

## **Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and recreation Ground Management Committee on Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Present: Paul Smith, Karen Berry, Helen Elias, Esther Higden, Tim Brooke, Fiona Pashazadeh.

Apologies: Zilpha Reid

1. **The minutes of Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** were approved. Matters arising: The first crocus has blossomed. We plan to plant more. Paul has received payment for bulbs from NENA
2. **Correspondence.** Dave Lewis will be putting the No Ball Games signs by the bowling greens.
3. **Playground equipment.** Helen reported back on the meeting with Ces Edwards 24.1.13. This was a useful meeting. The agenda followed the discussion document of 16.1.13 The minutes of the meeting with Ces have already been circulated. He stated that all the ash foundations and the concrete surround would have to be removed by the Council and the new surface built up with sand and stones before any new safety surface or tarmac could be laid. Railings would not be necessary. He advised that we send out a request to providers asking them what could be done with £50,000 requesting a variety of different scenarios. Helen has approached Kompan, Playdale, Wicksteed and Durasport. The Playdale rep wants to bring new plans round on Thursday Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Wicksteed and Durasport have also replied and will need following up. Helen and Karen plan to meet during the week after half term, possibly Wednesday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon.
4. **Consultation and events** The questionnaire can be updated and trialed at the bird feeder session on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. It might be useful to have some poster and pictures available for people to see and express opinions. When the firms get back to us we should have more visual materials for Consultation. We could provide people with pins to put into the features they like and photograph them. These could be used to accompany the bid.  
The questionnaire will be distributed via the NENA street reps. In addition it could form part of a supplement to the ECHO. Fiona is investigating two central pages about the playground including the questionnaire. The article would include pictures of a range of proposals. We could pay for the additional costs the ECHO. We agreed to try for the April edition. The deadline for submission is March 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Fiona can also report to the Earlsdon PTA after half term, show posters and use the questionnaire. Karen will follow up o the

previous survey done by the council. Esther, Tim and Fiona went to the Earlsdon Festival meeting. We could organize children's events in the park on the Festival weekends either the weekend April 27/28 or May 4/5. It was agreed that we should have a Spencer Park stall at the Festival which would cost £35. The stall could be next to NENA. There could be taster bowling sessions and tennis lessons at the park. The possibility of a bouncy castle was raised. Both the stall and the park events present opportunities for consultation. Karen is organizing a soft toy tombola. Karen will approach Steve wright about an Easter event.

5. **Funding streams** We will go ahead with the WREN bid aiming to submit it in June before the July deadline. It was felt that Ces had said at the meeting that he would find £12K to clear the site and would use the £22,500 for matched funding and continued upkeep of the park.
6. **The Challenge network** Karen reported that up to 60 young people could work on the park on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> working with the Rangers. It would be accompanied by £400 of funding. They could be used to plant more bulbs and clear unwanted bushes. A consultation group of 12 is also available. Karen will express an interest and find out more about what it involves.
7. **Gardening** The Coventry Telegraph featured the last gardening session in the park. The next Thursday session is February 28<sup>th</sup>. 2 to 4 when we might clear the compost heap. After that it was decided to go back to Saturday mornings from 10 to 12. March 16<sup>th</sup>., April 20<sup>th</sup>., and May 4<sup>th</sup>.
8. **A.O.B.** We need to communicate with the Council about gardening in the park. Karen to contact Simon. Paul felt we needed a campaign via NENA against dog fouling. We need to keep the dogs off the bowling green.
9. **Next meeting** Monday March 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30 at Esther's 2 Spencer

Helen Elias 5.2.13