



Friday 17th October 2011

5:30-6:30 pm

The Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Birmingham Road

Minutes

Attendees:

Sue MacTaggart (Chair) (SM)	local resident
Liz Hatch (LiH)	local resident
Lesley Hatch (LH)	local resident
Marilyn Harper (MH)	local resident
Tim Hollis (TH)	Tennis Club
Carina Johnston (CJ)	local resident
Spike (S)	local resident
Louise MacTaggart (LM)	Local Resident
Tina Saunders (TS)	Local resident
Jean Cooper (JC)	Local Resident
Mike Bradley (MB)	Tennis Club
Dave Sadler (DS)	Tennis Club
Sam Roberts (SR)	Local Resident
Jean Cooper (JC)	Local Resident
Jordan Farnell (JR)	Vestia
PCSO Rachel Harrison (RH)	West Mercia Police
PS Chris Aimes (CH)	West Mercia Police
Joe Scully (JS)	Wyre Forest District Council
Alan Breen (AB)	Wyre Forest District Council

Apologies:

Howard Martin (HM)	Councillor and Local Resident
Alison Underwood (AU)	Local Resident

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

1.1 SM welcomed everyone to the group and gave her appreciation to all the additional attendees.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The group went through the previous minutes and agreed they were a true and accurate record.

2.2 TH informed the group that the hiring of the Tennis Courts for morning sessions is on ongoing process and they are in the process of contacting schools

Action 1: JF to chase up Cookie for Bird Boxes

Action 2: JF to write to new owners living in the caretaker house officially inviting them to the meeting.

3.0 District Council's Park Department

- 3.1** JS explained that the council are seeking to holistically put together 10 year plans for all of the parks. This ten year plan is to be agreed between the Park's Department and the Friends Of groups operating within the individual parks.
- 3.2** JS informed the group that the Council have a responsibility under new regulations to make the parks: safer, cheaper to maintain, reduce maintenance costs and involve the community. JS stated that the aim of this was to be done and agreed through a 10 year plan (see attached document).
- 3.3** JS explained that new housing developments on the Churchfield's and Grasmere sites in the local area will lead to an increased demand for the use of the park. And with the reduced budgets that the council is now operating to it will have to look at alternative ways of funding to maintain the parks. JS therefore explained that the council are looking to write a ten year plan to look at ways in which the group could help fund projects and maintenance in the park.
- 3.4** The group asked what commitment they are subject to, raising the current proposal of service level agreements. JS informed the group that the ten year plans are a separate agenda to what the Government are proposing through Council's in the Localism Bill.
- 3.5** AB went through the ten year plan with the group (see attached) the following comments were made by the group and Parks team.
- 3.5.1** Item 10 it was suggested could be done early on in the ten year plan
 - 3.5.2** SM informed the group that she is looking to apply to the Woodland trust for a woodland planting selection pack this could be included within the first stages of the ten year plan if successful.
 - 3.5.3** AB informed the group that they are looking to start next month with item 12. Item 15 on the list is still in discussion with the County Council as this is their land.
 - 3.5.4** Removing parts of the shrub areas will help to reduce drug taking in the park.
 - 3.5.5** SM asked about moving the park play area and changing the layout of the Birmingham road end of the park.
 - 3.5.6** TH proposed installing lights on the Tennis Courts providing planning permission is granted. TH identified that the increased lighting would help reduce ASB. TH also asked about extending the courts to include a 3rd court. This potentially would be placed so that it took up no extra grassed area. The group suggested that this could then have the children's play area behind it, allowing for the swooping path design in the park.
 - 3.5.7** MH asked if there could be a sheltered area in the park.
 - 3.5.8** SM asked to extend the dog area to make it less of a rectangle and be more in keeping with the curves of the

park. The group also suggested putting some paving slabs in this area just as 'you' enter through the gates.

- 3.5.9** The group raised the issue that the foot path going from the top of Hurcott Road down to the middle area of the park is a big fall hazard during the colder seasons. This also included asking if would be possible to extend this path to connect with the Baxter Avenue entrance.
- 3.5.10** The group discussed placing down soft mats on the football pitch to decrease the risk of injury (where the goal posts are situated).
- 3.5.11** It was suggested putting some low level lighting in the entrance to the park from the Hurcott road entrance (like Broadwaters park)
- 3.5.12** Group suggested completing a mural painting on the dog training area wall.
- 3.5.13** Repairing the damaged fences backing onto Baxter Avenue and the houses on Hurcott Road was raised identifying the need to repair these.
- 3.5.14** AB asked the group if everyone was happy for the Parks department to start item 12 on the 10 year plan next month. JS and AB agreed to put a hard core temporary path down to the Baxter avenue entrance, when they do item 12. TH asked the group if everybody was in agreement with the ten year plan. The group agreed.

4.0 Vice Chair

- 4.1** SM informed the group that it may be an idea to have a vice chair to help when she is unable to attend or needs help with group projects.

5.0 Bark in the Park Event

- 5.1** The group agreed that the event was very successful, including a large turnout of local people and dogs and that it was fantastic way to promote the Park, group and BIG Local.

6.0 Calendar

- 6.1** The group discussed the costs of the calendar which were £300 to buy, retailing at £5 to £6 per calendar. The group agreed that with the limited photos and time to sell the calendars that it would be better to do the calendars for Christmas 2012. The group agreed.

7.0 AOB

- 7.1** JF informed the group the Divisional Funding being available and asked the group to prioritise what they would like to apply for

funding for. The group selected applying to fund a Notice Board for the park and a dog poop bag dispenser.

7.2 SM informed the group that she is looking at putting on a quiz night in the Seven Stars to raise funding for the group and has asked for group support.

7.3 SM is looking into putting a funding application for a harvest chutney hedge from the woodland trust and will report when she knows more.

Action 3: SM & JF to put together funding application to Cllr Mumshad

Action 4: SM to report back on Bid to Woodland trust

8.0 Date of next meeting

6.1 Tuesday 15th November at Church of Latter Day Saints from 5:30pm

Action No.	What	Who
1	Case up Cookie for Bird Boxes	JF
2	Write to new owners living in the caretaker house officially inviting them to the meeting.	JF
3	Put together funding application to Cllr Mumshad	SM & JF
4	Report back on Bid to Woodland trust	SM