

**Friends of Eaton Park Committee Meeting held in the Community Centre  
Thursday 30 October 2008**

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

These were agreed.

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 Fiona has contacted Rodney Mason from Property Services who has said he'll contact Femi or Nicky to arrange the work, which the café will have to pay for. As yet nothing has been done. It is not possible to arrange a celebration/press photo opportunity etc for the new screens until this work is done.

3.2 Fiona reported that the reason for holding off on the application for Green Flag status was that the contract for management of the parks is currently being renegotiated and is generating so much work that there the parks team don't have time to work on a Green Flag bid. Norwich Society has recently conducted a survey of all of Norwich's parks and will be placing the findings online shortly.

3.3 Love Parks Week has now changed the date until 25 July to 2 August but it was decided to stick to the agreed date of Sunday 7 June.

3.4 Judith had followed up on the question of lighting for the cycle speedway. It is apparently unlikely that there will be any flood lights available in the near future. The nearest power supply is 200 metres away – this would mean installing lighting could be very expensive, though solar power might be a possibility.

**4. Correspondence**

Information has been received from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) about a training day. Judith and Christine have expressed interest in attending. Helen to forward information to Christine.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

There have been three new members since last meeting. Funds stand at £1803.92 and £770 of this is restricted (Norwich City Council grant). Awaiting £300 from Breathing Spaces/Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

**6. Membership and AGM**

6.1 Fiona will email a nomination form to Julie to circulate. If committee members are interested in continuing in their role they should fill in their details name and ask a second committee member to second them.

6.2 Liz said she would to give Helen a copy of sample AGM meeting poster.  
Helen to produce poster and email / post to members.

6.3 Kevin suggested that Harry Harrold be made an honorary life member in recognition of his fundraising work. This was wholeheartedly agreed.

6.4 It was agreed that committee members would informally contact people who attended the inaugural meeting but who had not become members to let them know about the meeting. Kevin to supply membership forms for the AGM for anyone who wishes to join at the start of the meeting.

6.5 Newsletter – Christine, Liz and Helen will meet to work on this on Wednesday 12 November. The intention is to produce a newsletter for circulation at the AGM.

**7. Wildlife update**

7.1 Judith thanked Fiona and Emma Penfold for putting us forward for the Breathing spaces project. Through Breathing Spaces we have received £300 towards environmental projects and Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) has been commissioned to write a report and recommendations about the biodiversity of Eaton Park. David North and Katherine Weston of NWT have researched and produced the report which includes 12 recommendations to increase biodiversity in the park. Judith offered to email a copy of the report to anyone who wanted to see it. It gives a valuable overview of the park and makes practical suggestions for action.

The wildlife sub-committee have short-listed recommendations into short, medium and long term objectives and identified those which can be undertaken by the Friends and those which relate to City Care or Norwich City Council. The Friends will need to seek permission from City Council for doing any work. Two immediate projects include planting snowdrops and crocuses along the sloping grass verge of the car park between the community centre and North Park Avenue and making information available to the public about wildlife in the park.

7.2 Re the bulb planting, the sub-committee is going to check whether the soil is suitable and to plan and price the work. Judith will talk to Norwich in Bloom and will see whether she can obtain reduced price bulbs, possibly through B and Q or Notcutts. Julie said that Earlham School may be interested in getting involved. The Friends agreed that up to £150 should be spent. Ruth Burke, Play Ranger said she would be interested in getting involved in environmental projects and that her brief would allow her to support this kind of activity.

7.3 Imogen Mole (Tree Officer) is organising the planting of five special oak trees near the pathway next to the cycle speedway on Wednesday 26 November. It was agreed to hold the bulb planting on the same day, 10am to midday – meeting at the Community Centre. Liz said the meeting room would be available to use as a base. The Wildlife group will lead on and facilitate this activity. Judith to confirm details with Julie.

7.4 Fiona to liaise with Imogen about our intention do the bulb planting on the same day as the oak tree planting. If this is agreed, Fiona to ask Imogen to include mention of our planned bulb planting in related press releases.

7.5 In terms of making information available to the public, Judith is preparing an information folder which can include the NWT report, Friends membership forms and some of the ‘memories’ collected at the open day. She will talk to Nicky about whether the folder can be placed in the café for the public to browse. Harry will work on a collage cover for the folder.

#### **8. Electric go-cart**

Eva has obtained an electric go-cart through Freecycle which she envisages can be used by the Friends and other Eaton park groups for fundraising activities. She is hoping that the railway and boating groups may wish to take on the work that is needed to get it working. Eva has been assured that it won't damage the cycle track but hasn't yet approached Norwich Stars Cycle Speedway to ask their permission. Judith said she thought our current insurance may not cover running an electric go-cart. It was agreed that members give some consideration to the possibilities and discuss at the next general meeting.

#### **9. Events programme**

The Friends have been invited to support the forthcoming Radio Broadland Santa Run on Sunday 7 December. It is anticipated that up to 2000 people will take part. It was agreed not to get involved (participants would not necessarily be potential members of the Friends as they are likely to come from much further afield). Julie said she would be on duty and would feedback at the next meeting.

The next open meeting talk will be on Thursday 18 December by the Model Boating Club. They are not asking for a fee. Helen will produce a poster by the next meeting for local distribution.

#### **10. Any other business**

10.1 Judith reported that NCC is now conducting the tendering process for the new skatepark and aims to start work early in the new year. It was suggested that NCC look into the possibility of coinciding the skate park opening with Friends of Eaton Park's open day. Fiona agreed to mention this to the NCC sports team at the City the date of our open day – 7/6/8 and to suggest that it would be great to launch the skate park on this day.

10.2 Ruth Burke, new Play Ranger for Eaton Park introduced herself. Her post, and others, has been funded by the Big Lottery and she is being managed by Norfolk and Norwich Community Arts. Ruth has already been going in to local schools to give talks about her work at assemblies. Ruth's

contracted hours are two hours a day, Monday to Friday. Her regular slots at Eaton Park will be 11am to 12pm on Sundays and 2.30 to 3.30pm Wednesdays, whatever the weather. Her play sessions will have seasonal and environmental themes (Halloween, bats etc) The rest of her hours are for networking and preparation and she is also keen to support other relevant activities in the park (eg work days and event days).

10.3 It was noted that Nicky needs a contact name and number to call if he is informed about anti-social behaviour. This information can be placed in the park information folder that Judith is preparing.

10.4 It was agreed that committee members would research costs and possible sources of A boards. These could be used at event days and to promote the work of the Friends during work days etc.

10.5 Fiona said that three new benches are still planned for near the boating pond but because of budgetary constraints may happen next year now. When the City Council is ready to progress this they plan to liaise with the Model Yacht Club.

#### **11. Date, time and place of next meetings**

AGM to be held at 7pm on Thursday 27 November 2008 in Eaton Park Community Centre.

Next public talk on Eaton Park's Model Yacht Club to be held at 7pm on Thursday 18 December 2008 at Eaton Park Community Centre.