



Minutes of Quarterly Meeting - February 23rd 2019

APOLOGIES : Fraser Robertson, Patricia Boswell, Ester Lewis, Kay Fox, Harvey Cox

NB - Pam Turner died on the 23rd January 2019 . On behalf of The Friends Robert expressed condolences. Pam was Patricia Boswell's good friend.

PRESENT: Prof. Robert Lee, Pauline Beecham, Georgina Keena, Graham Arnold, Paul Kravchuk, Michael Hickey, Norman Marsh, Sheila Blair, Ian Lea, Leslie Elston, H Elston, Marion Russel, Glynn Holden, J Leighton, Liz Mann, Mary Green, Maureen Chadwick.

Robert welcomed everyone and introduced Scott Brennan who delivered the Park Manager's report on behalf of Paul Davies.

1. Wirral Borough of Culture 2019

Hull's Absolutely Cultured, Wirral and Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 join forces to create a brand new and spellbinding outdoor spectacle in three amazing locations. In May, Birkenhead Park will be the setting for an enchanting production. Designed to connect people and inspire imagination and curiosity, the performance will draw on the unique characteristics of each place, weaving a story between the three and working with local communities and artists to inspire the creative direction.

2.

Birkenhead Park concerns - Criminal Damage/Heritage Crime - Grand Entrance

Work has begun to replace the stolen lead. Both lodges are now occupied. A further (4) CCTV cameras and structural illumination are now in place although as yet there are none at the rear. It was pointed out that the construction company have left ladders around which pose a risk and an 'opportunity' . Beams and pipes have fallen and it was suggested for safety reasons the gate for pedestrians be closed. Scott to follow up on those issues with Paul asap.

3. Tennis Courts (Boothby Ground) Dog fouling inside the tennis courts has become a major problem. Dog owners are allowing their dogs to foul the courts on a daily basis. Regular patrols of the area are carried out by park staff. The presence of dog faeces is a potential hazard to all members of the public alike. It causes risks to health, defaces land and has the potential to deface people and their property.

Upon return from the Christmas holidays, staff removed (80) mounds of dog faeces from the tennis courts. This problematic incident is not only occurring within Birkenhead Park.

Reports show that parks all over the country are experiencing the same issue; and that some parks have introduced a Public Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Order requires you to clean up after your dog and place
Page 2. your dog on a lead. Failure to comply is an offence carrying a fixed penalty notice of £100 or or a maximum fine of £1,000.

In the interim, we are trialling a system of deposits for access to the tennis courts. Users can request a key from the visitor centre during the hours of 9am and 4.00pm during the winter to play free tennis. We have yet to explore alternatives for the summer period.

<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/17343015.thoughtless-dog-owners-leave-muck-on-tennis-courts/>

Response from tennis users to this system for access has been positive.

Scott is encouraging people to act responsibly he is now qualified to issue an 'on the spot fine' but would rather encourage than punish.

3. Partners:

The Little Collectors Crew: Elizabeth was nominated for The Keep Britain Tidy Award and won - the Young Litter Heroes Award - Wirral Council.

The Keep Britain Tidy Network Conference and awards took place in Manchester on the 6th February 2019 and have been running since 1990. The event provides a platform for land managers, service and solution providers to drive up standards in public places on a national and local level.

4. World Heritage and HLF Status: World Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund applications are being prepared. The new Project Manager – Rob Belcher and Project Support Officer – Liz Mann have commenced working to support Birkenhead Parks HLF and WHS applications. Sections of the Nomination Dossier are being prepared by members of the WHS subcommittee.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 17th November 2018 meeting - accepted
2. **Matters arising** - most had been dealt with in the Managers report; the Newsletter to be discontinued; Funding has been successful - Gregg Foundation award
3. **Volunter Programme:** This had not been working and time was wasted waiting for the Gardeners - who didn't turn up. The volunteers were really dissatisfied and Graham Arnold sent an email to Paul Davies about it. Following from this the Volunteer programme has been prepared and left in readiness on the front desk at the Visitor Centre and this has worked so far. Tasks undertaken included - pruning and ivy clearing Park Rd N. There were 7 volunteers this morning on a variety of jobs - beds cleared at the front , branches cleared and made ready for the gardeners to collect. Seat repair and clening is underway.

It was noted that the Volunteer Programme at the Tam O' Shanter Farm is very successful and clear.

4. The Edward Kemp Community Gardens & Growing area: Continues to thrive and develop.

5. Planning and conservation Issues: The usual items i.e. the bin etc - see Nov.'18 minutes for further details. Graham awaiting a response from his emails. Re the Joseph Paxton Campus - hedging material required to fill the gaps.

6. World Heritage Application: Unesco nomination dossier moving forward on this. Meetings are now better attended and are on going. Wirral Borough Council now awaiting the Government to ask for applications. 2021 is the very last date for the Government to issue this request. It is therefore important that the bid is ready once that happens.

Overview

- A. The structure and form of the park's landscape is remarkably intact.
- B. New interventions are noticeable but do not overwhelm the original innovative design form and quality
- C. The park management team do a great job in maintaining the park on day to day basis but even they cannot keep back the advances of Old Father Time.
- D. The park's landscape can be further restored to retain the park's historic character and increase the visitor's enjoyment and understanding of it as a living heritage asset.

A summary document was available which was prepared by Stuart Ryder
To view the summary points please visit the Friends website at:

8. Events: (i). Facing the Crisis: Parks and People Stronger Together, North West Parks Friends Forum, 13th April, Birkenhead Town Hall (10.00-16.00) + celebration of the 175th anniversary of Paxton's design for the park; (ii). The Seeds of Change (17-19th May) + 'Memories of Birkenhead Park' ('to connect people and inspire imagination and curiosity').

www.friendsofbirkenheadpark.org.uk

Come and join us at our major, regional conference which will enable Friends Groups to respond to the current crisis. The conference will be held in Birkenhead's magnificent Town Hall on Saturday 13th April 2019 (10.00 to 16.00), a location that can easily be reached by public transport. It will be open to members of Friends Groups, Gardens Trusts, Heritage, Civic and Conservation Societies, and park professionals from throughout the North West. Anyone involved in campaigning for adequate funding to preserve and enhance parks and green spaces will be more than welcome. There will be presentations by representatives of national organizations, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, the Parks Agency, and The Gardens Trust. A series of workshops will provide an opportunity for active participation on how to strengthen the role of Friends Groups, to enable them to demonstrate the widespread benefits of public parks, to campaign for effective funding, and to influence national and local policy.

9. Interpretation strategy and publications (see attachment); copies of the Edward Kemp volume (published as a supplement to Garden History) are now available at a reduced price (£10 including P&P, rather than £18 + P&P). Please confirm if you want to order a copy as a further print-run is highly unlikely.

Please - Visit the Friends website for further details: www.friendsofbirkenheadpark.org.uk
See Friends website for full details under the Heading: "Birkenhead Park: Publications
10. Charitable Status & Constitutional amendments: Robert continues to work through this - work in progress.

11. A.O.B. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES SOUGHT - CAN YOU HELP?

ILLUSTRATED TALK GIVEN BY LIZ MANN : Liz & Pauline Beecham had attended a Workshop - Feb19th-20th - at The Big Pit , National Coal Museum, Blaenafon, Torfaen NP4 9XP.

FOBHP were invited to attend & were able to interact & share ideas with people like Chris Blandford, the first President of World Heritage UK; Chris Mahon, World Heritage UK Development Director; & Henry Owen- John, Head of International Advice at Historic England.

Some points from Liz's presentation:

1. Feedback on World Heritage UK Technical Workshop :

World Heritage Site Learning and Engagement: "from cradle to grave"

This World Heritage UK Technical Workshop offered delegates an opportunity to explore how UK World Heritage Sites engage with their communities and key stakeholders.

The programme explored:

- Learning programmes – both formal and informal.
- How volunteering can lead to engagement and protection of World Heritage Sites.
- How developing key partnerships can deliver stakeholder engagement with diverse and hard to reach groups.
- Working with resident communities

Participants had the opportunity to discuss different age groups, types of groups and networks with key learning and engagement personnel from different sites across the UK.

TWO DAY TECHNICAL WORKSHOP WAS A FANTASTIC NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY! THE DAYS WERE ARRANGED AROUND A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AND SHARING OF IDEAS RELATING TO: ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS, WHOLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, FORMAL & INFORMAL LEARNING.

KEY MESSAGES:

Chris Blandford "Get over yourselves" Don't take yourselves too seriously.

Getting back to the bare bones!

Significance - Authenticity We may have a single goal – But remember it is a Global Initiative

Partnerships are important – build more! Celebrate!

2. Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project update

Public relations and promotions

Work has been progressing to increase social media and website presence.

New Birkenhead WHS Project Facebook and Twitter accounts have been set up which will complement existing Birkenhead Park and FOBP social media feeds.

<https://www.facebook.com/BirkenheadParkWorldHeritageProject>

<https://twitter.com/BirkenheadWorld>

Contact Email addresses have been set up

birkenheadparkworldheritageproject@wirral.gov.uk

birkenheadparkworldheritageprojectvolunteer@wirral.gov.uk

Articles introducing Liz Mann and Rob Belcher and promoting Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project have been published in Wirral View and WBC Press Office reports

Marketing literature is being developed to outline key aims of the project and opportunities for community and stakeholder involvement.

Visits out into the community to promote partnership working and communicate project aims are continuing. Next event History and Heritage Fair Birkenhead Town Hall 9th March.

Community Engagement

Working with partners and developing joint initiatives for the promotion of Birkenhead Park's OUV continues.

Community Engagement - contd. e.g. Working closely with Wirral Borough of Culture Team, HYPE, Community Action Wirral, Wirral Archives, Birkenhead Library, Williamson & Priory, FOBP

'Open Doors' event held at the Grand Entrance. More planned for the coming year. Community Events throughout the year helping to tell the story of Birkenhead Park's history, heritage and significance 'via stealth'.

Enabling participation - Joint initiatives and partnership working planned with: Wirral Urban Sketchers and Wirral Borough of Culture in June for 'Art Outdoors'. Sue Wood Millinery who will be presenting an exhibition of 'Hats in the Park' at the 6th April Celebration Picnic in the Park.

Liverpool Museums who are in discussion with us about a temporary exhibition of Bikes at the Grand Entrance to coincide with the Tour of Britain.

A wide range of community groups who are helping plan and resource our Anniversary Celebration event 6th April 'Picnic in the Park'.

WBC Heritage Officer, FOBP, Elizabeth Davey and Historic England to develop an increased offer for Birkenhead Park during Heritage Open Days.

Birkenhead Park Team and Keep Britain Tidy for Love Parks Week

Opportunities for increasing engagement of young people with heritage are being explored. There is potential to develop a school's offer via the Kids in Museums Takeover Day national initiative in November

Further details of Liz's presentation can be found on the Friends website:

[i.e. www.friendsofbirkenheadpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbirkenheadpark.org.uk)

Robert thanked Liz and Pauline for their attendance at the Workshop and for the valuable and informative feedback today.

Date and time of next meeting: Saturday May 18th 2019 AT THE VISITOR CENTRE

This will be the AGM. Please come along and remember your annual subscription of £5 is due at the AGM.

**Georgina Keena
March 13th 2019**