

## **Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting–** **Meeting held – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006**

**Present:** Penny Millington, Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt,,Ruth Morgan, Mike Bishop, Barbara Pownall, John Pownall, Marjorie Walker, and Anne Prusmann.

**Apologies:** Margaret Wood, Sue Bradshaw, Bill Gerrity, Tim Greenwood, Sue Bidwell, Barry Burkhill, Patricia Degnan and Josie Bird.

**Minutes from last meeting were accepted by all the group and passed.**

### **Matters arising –**

#### **Bulb Planting:-**

We welcomed Ruth Morgan Outdoor leisure officer at M.B.C) to the meeting and asked her to discuss the details for a planting event in the park. Ruth explained that all the Friends groups had been asked to take part as the events were to highlight the community use of our outdoor areas and that these events could become an annual event for the groups. The tree planting has been put on hold until we have discussed in detail our future plans for the park and how we envisage different areas being used. We have 3000 bulbs and the idea is to involve lots of members of the community to plant 1 or 2 bulbs each.

The areas highlighted are around the hedges of the play area, the hedgerow backing onto Grangeway and in the area in front of the school field as these areas can be left longer before needing to be mowed. Ruth is going to check if we can plant in the flower beds by the main entrance.

Ruth will do a risk assessment for the event and also invite a Ranger assistant and Ken Potts to come along for the morning.

We have set the date as follows – **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 9am – 12.** Bring along your trowel/spade etc and plant a bulb morning. We are not going to provide refreshments or entertainment as we feel people will just want to pop along for a short time. We will advertise at schools and toddler groups, cubs, scouts, brownies and guides. We will contact the press to come along too.

**Please come along and bring your gardening gear and help to brighten up our park.**

Ruth is going to follow up a request from Derrick about Laurel Bushes outside the lower Meriton road gate that need cutting.

**Play area -** Ruth said that we should be getting the play area dug out and rechipped in the next 2 weeks, so fingers crossed for this!

We need to be thinking about our future plans for the play area and what we feel we need to provide. Our questionnaire responses will help us with public views but we may need to consult further with people after they have been analysed. We also need to look at the park strategy document for details about where things can be placed and how specific areas of the park can be used. We may need to discuss with planning department about this – Ruth said she would enquire about this on our behalf. Ruth explained that there is no budget for park strategy in place now.

The state of the tennis courts were discussed and we asked Ruth if she could enquire if the council had a timescale for when they were to be cleaned, resurfaced and fencing repaired.

**Benches and Dog Waste Bins** – Ruth mentioned that we were to get our 2 new benches very soon possibly in the next 2 weeks. They have been ordered on 11<sup>th</sup> August and take 8 weeks to arrive. No real news on the dog waste bins but we will keep on at this as we were told we were getting one way back in February and then again in April we were told we were confirmed to get a sponsored dog bin ! Wait and see folks!

Our thanks to Ruth for attending the meeting and giving us all the information.

**Questionnaire -** Tracy reported back that we had distributed 2685 questionnaires and we think we have had about 270 responses which is much better than anticipated. Also from the responses we have had 32 people who were interested in the group and would like minutes and may be able to help in the future. **An excellent effort for all the group – many thanks to you all.**

Mike made a very interesting point that we should note all the volunteer hours we have taken to do such things as questionnaire deliveries, attending meetings etc as these can be offset against bids for funding. If you take it as £6-7 per hour it soon mounts up to a lot!!!  
He also gave us some very good ideas about approaching local businesses for donations such as to fund a notice board in the park or give donations in kind for future events.

**Charity Accounts** – Tim is working on this for us at the moment. Barbara said she would ask at Barclays about charity accounts for the group. Mike said the Friends of the Station use Royal bank of Scotland and The Cheshire Building Society. He also said that going for charitable status may be more work than it is worth and that we could be a ‘Not for profit organisation’.

**Closing/Opening Times** – We were approached by Roy Lowndes to ask the group if they felt it would be a possibility to set up a rota of volunteers to open and close the park gates from now on. We discussed this and it was felt that at the moment because we have a small group of members and because they have work or family commitments we would be unable to do this. It may be something we could consider in the future as the group becomes more established. We also wanted to know if the council would then be paying a wage or contributing to the groups funding for doing this work.

**A.G.M – 20 November 2006 7pm at Number 30 Community House Knowle Park.**  
**Any nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to be given to Tracy or email to [park@handforth.net](mailto:park@handforth.net)**

### **A.O.B**

**Community action team- Penny** has been trying to contact the C.A.T team and has not had any success. We will invite them to the A.G.M and following meetings as we feel their input would be very useful for the group.

**C.C.T.V. -** Mike mentioned about a proposal for C.C.T.V to be set up in Handforth village centre and felt it might be important for the group to find out more from Cheshire highways to see where it would be and if the park could be included in the scheme. The train station has C.C.T.V and it would be good to link the village centre, station and park together.  
Tracy will look into this and also contact Emmerson about repairing the fences.

**Friends of Handforth Station** - It was great to have Mike with us at our meeting and we really value any input from the Friends of the station group as they have many years experience of working in a community group. We would like to inform people that they are holding a 10 Year Anniversary Event to celebrate the hard work in developing the station for the people of Handforth.  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 11.30 am A tour of the station followed by refreshments at The Legion afterwards. If you are interested could you either let Mike Bishop know or contact Tracy or email [park@handforth.net](mailto:park@handforth.net) so that we can pass on numbers for the catering.

### **Date of Next Meeting** – AGM

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at 7pm Community House (number 30) Knowle Park