

Friends of West Park Meeting Minutes 27th August 2009

Present: - Barrie Armstrong; Andy Samanjoul; Neil Brimer; Marie Brown and Pippa Smaling.

Apologies: - Tony Cooper, Sue Pattison

1) Events **Feedback from Summer Event**

Barrie asked about the Summer event as he was on holiday, The Event was very well attend compared to previous years. Estimates think we had over 1000 participants. The weather was kind to us with only light splatters of rain, while small in the number of teams the football competition was really well received. Also the Bike Track had a large number of young people participating and the young people had a great time. A great deal of work had been done by Pippa and the Councils Event Team and to make 2010 even better, planning should start now.

2)Projects update

Play area: - The Play area is going through planning as is due to be decided at their next meeting. Pippa and groundwork did a consultation at Alderman Leach School around the types and styles of equipment the children and young people would like to see in the play park. Also Bill Herbert (Poet and Artist) is looking into art that can go into the Park.

Halloween 2009

This is being headed up by Pippa and will be held at Alderman Leach School on Friday 30th October. Due to participant safety and staffing the event is going to be slightly smaller than first planned, and follow a similar programme to last year with the inclusion of a Lanten Parade into West Park. This will be a book in event.

3) Site Maintenance

Bike Track

The Track needs spraying off due to grass encroachment, the Track needs approximately 40 Tonnes of dust. Some reshaping is going out to tender.

West Park

Growth of vegetation has been constant over the summer with some parts becoming unsightly. Trees need cutting near Comets Garth, Ponds need clearing and the grass is due to be cut the last time before winter will be in October. Also the flowerbeds opposite Comets Garth need clearing and replanting which could be up to five days work. Pippa is working with Darlington Borough Council Nursery to come up with a low maintenance planting scheme.

4) Winter Programme Ideas

- Have the bike track flood lit on up to 8 nights during the winter evenings.
- Also an after school session for the young people to use the bike track and cycling generally. Early in January 2010 after young people have their new bikes.
- A pre Christmas bike building event to show parents how to put together flat pack bikes. November-December Time.
- A November Tree planting session. (Not necessarily in West Park) although it could be a transplant event.
- Christmas Cheese and Wine party for the Residents of West Park including Pictures of the events and Park through out 2009. Possibly to be held at the West Park Café, in December.
- Small event to celebrate the start of work on the Play Park and a Community for the official opening.

5) Community Feedback

Over the summer holidays the young people have had activities based at the bike track or from the park for 4 weeks which they have really enjoyed

Last meeting discussions were had about the Levy and how the Friends group could apply or be granted monies from the levy. It was suggested that the group become a constituted group. (Enclosed with these minutes is a 1st attempt at a constitution for the group). Other policies such as a safeguarding policy will be drafted shortly. The steering group will be asked to look at the constitution and in consultation with the Community Foundation and maybe ask advice from the Council Solicitor about the groups needed by the Community Foundation to administer the granting of the Levy. Andy kindly offered trail blazers as an example any other sample documents or comments can be sent to Neil.Brimer829@mod.uk

The new West Park Directory was received by the residents and featured an article about the Friends of West Park

6) Issues to be raised to the steering group

- Friends of West Park Constitution
- Making funds available for the publicity and running of events in the community
- The continued advertisement in the West Park Directory.

7) AOB

It was thought best to have a meeting late November and early December to meet after Halloween and finalise cheese and wine evening, bike building and then have a meeting in 2010 to carry on creating a Community Calendar.

Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 26th November 7pm at the West Park Café