

# Red House Park Friends Group

## 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005

### Meeting Notes

Sarah Carter, Chair, opened the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

#### 1. Present

Sarah Carter, Chair William Gunn, Vice-Chair Jenny Hale, Secretary Kay Clash Jason Cross Dawn & Glen Williams Ray Wheatley	Jackie Ward Christine Horton Paul Moore Cllr Tony Ward Selwyn Hayward Stephanie Page Oliver Franklin C J Lowe
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#### 2. Apologies

Helga Lutz, SMBC Urban Parks Manager  
Guy Hale  
Carol Szymura  
Sue Willetts  
Simon Hackett

Sonia Vaughan  
Craig Priddy  
Ken Sutton  
Jean Jones  
Beryl McGibbon  
Camilla Gorton

#### 3. New Toddler Play Area

Two different architects' plans had been provided for the meeting by Sandwell MBC, detailing their proposals for the new toddler play area sites. One plan meant losing some of the shrubbery next to the existing play area and the other did not. SMBC thought that removing the shrubs would provide a better view of the play areas, however, after a group discussion, there was a unanimous decision to site the new play area further into the playing field without losing any of the existing shrubbery, as this would maintain the current 'look' to the main entrance of the House.

#### 4. Probation Service

KC had been in touch with the Probation Service about helping out with work to the park. They were unable to assist with painting the railings (due to H & S) or planting the flowerbeds, but they could help with clearing the Copse. SC suggested that they contacted RW direct to discuss and SC would make enquiries about removal of the waste/rubbish and the hire of skips.

#### 5. Lakes Restoration Project

Work still continuing. Work to pathways had begun but no work done to lower pool (as discussed at last meeting). Presumably no more heavy-duty work would be done now if work to the paths had commenced.

SC had noticed that certain trees had been colour coded with spray paint (red, orange or green) but was uncertain of the meaning. RW confirmed that red meant tree to be felled and green to be pruned. SC had not yet received a date for tree surgery.

- SC advised that the park gates were now been locked at night and SC, JC and CH all confirmed that there was a marked improvement in the amount of disturbance in the park after dark. However, RW advised that the locks of the Newton Rd gates were regularly being smashed off in an attempt by youths to enter the park. High-tension locks are required but these are very costly and would probably not be considered under the SMBC budget.
- We still require a replacement gate next to Jumpin' Jacks and despite numerous requests to SMBC nothing had been forthcoming.
- WG advised that a fence panel was down on Pages Lane, giving easy access to park after dark.
- The dry wall surrounding the old beech tree needed repairing – this is something the Friends would have to do themselves.

## **6. Fun Day**

- Agreed that same prices would be charged for stalls etc.
- Agreed to keep the band for Fun Day but need to consider repositioning for 2006, as attendance at 2005's was very low. Overall positioning to be arranged closer to the day.
- Keep: Barrel Organ, Car Boot, Fair rides, Punch & Judy, Storyteller, Climbing Wall, First Aid, Karate display, Dog Show (don't need professional judge, needs to start later in day).
- Need Friends to man their own stalls: - plants, tea/coffee & cakes, tombola, books, info/petition. Need a minimum of 16 Friends for the Day + assistance from SMBC, Scouts and Rotary for parking and traffic, etc.
- Need: teenage rides, Five-a-side/ penalty shoot out, Sumo inflatables, Donkey rides, PA system, Fire Engine, Police, Council's recycling demo, dance group (KC to contact), music groups (local), Rotary Club to assist.
- Agreed that KC would contact St Paul's Scouts, to request provision of burgers. They would be charged £50 for the day, however, if they provided 6-10 scouts to assist Friends on day and to litter pick afterwards they would receive a full refund.
- Local schools to be contacted again to see if they wish to take part.
- Tent required again, to house 'delicates' (KC).
- Discussed staggering the starting times of Car Boot and Dow Show, possibly 10am and 2pm respectively.
- Require: programmes (with lucky number and advertising of local businesses), posters, and 3 more banners (Cllr TW advised he would arrange for all 3 banners to be donated by local contact).
- JH suggested having a particular project in mind when asking for donations on day, to focus/encourage local residents to help out.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- SC advised that the Friends had been asked to provide £1700 for third party funding of the Multi-Use Games Area. SC had been in discussion with SMBC, highlighting the fact that the Friends should not have to pay for something which should be provided by the Council. It was agreed that the Friends would pay, providing that SMBC gave assurances that the amount would be offset against the costs of the running of the Fun Day 2006. These assurances have been received in writing.
- Railings around park (particularly by Red House) need painting before next Fun Day. Need to arrange for one week when Friends, locals, schools, etc, can get involved and all help out. Advertise in papers, in schools and Internet.
- The Red House:– Bob Badham, SMBC, had confirmed that the House would not be knocked down but (as published in local papers) this had never been the main issue. The Friends wanted confirmation that

the House would not be converted into flats. Cllr TW advised that even Grade II listed buildings were not protected from being demolished (only Grade II\* completely protected) and SMBC have demolished them in the past. Friends must keep hold of their original petition because once this has been handed over to the Council it cannot be resubmitted and a new petition must begin again from scratch. Cllr TW commented that it was only the Friends effort to highlight the plight of the Red House in the media that had saved the House and put it on the main agenda.

- Still require a Notice Board for main entrance. JH to follow up.
- Need bird boxes installed before end Feb 2006. JH to contact Dartmouth High School.
- OF advised that he had seen 2 men taking large amounts of holly from trees but was unable to note licence plate from van.
- GW provided 4 DVD's of Fun Day 2005. All were purchased by members for £5 each, with the money donated to the Friends. £20 kindly received (JH).

## **8. Next Meeting**

Next meeting has been scheduled for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006, Hill Lane at 7pm.