

Friends of Birkenhead Park Quarterly Meeting - July 15th 2017

Agenda

Apologies: David Wright, Linda Gordan, Marion Russell, Kay Fox

1. **Minutes** of the last meeting:- agreed.
2. **Matters arising:** The issues raised by Linda Gordan are now in the hands of the Park Manager Paul Davies.
3. **Transfer to the Bowls Pavilion:** There has been a £400 transitional cost and the necessary improvements have taken place and the Volunteers have moved in. The one outstanding issue is the Pathway which needs attention. Pauline will bring this to the attention of Paul Davies.
4. **World Heritage Site application:** Robert continues to work on this agreement to the application has already been given in February this year by all the required Senior Management. Steve Rotherham the new Metro Mayor visited and also endorsed the application.
5. **Planning and Conservation:** Graham said that due to resources problems in the Council some issues he raised earlier remain to be addressed i.e. the gap near the castellated Lodge. Nos 54/56 Park Road South - no further developments. The appraisal and management plan needs revision. World Heritage Site meeting to take place this coming week after which and depending on their decision the approved planning agreement can be implemented. Roydon House is to be converted to luxury flats - it was sold for half a million. NO 70 Park Road West i.e. Harding House was bought by Tina Cook who lives in Bristol. It is to have 8 single bedded flats and 2 double bedded flats. On 6th April building work began to convert it into flats. The work began and was completed on the same day! There are a number of concerns including provision/or/lack of provision for waste disposal as well as parking issues. Robert and Norman to pursue this further.
6. **Forthcoming events:** Held Wyn/Black Chair Festival in the Park in commemoration of the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. Dates: September 5th -7th 2017. The programme and Black Chair flyer is available at the Visitor Centre. A replica of the Black Chair will be at the Visitor Centre Gallery. There will be a ceremony to unveil the cleaned/restored commemorative stone and a new memorial to Head Wyn in the Park. The railings around the stone require repainting. Pauline to see Paul Davies re this. Entries needed for the Poetry Competition 11th-19th September. The title is 'The Hero' . Hugh Edwards from the BBC , The First Minister of Wales and the Arch Druid of Wales are among the guest speakers.
7. **World Urban Parks European Congress:** 17th-21st October '17. In partnership with WBC this is an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise. There will be Edward Kemp Symposium at the Floral Pavillion with international speakers among whom will be the President/C E O from New York Central Park Conservancy i.e. Douglas Blonksey. This is good publicity for the Park in its 170th year.
8. **Edward Kemp Community Garden & growing area:** All going well more volunteers required and being advertised for in the Wirral Globe.
9. **BWB Report:** (Bates Wells & Braitwaite Report on the future of cultural services in Wirral) Council finances being stretched ways of saving to be considered. Keeping all services 'in house' is a costly option. The recommendations from each report is to 'out source' with Council oversight. While austerity measures remain the future for Local Authorities is not good. Parks and Countryside to remain in house for the next 3 years. July 17th-26th Workshops - Council survey-see Council website and complete the survey.
10. **Park Manager's Report:** This was delivered by Scott Renolds.
 1. Events April 5th 2017, a Blue Plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Wirral in honour of Edward Kemp BHP first Superintendent. The event coincided with BHP 170th anniversary. The Park have had some income from charging for some events. This is to stop for this year at least, due to a controversial occurrence involving one event organiser.
 2. Black Chair Festival,; Birkenhead Park 9-10 September 2017. In commemoration of the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales.
 3. World Urban Parks congress/ WUPEC 2017 World Urban Parks Organisation has asked to have their European Congress on Wirral this year, especially to see Birkenhead Park in its (170th) year. Dates have been confirmed for the conference 15th-21st October 2017.

Page 2 No4. Security update M/Police are working closely with staff at BHP to combat anti-social behaviour. Also the sport development team, the youth service and the outreach teams are assisting in engaging with local youths who visit BHP.

Scott as Security Officer was able to elaborate on some details and related incidents of fairly recent vandalism in the Park where there was damage to property and structures.

5. Promotion: Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th April & Bank Holiday Monday 1st May 2017

This event which is normally held at the Palm house Sefton Park attracted over 15,000 visitors and was highly publicised in local papers and on social networks. The occasion highlighted BHP as an International venue for events.

6. Timeline: A new timeline has been developed for display in the VC gallery. The timeline will be displayed when we have no booked exhibitions. Scott had a copy and explained its purpose and left a copy for Friends to see.

7. Central Park Conservancy: Doug Blonsky, President and CEO of Central Park NY has agreed to be one of the keynote speakers at the upcoming Worlds Park Conference on Wirral.

8. FOBHP: The Friends of Birkenhead Park have vacated the south lodge. The volunteers are now based in the old bowls hut which has been fully refurbished for their use.

8. Wirral Metropolitan College: Wirral Met catering students prepared and served a wonderful buffet for the Edward Kemp blue plaque unveiling in April. They will also be providing their services for the WUPEC conference.

Unfortunately due to lack of funding and staffing cuts, the Level 3 uniformed services have vacated the North Lodge. Junior Rangers @ BHP Supported by My child can, Trespass and Tesco will be assisting in our summer activities.

9. Vauxhalls/General Motors UK: Work parties involving staff from GM is planned for 2017. The mini bus donated by GM has proven to be a valuable asset for the Forest School team at BHP.

GM would like to include the BHP Forest School team in their latest newsletter. The article will cover all of the positive and excellent work delivered by the team here at BHP.

10. Veolia: Meetings with Veolia have led to potential interest in our Master Plan projects. Veolia have also expressed interest in becoming involved with volunteering their time at BHP.

11. HYPE in Birkenhead Park: HYPE works with young people directly within local communities in Wirral, Merseyside. Together they identify issues and projects within local communities that young people feel can make a change to the quality of life for those within the community. HYPE delivered a number of outdoor events at the end of April utilising their plot of land.

HYPE plan and deliver projects and workshops to best meet the identified needs to promote a healthy and more cohesive community. HYPE works to provide young people with productive activities as an alternative to an antisocial way of life and lead to a better future for those involved.

12. World Heritage and HLF Status: WHS application will be announced at the WUPEC 2017 conference, submission for application is March 2019.

HLF application will be submitted Feb 2018.

Green Flag: Birkenhead Park has again achieved Green Flag Status (scores to follow) Many thanks go to staff and volunteers of BHP.

James Ashcroft (Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for BHP) was nominated for GF employee of the year. James was successful in his recommendation and has been awarded this most prestigious accolade; he will be presented with this honour on 18th July in Hull.

11. A.O.B: Norman raised issues re the unauthorised use/abuse of bikes/motorbikes. The Police and Park staff are working together to combat this problem. A crime stoppers notice to be visible in the Park might be of value. Pauline mentioned the problem with dog fouling. The dog fouling team visited the Park and at least one fine was issued. Scott is awaiting his CYN training which would give him powers to issue fines when appropriate.

The Transport festival is being replaced this year by the Food and Art Festival.

Robert commented on Fraser's report showing the increase in visits to the website i.e. in 2013 there were 3396 visits. Projected visits by the end of 2017 is 22,544.

Finances: Signatory Names to be changed as per agreed at the AGM in April 2017 this yet to be done i.e. Ian Lea and Pauline Beecham as signatories.

FOBHP Photographic Competition: Georgina said that this is its 13th year. The photographs will be on display in the Gallery beginning this week and until end of August. All encouraged to go in to see them.

Date of next meeting: Saturday October 28th 2017 at the Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre.

Georgina Keena

19-07-2017

