

Friends of Eaton Park

Committee Meeting held in Eaton Park Community Centre

Thursday 30 April 2009 at 7pm

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Julie reported that the play rangers have agreed to help out with the questionnaire. Christine has put the questionnaire on the website. Kevin asked Helen to re-email him the questionnaire to get photocopies done.

These were agreed.

2. **Matters arising**

None

3. **Correspondence**

Fiona Tibbit has written to the group to tell her that Peter Batchelor has resigned due to bad health. He is not going to be replaced. Liz suggested we send a card and all sign it. The committee agreed that Peter had been a very great asset to the park. He was devoted to the park and had the respect of everyone, and perhaps most importantly children. Julie agreed to drop a card at the café on Saturday for members to sign it.

Ann suggested Peter be given free life-time membership of Friends of Eaton Park. This was unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that the Friends put £50 towards a gift voucher from Waitrose for him.

It was also agreed that FOEP should contact NCC to inform them of their regret at Peter's leaving and concern that his position be replaced. Helen agreed to write this letter and to copy it to local MPs. Julie added that problems in the park are not reported as methodically since Peter has left. An effective communications channel has not yet been found.

Fiona will no longer be attending meetings unless specifically invited. We will need to make sure we give her sufficient notice of meetings where we do want her to attend.

Helen has received a lottery license renewal form which renewal form and Kevin will arrange the renewal.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

We have £1809.75 in the bank. Two cheques have gone out on planting and two for the website. From the Norwich Community grant, £550 remains. The Breathing Spaces Grant is completely spent. Helen agreed to check the paperwork re the NCC grant regarding reporting requirements. It was agreed that the Moth Hunt fee of £120 come from the Norwich City Council grant.

5. **Anti-social behaviour**

6. Unfortunately, with the loss of Peter, Julie has lost her link to the park. Additionally, with longer days, anti-social behaviour has increased (broken glass and loud noise) the days have started lengthening. Rather than Julie's PCSO team working with the park, instead three prisoner vans, each with 20 officers, are going round from place to place, to clamp down on anti-social behaviour.

Last Friday there were four arrests and charges have been made of anti-social behaviour and under-aged drinking, with the four being excluded from the park and the surrounding areas.

Julie explained that one of the problems is that the sound made by people meeting in the rotunda area is amplified and sounds worse than it is. The PCSO's are keen to put up a shelter where young people could meet – this could also be used by the people watching the football. The committee expressed support for this idea.

6. **Survey**

Kevin is going to make 200 copies and leave them in the café – they will be available from Saturday afternoon. Julie asked whether we should ask the question do you think we should replace the Park Keeper? This was agreed – Helen to amend questionnaire.

7. **Environmental update**

- 7.1 Glenis and Cynthia reported that the plug planting has taken place over two sessions and happily rain followed shortly after so they are hopefully the plants will settle in well.

When buying the second set of plants, the environmental sub-group also decided to invest in some seeds, which Glenis has planted in the plug planting trays. They have started to grow. It was noted that the small daffodils planted by the Friends have been a triumph and Harry circulated some lovely photos he had taken.

- 7.2 Hedge planting. It is now too late to do this and it will happen instead in the autumn and once permission is obtained from Norwich city council. Judith Lubbock is going to approach Fiona about this.

- 7.3 Kevin has found out about litter pickers and we can get these and bin bags from City Care. Kevin can get yellow jackets. It was agreed that FOEP will have a litter picking session at 10am on Friday 15 May - meet at the top car park.

8. **Events**

- 8.1 *Sunday 7 June, Friends stall.*
Agreed this will be a tombola, midday to 4pm. Glen Grange reported the Malcolm Flood Memorial Trophy will be awarded at 2pm on the day and will be for the under 16 race. Cycle speedway will also be offering a 'have-a-go' session from midday to 1pm. Liz and Glenis offered to help with the tombola.

8.2 *Moth Hunt, Saturday 13 June.*
Peter will do an hour-long introduction (8pm to 9pm). There will then be a half hour interval followed by a half hour set up for which Peter will provide a commentary. The Moth Hunt itself will start at 10pm and run until 11.30pm. Helen is working on publicity and waiting for Peter to comment on the materials she has prepared.

8.3 *Sunday 21 June, Refugee Week.*
Kevin suggested we have a Friends table with our questionnaires, membership form and information. Liz, Eva, Glenis and Kevin agreed to help.

It was agreed that events should be a major item on the next agenda.

9. **Any other business**

9.1 Christine reported that Neville Gower of Norwich and District Engineering. has won an award from Norwich City council for services to the community.

9.2 Christine asked whether the Friends were going to carry on doing talks. These had been quite poorly attended, which suggested a lack of demand for them. It was agreed they should not be run in the immediate future so Christine will remove mention of events from the website.

9.3 Christine raised the question of replacing hedging after the tennis courts have been re-surfaced. Fiona as said that fencing will be put up instead because of the issue of access. Kevin proposed and it was agreed that the Friends feed back to Fiona that we would like to see hedging put in.

9.4 Liz has heard that the skate park has been postponed. It is understood that the developer that was going to buy the land to pay for this have pulled out. Helen proposed and it was agreed that FOEP request an update on this from NCC as members are receiving requests for information from park users.

10. **Date, time and place of next meeting**

Thursday 28 May 2009 at 7pm in the Community Centre.