



Friends of Meriton Road Park Group

Meeting held – Monday 1st February 2010

Present: Liz Wilson (C.E.C), Barbara Pownall, Tracy Bratt, Sheila Rovira, Debbie Mellor, Cllr. Paul Whiteley, Ron Dicks, Dave Helsby, Mike Bishop, Roland Lomax, Derek Myerscough and Sara Knowles.

Apologies: Margaret Wood, June Lucas, Rob Sawyer, Vernon Thompson and Jenny Banks

Chairperson's Welcome-

Barbara welcomed everybody and wished them all a belated Happy New Year as we had not met in January due to the bad weather.

Barbara reported to the group that we had received a cheque for **£3000 from Manchester Airport** to go towards our fitness zone outdoor exercise equipment.

She explained that we have put in the application to **WREN** for funding towards our project and it was to be presented to their board the following week and we await to hear the response. Barbara, Liz and Tracy are going to meet with Richard from WREN next Wednesday in the park to discuss the project further.

Diary Dates-

We discussed the next few dates for our meetings and it was decided as follows-

Monday 1st March – meet at St. Chad's 7-8pm

Monday 26th April – meet in the Pavillion 7-8pm

No meetings in May

Monday 7th June – meet in St. Chad's 7-8pm

Monday 5th July – meet in St. Chad's 7-8pm

Thursday 5th August PLAYDAY in the park 2-4pm

(Following meetings will be decided at a later date.)

News from the council – no major updates but to thank the council for the new picnic tables which we think will be used a lot as the weather improves.

Handforth Model Engineering Society –

Ron and Dave gave us an update on their plans for the pavilion and train track area. They explained how they are proposing plans for 2 tracks on the far field next to the pavilion/willow tree. One track will be ground level and one will be raised and they will run alongside each other. The disabled access ramp will be installed next to the tennis courts and will be wide enough to take a trailer for the loading/unloading of trains.

The drainage is an issue and they will need to liase with CEC about the council's plans for the drainage in the park. Dave has met with the planning officer and is now working on the detailed plans they have been asked to submit, including all arborial protection issues and guidelines they have to follow.

Hopefully if all is approved they hope to have 1 track in by Summer 2010 and by next year they will have both tracks in and work well on the way with the pavilion.

Sara's computer/visual presentation on ideas for the future of the park-

Our thanks to Sara Knowles for giving such a thought provoking visual presentation about how we could direct our work for the park in the next few years.

The title was – **Treasured Space, new place.** Sara spoke about how the park could be a real centre to the community for art, heritage, sporting, environmental projects to involve all age ranges for Handforth residents. We need to have a clear picture of what we want to do in the next 3-5 years and then we can begin to access support and grants that are available for projects.

How do we get the community involved was a big focus for our discussions. How do we get to contact all the groups within the community?

Discussions followed on lighting for the park- Cllr Whiteley had been approached by someone asking if the tennis courts could be lit till 8-9pm in the Spring and Autumn evening to allow people to make more use of the courts. Liz explained that this would have implications on the wildlife and lighting has to be carefully thought through in parks.

Mike Bishop also mentioned about solar power as there are grants available and this could link to the model engineering society as they think through their refitting of the pavilion.

We then had a discussion about the on going issue of anti-social behaviour in the park. How can we develop projects to involve these groups of youths in the park? We must link up with the youth groups and the police to help with this issue.

Installing CCTV in the park – is this an option for the future? Cllr Whiteley explained that there is a L.A.P for Wilmslow and this is where Council, local associations, Police, Fire service and Health services work together on schemes which benefits all groups in the community. They can combine their funding if they feel the proposed schemes would benefit all of their target community groups. If we felt CCTV would be a benefit for them we could put together a proposal and present it to their L.A.P meeting in the hope that they might all put in some of their funds to the one scheme.

A.O.B

F.O.H.S –

Mike explained how Handforth Station has been voted Best Station in Cheshire for 2010. Our congratulations go to Friends of Handforth Station for all their wonderful work at the station. Mike explained their Open meeting is on Tuesday 2nd March at 7pm at St. Chad's Church hall. The guest speaker will be Neil Williams from Glossop Station to share their experiences and ideas.

Everyone is welcome.

Next FOMRP meeting – Monday 1st March 2010 - 7pm at St Chad's Church coffee lounge.

Contact us on – park@handforth.net