

Friends of Spencer Park
Minutes of the meeting of 29.4.13

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Esther Higden, Tim Brooke, Fiona Pashazadeh, Zilpha Reid (committee members)

1. The **minutes** of 8.4.13 were accepted
2. **Gardening sessions:** these will be Saturdays May 4th, and June 8th
We will ask people at the weekend consultations about future sessions including evening sessions over the summer.
3. **Earlsdon Festival- Saturday:** A problem has arisen with the golf sessions. The blow up “net” needs inflating with power. Leads cannot go from the pavilion so it needs a generator and regulations specify a silent generator that will cost £200. Karen to pursue. During the golf, tennis and bowls sessions 2-4 pm we will be canvassing opinions about the play project. The plans for suppliers will be displayed. Fiona and Paul to provide pasting tables. We will be selling raffle tickets and completing questionnaires.
4. **Gardening;** Zilpha felt we need to concentrate on the corner by Broadway and Dalton Rd. She would like to create a bug life area aiming to help preserve bees. We would clear the area behind the rhododendrons and install wood piles, drainpipes and plants to attract bees and other pollinators such as cowslips, foxgloves and pieris. The wood chips need moving and the laurels lopped back. The snowberries need to come out. Karen felt we need our own wheelbarrow – Helen will purchase this.
5. **Web site:** Any articles, information or pictures should be sent to Helen who will keep it updated (With Peter’s help!) The headier pictures could be changed seasonally.
6. **Earlsdon Festival** – Monday: Stalls need to be up by 9 a.m. Helen to provide sheets and chairs Tim to provide pasting table to put plans upright. Fiona to provide clip boards and pens. Karen to provide a n A4 sheet with contact details including the website and facebook. An attendance rota will then be organized for the day. Esther, Tim and Paul will collect things from Karen.
7. **Rob Wheway:** He is a children’s play advisor and has met Tim. Helen to contact him and invite him to our next meeting – May 20th.
8. **Earlsdon School meeting:** Paul and Karen met with Gill Naylor, headteacher to discuss park developments. She would like to use the park, including tennis courts, and recreation ground for school P.E. She has discussed this with the P.E. co-ordinator Gary

Gascoigne and will be contacting the Council. She is willing to send questionnaires out to parents and would write a letter of support for our bids. Karen and Helen will be meeting with pupils on Thursday June 20th at 1.30 p.m. – the school council representing years 3 to 6 and a year 4 focus group.

9. **Consultation:** This will take place at the following events: Big lunch June 2nd., Bands in Park at 1.30 on June 9th, 30th and July 21st.
10. **Bids for the play area:** Revised bids have now been received from Kompan, Playdale and Wicksteed. They are all over budget and don't all include what we requested, but they will be a useful pictorial display for our consultation.
11. **Fund raising:** Karen reported that WREN require £5,500 matched funding in cash not kind. We had thought that the council's willingness to clear the site would constitute the matching but it will not. Tim suggested other sources such as Coventry Building Society, The Co-op, Heart of England, the fundraising desk at the council and Voluntary Action Coventry. Karen to contact them.
12. **Next meeting:** May 20th. Helen to present the plans in more detail.
13. **Real Challenge:** Planning meeting to be held on Monday August 19th. Michelle, the Ranger team leader will be there. Karen to attend and anyone else who can manage the date.

Helen Elias 1.5.13