

Friends of Spencer Park
Committee meeting Monday March 4th 2013

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

Apologies: Zilpha Reed

Minutes of Feb 4th accepted.

Matters arising- the "No ball games" signs are up as are the signs about cleaning up after dogs. The bird feeder event went well. There were 31 children and 20 adults. The consultation forms were trialed. Those present were favourable to the idea of playground development.

Playground equipment

Helen reported that she had met with Celia Webb from Playdale who has given us plans and an itemized budget which includes the Dura Sport play surfaces.(details of this meeting were previously circulated).Rob Heard from Wicksteed will hopefully get back with something before March 15th when Helen goes away for a month. She has also met with Steve Woodd who will get back to us in about a month. Helen has given him the emails of the committee members and he will send the detailed bid to Karen. Dura Sport are waiting to hear from us. They do not have the staff to draw up detailed plans or produce posters etc. They would need detailed drawings and specifications from us, which they could then act on. Helen had reservations about the morality giving them the actual proposals from the other firms, but it should be possible to give them general guidelines once we know exactly what we and the community wants.

Consultation

15 forms we completed at the bird feeder event, which has led to some adjustments in wording. Michelle of the parks dept. has suggested some changes too. Karen is working on the form. Karen is also working on a document about the Consultation Strategy which she has circulated and welcomes suggestions. Karen is also working on the four page insert in April's ECHO.

The Committee agreed that Karen should order more consultation forms which would be distributed at The Big Lunch, Earlsdon Festival, to streets in the area, school PTAs and the Bowling Club. 1000 forms can be printed for £88.

Paul will contact Earlsdon School for a consultation meeting about the park and pupil involvement. Esther would also attend. The plans from the bidding firms should be available to put on the stall for the Earlsdon Festival.

Survey monkey will be used for consultation about the small park. This is a free service if limited to 10 questions.

Fiona will place information on Facebook.

Expenditure on consultation out of the Heart of England grant has so far been- £100 for the ECHO insert; 345 for the Earlsdon Festival Stall; £50 for insertion in the programme. Future costs will include the £88 for printing and a £25 gift voucher for the stall raffle. Karen will purchase an A frame display board.

Earlsdon Festival

Karen has organized gardening for the morning of May 4th.10-12 .She will book the tennis courts for the free tennis tuition. On May 4th.there will also be bowls

taster sessions and golf on the recreation ground. On May 6th we will have a stall in Earlsdon High St. Most committee members felt they could be there for at least part of the day from 9 am We could have a tombola with soft toys or a plant sale. Proceeds of the raffle could go for more bulbs for the parks.

Challenge network

12 young people will be involved in events on Sept. 7th. We will need to take out public liability insurance for this. There will be a planning meeting on Aug. 19th 11-12.30 which will need a room hiring. The 12 young people will be sponsored – the proceeds could purchase a park bench. We need to plan events for Sept 7th. It could include face painting. The proposals from firms and any final plans should be available for information and consultation.

Spencer Park website

Helen has found that it would cost £5.90 for two years to purchase a web domain. Friends of Spencer Park is available. Helen might be able to get a relative to design a simple web site. It was agreed that it would be useful for Helen to pursue this.

Gardening meeting

This will be held with the City Council during the day on Monday March 11th. Karen will find out if it can be at Zilpha's house. We hope to find out what work they are able to do in the park and push for this to be done eg cutting down the snow berries.

WREN meeting

John Scouller from WREN has agreed to discuss our bid. This will be a good opportunity to find out how we should pitch our bid. It will be held on April 8th 7.30 at Esther's house.

AGM

After some discussion about the auditing of accounts which was not resolved, it was decided to have the AGM in September, a year after the inaugural meeting.

AOB

There are currently no goal posts on the Recreation ground. They were taken down because teams were not paying to use the pitch for official matches, Paul wondered why this had recently become an issue. It may be connected with the re-seeding. It was felt that at least one goal post was needed.

Next meeting

Monday April 29th at Esther's (after the gardening meeting March 11th and the WREN meeting April 8th).

Helen Elias 5.3.13