**

**Present:** Kerry Pickett (KP), Carol Cole (CC), Dimitri Mehandziski (DM), Clive Shepherd (CS), Andy Jeavons (AJ)

**Apologies:** Siriol Hugh-Jones (SHJ), Joe McNulty (JM), Rose Jones (RJ)

John Jaap, Director of Events, Park Run, was welcomed to the meeting as an observer. He will attend committee meetings occasionally and act as a focal point for Park Run. John offered to use the Park Run Facebook page to call for volunteers for FoPP events. It was also suggested that FoPP could lobby on behalf of Park Run as required.

### **1) Minutes of last meeting and action points**

#### **Preston Village Open Day**

Preston Village Open Day will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> June and FoPP will take part. Skulldrummery have been asked to play and give a children's workshop. AJ will provide rockery tours. A children's event was also discussed eg a plant/bug hunt. Tbd nearer the time

Action:

- AJ to request and confirm if Skulldrummery can play and give a children's workshop
- DM to enquire if the classical music ensemble is also available
- Preston Manor is producing a poster about the open day and CC will advise Sue Shepherd about FoPP's plans for the event.

#### **Photographic Competition**

The competition has been launched and posters are being distributed to advertise it.

#### **Halloween Lantern Walk**

This event will be discussed at a later date.

#### **AGM**

This event will be discussed at a later date.

#### **Wreath Making**

This event will be discussed at a later date.

#### **Downs Junior School request**

CC emailed the school to offer help but as yet there is no response.

Action:

- CC will continue to liaise with the school

## **2) Easter Egg Event**

It is essential that volunteers for the event are confirmed ASAP. Currently, KP, AJ and CS are confirmed. SHJ has also confirmed for 11.45 until 14.00. DM has confirmed the face-painters. AJ will use a Park vehicle to help with moving equipment. Set-up will start at 9.30. A bug-life theme was chosen for this years' rock painting.

Action:

- CC to ask RJ if she is available, and will seek other volunteers from members who have indicated they will be interested
- DM will notify the face-painters of the change of venue near the Chalet Café
- AJ to request a Park's vehicle for the event and ask if at least one ranger can help on the day
- CS will ask Sue Shepherd if she will write the questions for the children's quiz
- KP to sort out the music and sound system
- CC to buy the necessary chocolate bunnies, easter eggs and lollies
- CS to print A3 laminated and A4 posters to advertise the event
- DM and KP to disseminate the posters
- CS to amend the information regarding the event on the FoPP website
- CC to ask the Ranger, Emma, to buy rocks

## **3) Big Lunch Proposal**

Taking place nationally on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June, the aim of the weekend is to get people out into green spaces with the intention of bringing communities together. People are invited to bring along a picnic.

Action:

- CC to respond to the invite by asking for more information as to what the day entails

## **4) Parking**

Following various complaints that the parking system currently being used in the Park is encouraging non-Park users to use the limited parking spaces meant for Park users, the FoPP Committee believes that the issues need:

1. Price parity with the road parking
2. Clearer signage to make Park users more aware of the parking rules
3. More parking enforcement

Action:

- CC to speak with Alan Griffiths, the Park Operations Manager
- CC to invite local councillors to discuss further

### **5) Preston Park management**

There have been a number of complaints from the public regarding the severe cutting back of shrubbery around the Park. Whilst it is accepted that shrubs need pruning and areas need to be tidied and managed, it needs to take account of wildlife and insects, to be done in a less invasive manner and to take account of the appearance of the overall Park.

Action:

- CC to speak with Alan Griffiths regarding the shrubbery, clearing of leaves on paths and the general state of the pathways

### **6) Bulb and tree planting**

It was agreed we will support a large scale bulb planting event in late September/early October under the elms at the front of the Park, subject to permission from Alan Griffiths. Tree planting remains under discussion.

Action:

- AJ and KP will meet with Alan Griffiths to discuss the tree possibilities. It will be necessary to decide which areas would be suitable for planting

### **7) Survey**

CS proposed that 2020 is a time to seek the views of FoPP members regarding the Park and FoPP's role over the coming 10 years. He has prepared a survey that was approved by the Committee and will be sent out to members in March. The results will provide a barometer on how people feel about current and future proposals, and may provide some new ideas. We will also send out the next newsletter by the end March.

Action:

- CS to provide the link and send out the digital Newsletter

### **AOB and next meeting**

There was no AOB.

The meeting ended at 20.40. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 23 March, at 18.30.