

# Red House Park Friends Group

## 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005

### Meeting Notes

Sarah Carter, Chair, opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

#### 1. Present

Sarah Carter, Chair William Gunn, Vice-Chair Jenny Hale, Secretary Kay Clash Jean Jones Jason Cross Jill Fisher Dawn & Glen Williams Anthony Lewis Tom Dwyer	Ken Sutton Cllr Mary Wilson Cllr Sadie Smith Cllr Margaret Macklin Christine Horton Tony Potter Ken Styler Brenda Styler Paul D Moore Sue Willetts
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#### 2. Apologies

Steve West, SMBC Tim Pitt, SMBC Oliver Franklin	Mrs Gorton Mrs McGibbon Ann Lander
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#### 3 Matters arising from last meeting

- Gates are in process of being made and should be ready for installation in May. The benches will be replaced once the gates have been installed to prevent any further thefts. Steve West is trying to find the gate which was removed next to Jumpin' Jacks to use as a pattern for replacement and will be looking at insurance to cover cost.
- Not successful with Landfill Tax grant application for Lakes Restoration – this will restrict the project work unless other funding sources can be found.
- SC handed in skateboard petition to West Bromwich Town Committee meeting, on 24/3/05.
- Dartmouth High School will hopefully start work on bird boxes in May, after SATS.
- B& Q grant has been requested – awaiting reply.
- All schools have been sent letters advising of the Fun Day – only Dartmouth and Hamstead Infant have replied.
- Articles advertising the Fun Day have been printed in the Express & Star and The Observer.
- Standard letter of information to stall holders drafted by JH if anyone wants copies.
- People who left their contact details on our questionnaires need to be contacted. Unfortunately, none of the contacts left telephone numbers. JH to send letters to each one asking for help on Fun Day.

#### 4. B43 website

SC introduced Anthony Lewis to the group. He is a lecturer at UCE and the owner of B43 website. Tony has already included some information about Red House Park on his website but has very kindly offered to include any information about the Friends that is put to him. He has also bought and donated

a website specifically for the Friends, which will be linked into B43. The web address is [www.redhousepark.org.uk](http://www.redhousepark.org.uk). The Friends would like to offer their thanks to Tony for his support. Suggestions for items to be included on the site were minutes of meetings, details of forthcoming meetings and events, history of the park and house, Fun Day info, an enquiry form, Forum and the ability for people to write and enter their own memories of the park. JH to send AL written info, GW to provide AL with digital photos.

## 5. Toddler Play Area

- We now have written confirmation from SMBC that a new Toddler Play Area will be installed during 2005. It is being funded through the Play Area Capital Programme, from SMBC to meet the boroughs targets of bringing Town Parks up to government led standards.
- The Play Area will cater for the ages of 4 – 8 years. SMBC will consult with Friends and local primary schools before going ahead with installation. The Friends can suggest which 2 schools they would like to be involved and any other groups that they feel may be appropriate (possibly out of school clubs / child minders, etc).
- Contact is Helgar Lutz, SMBC. At the consultations they can show the children what equipment is available but they are really more about discussing how best to use the park and the issues surrounding it, i.e. bullying, vandalism and general behaviour.
- HL will attend our next meeting if invited and discuss the project in more detail. As a start to proceedings the location needs to be decided on – this has been discussed at previous meetings and the group wants it located next to the current Play Area for 8 – 14 year olds.
- Ideally the Friends would like to have the new Play Area installed in time for the Fun Day. Enquiries to be made.

## 6. Fun Day

- Confirmation received from Tim Pitt, West Bromwich Town Team, that the funds remaining from last years Fun Day can be kept for continued use of the consultation process at this year's Fun Day.
- A Storyteller has been provisionally booked by JH. Charges and requirements were discussed by group and agreed that it would be a good thing to have on day. There maybe a chance to negotiate the price depending on what we require on the day.
- Glen Williams had produced some excellent, high quality advertising material - poster advertising Fun Day, flyer asking for help from local residents and leaflet to be used to get local businesses / stall holders interested, with a view to sponsorship / donations – these were shown to the group. GW asked if SMBC could print them for us – TP to enquire.
- Banners advertising the Fun Day are required for all entrances to park. GW had suggested that the local schools compete for the 'best banner' (for a small prize) – this depends on interest from schools. JH had contacted Dartmouth High School and they were willing to produce all the banners if required (materials to be provided). Group decided it would be best to have one poster made professionally, which could be reused every year. JF to cost materials, GW to cost production.
- Tony Potter, SMBC Events Manager, discussed with group the different amusements available and charges. Agreed that we should have a mixture of free activities and chargeable ones. TP pointed out that items such as Bouncy Castle and Gladiators would not be safe to use in wet weather. TP needs to perform a site assessment before any final decisions can be made on what is appropriate. Visit to park arranged for beginning of May.
- Climbing Wall discussed again in light of the funding now available. Group agreed that Friends could now afford to have it and charge public to use and it would be a good activity to have. TP to arrange.

- Tom Dwyer, Sandwell Youth Council and pupil of Dartmouth High School Sixth Form, was present. He suggested a five-a-side football tournament, charge £2 per team, with pupils from the school stewarding, refereeing and arranging as part of their Junior and Community Sports Leader Award. TP was asked about the possibility of using the bowling green for this purpose, as there is already a letter of authority from SW, SMBC, allowing the local children to use it. TP to enquire. TD advised that the school have a dance group and bands that may be interested in performing on the day. SC pointed out that there would be no electricity on site for the purpose although there is a possibility of using a small generator depending on where the bands were located and whether there was anyone to steward it. TD also mentioned the Sea Cadet Band from TS Leopard. TD to make enquiries re the above. Other suggestions: Greets Green Youth Bus, Connexions Bus, West Brom Army Cadets and weapons demo's.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Aid – JH has application forms for both St John's Ambulance and the Red Cross. There is some doubt about the Red Cross' ability to attend due to lack of manpower. Friends are looking at paying a minimum of £100 + VAT for day. SC asked TP whether we could man it ourselves providing we had qualified 1<sup>st</sup> Aiders and an individual 1<sup>st</sup> Aid stand. TP to look into. JH to discuss app's with TP before posting.
- KC needs GW's leaflets to send out to stallholders ASAP. JH has drafted a standard letter to send to stallholders who have already been contacted. Contact JH if required. KC has contacted the scouts about running the bar-b-q again for us – they have agreed and want to come to next meeting.
- Still have the issue of no toilets for disabled access. SC asked TP if SMBC would pay for it. TP to enquire.
- The issue of parking was raised. We require disabled access parking and parking for stallholders – both were a problem last year. JF suggested stallholders could park along edge adjacent to Fairyfield Ave, this would solve the problem of congestion with outgoing and incoming traffic. Agreed that it may be best to designate the carpark for disabled access and stallholders only. TP to assess on site visit.
- JF asked if stallholders could access the park earlier than last year – this depends on SMBC staff opening the gates at the agreed time.
- JJ organising the dog show.
- TP advised that Car boot sale requires 2 marshalls.
- TP has arranged, via the council's advisory group, for 2 police officers to be present throughout the day.
- Need Crime Prevention Bus – Cllr M W to contact.

## 7. Any Other Business

- KS asked about the lease on the Red House – still no progress. JH received email from David Brown, SMBC dated 24/3/05– he has drafted a report recommending that the Friends have use of one of the rooms and is seeking clarification from the Health Authority to ensure that they **do** want to lease the building. If no suitable leaser can be found then the house will be sold for residential development and any capital receipt from the sale will be ring fenced for park improvements and match funding bids. SC reminded group that BTCV pulled out of Red House in April 2004, she was present at meeting with them and SMBC in June 2005 and nothing has happened since.

## 8. Next Meeting

- Previously agreed to meet once a month leading up to the Fun Day. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005, 7.15pm** at Hill Lane. **Please bring any details of stalls / activity bookings / costings to the meeting.**