

## **FoPP Committee Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, 15.00, Preston Manor Kitchen Garden**

**Present:** Kerry Pickett (KP), Carol Cole (CC), Rose Jones (RJ), Clive Shepherd (CS), Andy Jeavons (AJ)

**Apologies:** Siriol Hugh-Jones (SHJ), Joe McNulty (JM), Dimitri Mehandziski (DM), Mike McGuinness (MM)

It was suggested and agreed that CS would create a section on Slack for easier access to the Committee minutes.

CC welcomed the addition of MM to the FoPP Committee as a representative of St Peters Cricket Club (SPCC) that is based in Preston Park.

### **1) Member Survey**

CS presented the results of the Preston Park Member Survey. The Committee agreed on the usefulness of the comments and that efforts would be made to try and implement suggestions as much as possible.

Action:

- The results will be uploaded to the website as well as the next Newsletter
- Copies will be distributed to and discussed with local councillors and City Parks staff

### **2) Litter and barbeques**

It was noted that possibly in part due to the current world health situation, more people are using the Park. However, this has also meant a general increase in the amount of litter being left behind as well as the use of barbeques that destroy the grass and are potentially dangerous. It was generally agreed that the public needs more education with regard to behaviour within the grounds and what to do with their rubbish.

Action:

- CS to create new posters for the bins and other areas that will highlight respect for the Park, the environment and other people
- The Committee plan to consult other interested parties such as local councillors and City Parks staff regarding litter, behaviour, and respect for the environment in order to implement a prominent campaign from Easter 2021

### **3) Volunteer groups update**

Currently, Brighton & Hove City Council are completing a risk assessment that will detail how volunteers might once again help with the gardening. FoPP will be contacted once this is complete.

Action:

- CC to continue to pressure the council for clarification

#### **4) Overnight dwellers in the Park**

Following complaints that van dwellers were living in the Park, CC was notified that these people had been given notice to move or face court proceedings.

#### **5) St Peters Cricket Club Update**

In the absence of MM, CC explained how SPCC is currently aiming to rebuild its club house. SPCC envisages the new club house as a community hub for the Park and surrounding area, and hopes it will be used by FoPP and other local organisations.

#### **6) Treasury update**

CS updated the Committee on the financial state of the FoPP which has remained in balance so far this year due to Covid-19.

Action:

- CC to contact SHJ regarding the funding for climbing roses on the Dahlia Walk

#### **7) AJ update**

AJ noted that it will be vital to get the volunteer and community payback groups back as soon as possible in order to get the Park looking great again. However, he was also able to provide the wonderful news that the Rockery will feature in this month's edition of the RHS's prestigious magazine, *'The Garden'*.

#### **8) Project plan to improve biodiversity in Preston Park**

RJ was sent a plan to improve the biodiversity of Preston Park by a local community member John Padmore. It was noted that this plan had been presented to the FoPP Committee in 2009. The Committee thanks JP for sharing this with us again, and it was good to note that some of his suggestions have been taken into account.

#### **9) Anti-social behaviour in Preston Park**

It has been noted that there has been a sharp rise in anti-social behaviour within and around the Park, including graffiti on the Chalet Café walls and the Clock Tower, damage to the

Cricket Pavilion and equipment, damage to the bowling greens adjacent to the Park, damage to the Rockery and all night parties creating mountains of rubbish in the morning.

Action:

- CC to contact the PCSOs to discuss how to deal with vandalism and anti-social behaviour

### **10) Clock tower**

Having been recently restored, the clock tower has again been vandalised with graffiti. KP suggested the possibility of a fence to deter vandals and prevent the doorway being used as a toilet.

Action:

- KP to contact Councillor Leo Littman regarding the possibility of a fence

### **11) Trees**

Brighton and Hove City Council recently received a gift in a will of 50 disease resistant Elm trees from The Netherlands, to be planted in Preston Park. Volunteers will be needed to plant them once it is allowed to plant them.

We will continue to look at raising funds to plant some other varieties of trees in specific areas of the Park once we know where the new Elms will be planted.

Action:

- This project will be ongoing and should be regularly discussed at further meetings

### **AOB and next meeting**

**Events for the rest of 2020** – Due to continuing uncertainty about Covid-19 lockdown conditions, it was agreed that we should cancel the annual Halloween Lantern Walk in November and the Wreath Making Event in December. We will hold the AGM via Zoom, in late October or early November, and will discuss the details of how we arrange this at the next meeting.

**Photographic competition** – there have been a lot more entries this year so far. The deadline is the end of August.

**PPYCC** – KP to contact a representative of the cycling club to encourage more insight into other group's investment and time in the Park.

The meeting ended at 17.20. The next meeting will be held during the first week of September. Tbc.