

NOTE OF MEETING

Wednesday 9 September 2009, 7.15pm
Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill



Present

Susan (Chair) Rob (WPO) Kit (Memb Sec), Laura , Margaret, Roy, Alex (Cllr) Helen (minutes)

Apologies

Val, Peter, Jude, Bryan, Pauline, Maureen, Gill, Jules , Fabian (Cllr) The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

Introduction

Chair opened the meeting by expressing 'Get Well' wishes for Jules' speedy recovery. A card was signed and all present endorsed the hope that Jules would be feeling much better very soon.

Dog show Sunday 11 October 2009

(see below under Next Events)

Issues and thank yous for Community Parks Officer, Area Parks Manager and Park Keeper

Arrangements for litter picking in Jules' absence would be covered by Keith.

- Works on the replacement fence and gate at Greendown

The outstanding work to colour the tarmac would not happen before at least 6-8 weeks, to allow the new surface to 'cure'. A patch of concrete under the former dog bin needed to be broken out, for which Jamie would need to contact Paul Cox. Interpretation boards were due to be installed during the following week.

Rob confirmed that Friends would maintain the hedge along Greendown by hand pruning. It was suggested that it might not need mulching next year.

- New dog bin

Chair reported that after installation of the new bin funded by the St George Community Partnership, there was now a bin near every entrance to the Local Nature Reserve except the second lowest entrance off Troopers Hill Road. Jamie had promised to invoice shortly.

- New benches

It had not been possible for the September work party to install two of the three benches because the necessary arrangements had not been in place. Rob proposed a possible extra work party to install them.

Action Rob to contact Bristol Parks to organise pickup or delivery of the benches.

- Soil falling from Troopers Hill on to Troopers Hill Rd

Action was still with Jamie (see note of July meeting) in conjunction with BCC Highways colleagues.

BBC Filming

It was reported that some clays had been found on the Hill following the BBC's location filming featuring a clay pigeon shoot.

Trafalgar Square

Helen reported on her appearance on the fourth plinth (4 August 2009) as part of the One and Other project. She had given several interviews to the Evening Post and BBC Radio Bristol before and after the event. While on the plinth she displayed the new 2009 Green Flag and the 'Friends of Troopers Hill' fabric art made by pupils of Air Balloon Hill Junior School in 2005.

Play facilities on Troopers Hill Field

The latest design was circulated for comment. The differences from the July design included a change in location to the maze and the proposed tree planting. One of the benches was to be supplied by FOTH. The detailed costs and budget were still to be finalised. Work was expected to start in October (Note – it had begun by the time of the Dog Show on 11 October) and would be finished by March

Action: Rob undertook to find out the results of soil tests.

There was concern about use of the public path (milestone path) between the main road (A431) and the Field, in connection with the future use of the play area, by children who would have access to the main road via this path and access from the main road by motor cycles. It was suggested that a barrier or chicane might be introduced to deter motorcyclists. It was also proposed that a sign stating that the use of motorcycles on the path was illegal and that the offending motorcycle could be confiscated if caught.

Action: Susan to consult P Crawford about the idea, including any recommendations for a form of sign.

Work parties

- completed since the last meeting

The party of Saturday 1st August had cut bracken from amongst heather, and saplings etc in the area of the Gully. Work had finished early because of rain.

Work on Saturday 5th September had addressed the regrowth of saplings etc in and around 'Sally's Glade'.

It was reported that work parties continued to attract new people.

- DOE work parties

The award candidates had continued working on the steps on the path between the Field and the woodland.

- Next work parties

Kit volunteered to lead the forthcoming work session on 3 October. It was mentioned that Rob, Susan, Alan and Sue Foden need refresher Health and Safety courses. The party of 7 November may need to include a litter pick (after Bonfire Night).

Events

Tai Chi on 26th July, 2nd August and 9th August had been reasonably well attended by 20+ people, attracted £60 of donations, the money would be reserved for a future Tai Chi or other open air event. The next term of Tai Chi classes locally would start on 10 September at St George Community Centre.

The Bugs and Beasties hunt on 8th August was described as a resounding success, it had attracted in the region of 50 children. All the nets and all but one of the pots had been successfully returned. Kit's video recording of the event was available via the FOTH web site <http://www.bristolbroadcast.tv/RefFiles/Flash/bugsandbeasties.htm>

Action Chair to obtain an invoice from Rupert Higgins

The History Walk on 6th September had attracted about 15 participants and was reported as having been successful.

Funding

– what do we want to spend money on (possible PCS grant application)

£50 would pay for craft materials for use at a community event

£100 to host a storytelling event for children and young people to involve them in the care and attractions of the LNR

£250 for a pilot translation project to for leaflets to facilitate outreach to different ethnic groups living locally.

Helen proposed making three separate grant applications since there did not appear to be any rule to the contrary. [In the event, two grant applications were made for £50 and £100].

Next events

The meeting discussed the likely arrangements for the Dog Show on 11 October. The event promotes responsible dog ownership and provides fun for all the family. It was envisaged that the show would be run along similar lines to last year's successful show. Julie Walker would organise the competitions on behalf of HEART and FOTH would make a donation in recognition. Expressions of interest in participating had been received from the Cats Protection League and Police Community Support Officers. FOTH would be able to fund rosettes and prizes if necessary. The design of posters was discussed.

Actions Kit to contact Julie Walker, and confirm prospective stall holders (inc RSPCA, PDSA and Dog Wardens). Rob to submit event licence application. Chair to approach Jamie about a Council presence at the dog show, and to make signs encouraging dog owners to nominate dog-related businesses who would appreciate some advertising.

Networking

- Contact with PACT (Police and Community Together) was briefly discussed.
- The Area Green Space consultation plans had been discussed at a recent meeting. Rob reported that the eastern half of St George lacked formal green spaces. There had been a proposal to plant formal flower beds in Troopers Hill Field but it was more likely that the Field would be retained as informal recreational space. Similar considerations also applied to Dundridge Lane. There might be a prospect of a café and toilets to be built near the nursing home on the Field, and the meeting recognised that the proposal held certain attractions. Public consultation on the Green Space Plans starting early next year. Part of the plans would involve selling some areas to fund others.

- Bristol Parks Forum

The Forum was planning a conference to discuss the Green Space plans. At the recent Forum meeting it had been announced that Bristol Parks have appointed Justin Smith as wildlife and woodland officer. Part of his duties would be to organise a team to work on bramble removal and tree management in natural green space across Bristol.

- Beeses Beer Festival

Participants were reminded of the forthcoming event, over the weekend of 11 to 13 September. Beeses had kindly offered once again to share the proceeds from Festival entrance tickets with Troopers Hill and Eastwood Farm local nature reserves.

- The St George History Group would meet next on Thursday 24 September at 7.30, the meeting would include a talk about Butlers Tar works.

- Google Books

Rob mentioned that the book "Scenes in our Parish" by Elizabeth Emra (1804 – 1843) which includes descriptions of Troopers Hill had become available to view on Google Books.

- Ground around Lamb Inn

Rob outlined the current development plans in the vicinity of Crews Hole Road. Roy contributed some insights on the history of the locality.

Next Newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter was due for issue shortly. Susan offered to write an article on Dance of the Dog Bins. Laura would supply one on the Concert and Kit would also include a piece on the Bugs & Beasties event.