

FoPP Committee Meeting 5th August 2021, 18.00, The Park View

Present: Carol Cole (CC), Kerry Pickett (KP), Clive Shepherd (CS), Andy Jeavons (AJ), Beatrice Moreau-Gray (BMG), Henry Frankel (HF)

Apologies: Joe McNulty (JM), Dimitri Mehandziski (DM), Rose Jones (RJ), Henry Johnson (HJ), Isabelle Martin (IM)

CC introduced Henry Frankel (HF) who was invited to present his proposals for a children's interactive tree mapping project in PP.

1) HF's 'Tree – Sure Island' presentation

HF, a local primary teacher and filmmaker with an interest in improving child engagement with the natural world, outlined his proposal to initially create an interactive tree walk using a goldfinch motif. (See written proposal for more information.) HF also offered to make a documentary that could be used to advertise the future project; children would be filmed identifying trees and taking part. It was noted that parental consent would be needed but that this could be given in writing at the trial event in September.

A possible trial date of 4th or 5th September was suggested as the footage for the documentary needs, ideally to be acquired by 6th September. The event will also need to be advertised ASAP. BMG suggested contacting school PTAs as a better way to get schools involved in the wider project.

It was agreed to keep the initial route within the main park. Additional routes could be added later and may include the Rockery when the idea is expanded, possibly making it seasonal. It was also suggested that the idea would be used to further create a video competition aimed at teenagers, as part of the annual photographic competition.

Action:

- HF to identify a tree route with AJ for the committee to review.
- HF to confirm dates with the illustrator as to whether the map can be ready for the proposed trial date of 4th or 5th September.
- CS to provide HF with the FoPP logo for the artwork.

2) FoPP constitution update

Having reviewed the FoPP constitution, CC and CS noted the necessity to include some new requirements for it to be legally binding. The new additions were agreed by the committee, and it will need to be signed by the Chair, Deputy-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. CS also offered to post the Treasurer's report on Slack each month.

Action:

- CS to sign the new constitution and post to other members for signing.
- CS to post the Treasurer's report on Slack.

3) Proposed events

Litter art - BMG proposed a litter/art event as a way to educate children about litter. Collected litter could be used to recreate art such as masks and pictures, combined with information about anti-littering.

Action:

- BMG to contact Fiveways Artists Group to see if their members might be interested.

AGM – It was agreed that last year's AGM via Zoom was more successful than meeting in a hall, as people were able to pose questions in advance and all three local councillors and some City Parks officials were available to answer them. Attendance by members was also higher. Therefore, the FoPP AGM will take place via Zoom and CS suggested that we try to hold it on a weekday rather than a Saturday morning to see if this would encourage more participation, on a date to be agreed.

Action:

- CC to contact ward counsellors and City Parks heads to ask if they would be available mid-week and to then agree a date with the committee via Slack.

Halloween – It was agreed that the Halloween event could be simplified, possibly by moving it centrally nearer to the Chalet Café, and while participants would be invited to dress up, there will be no fancy-dress competition as this would cause too much crowding. Instead, some external eventers could be invited to take part. It will take place on 30th October.

Action:

- CC to ask the Chalet Café owners if they would be interested in providing food/drinks for sale on the night.

Bulb planting – AJ proposed a daffodil bulb planting event for the front flower beds for the end of October.

Action:

- AJ to request bulbs.

- CS and RJ to advertise the bulb planting.

Wreath making – Due to Covid -19, Friends of St. Peter’s are not planning to hold the Christmas wreath making event this year. Like last year, AJ will collect foliage that will be left in the Coronation Garden for the public to take and make their own wreaths.

Action:

- AJ and helpers to collect foliage for wreaths in December and notify on Slack.
- CS and RJ to advertise the foliage on the website and FB.

4) Blossom tree project update

It was agreed that the blossom tree project is now ready to be publicly announced so that we can invite people to donate. A funding page will need to be made and local media will be used to advertise the aims of the proposal. It was suggested and agreed that we should promote the project as a tribute to celebrate the NHS and support services. A spring, celebratory blossom festival was suggested once the blossom trees are established.

Action:

- CC to draft an announcement.

5) Outdoor gym update

The proposal for an outdoor gym in PP is underway. City Parks has agreed to back the idea. HJ has also spoken to other local fitness instructors who are interested in helping through giving public ‘taster sessions’ to encourage people to add simple exercises to their routine. A meeting of City Parks managers, HJ and CC on 24th September will address the route of the fitness trail around the park. City Parks has agreed to fund part of the money needed to build the gym from parking fees and some section 106 community funding, and FoPP has also pledged to raise funds.

6) Preston twin tree update

Work is proceeding on the ‘Preston twin’ elm tree trunk sculpture. Planning permission is being sought to return the trunk back to PP near to its surviving twin, in its new form. FoPP will give advice about crowd funding to cover costs pending a full grant.

7) PPFLAT update

Active involvement in the PP warden volunteer group has been minimal. For the project to succeed it needs more volunteers. At this stage, interested participants should contact PPFLAT1@gmail.com to find out more.

Regarding the 'safety in green spaces' or Report IT posters, FoPP has received an image for PP that can be posted online with copy that explains the use of 101 or 999. PPFLAT are hoping to have funds to pay for posters soon. They will contact us once they have posters for us to distribute.

Action:

- FoPP will advertise the PPFLAT warden volunteer group for PP to its members.

8) Preston Manor update

Preston Manor has started up their volunteer gardening group again and carried out repairs to the garden, most notably the Walled Garden pond. They would like to look at ways we can work together going forward. CC suggested we set up a meeting with their operations manager and his team in September.

Action:

- CC to contact Preston Manor.

AOB and next meeting

Community Works – BMG has looked at the Community Works website and made contact. As a group that coordinates volunteers, BMG believes that they may be useful to us as a way to advertise our events and to request volunteers. BMG will continue to monitor and assess their usefulness.

Pond – The wildlife pond near St. Peter's church in PP will be cleared. This will enable the pond to hold water all year round.

Book share area – It was agreed that the committee would support a book share place if external volunteers prepared to maintain it.

Action:

- CC to make contact with the book share proposer to ask for suggestions as to where to site the book share area and to assess volunteer involvement to maintain it. Permission from City Parks will also be sought.

Next meeting -TBA

The meeting ended at 20.40