

## **Friends of Eaton Park**

### **Committee Meeting held in Eaton Park Community Centre**

**Thursday 24 September 2009 at 7pm**

#### **1. Minutes of last meeting**

These were accepted.

#### **2. Matters arising**

2.1 Kevin reported that four people had met as planned to play bowls and had a good time. Three returned the following Sunday but the facility is now closed until Easter. The group is keen to continue and to attract new members.

2.2 Simon Meeks has responded and says he understands our concerns about the need for a park keeper. Simon has asked CityCare how they intend to fulfill the role but with the contract about to be renegotiated (ends March 2010), it has not been practical to recruit. As part of the new contract NCC has asked for contractors to price for a range of services including a park ranger role which will be 7 days a week across Eaton and Heigham Parks. This contract may therefore lead to more, rather than less cover for the park. In the mean time, Fiona and the neighbourhood wardens are now the contact for any problems in the park.

**ACTION.** Judith will write to ask to be kept updated.

2.3 Judith is hopeful that the dog warden will attend the next meeting 27 October.

#### **3. Correspondence**

An email from Fiona Tibbit will be covered under 'environment'.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Kevin has received last years accounts which are now audited. The meeting agreed a vote of thanks for Ian Cousins. We currently have £1,400.33 in the bank, all of which is general funds. The last restricted funds were spent on the new display boards.

#### **5. Events**

5.1 Julie reported that on Sunday 4 October there will be an 'It's a Knockout' competition in the park with the scouts.

5.2 Radio Heart's Santa Run on 6 December will include army recruits helping out making bacon butties, there will be fake snow and possibly a Norwich City player to do the warm up. We will have the only stall at the event. The Scouts are also involved.

**Agreed:** All to give Glenis and Cynthia donations for the tombola. Cynthia has also proposed doing a second hand book stall and will be happy to organise this. Kevin suggested Jason and the boot camp may want to get involved. Jason asked to be sent more information.

#### **6. Survey findings**

Helen and Christine haven't met to do the report yet but will have done this for the next meeting.

#### **7. Membership**

Liz has sent out a mailing with a letter from Helen. Kevin suggested that if Gemma is interested in taking on the membership secretary position, there is a real need to recruit new members. Gemma said this would interest her and she suggested that she could start by doing some research into how other similar groups have attracted new members. Helen said that FOEP doesn't yet have an information/membership leaflet and that this might be something that we could apply for funding for.

## **8. Environmental activities**

8.1 Fiona has asked if we'll take on the band stand, weeding and dead heading.

Fiona has also asked if we will re-plant the hedge at the tennis courts. NCC will supply hedging, materials and refreshments. It was agreed that we will do that and we will at the same time ask

8.2 Judith suggested we ask Norwich Fringe whether Friends of Eaton Park can attend and volunteer at one of their coppicing days. This would be a good way for us to hone our skills for use in Eaton Park.

**Agreed:** Helen to let Fiona know that we will take on the band stand flower beds and plant the hedging.

Judith to contact Norwich Fringe about forthcoming coppicing plans.

8.3 Litter picking: 9am on Friday 30 October, meet outside the community centre.

## **9. Projects and fundraising**

There is a need to report back to Norwich City Council.

**Agreed:** Kevin, Christine and Helen to look at this in the next meeting.

## **10. Any other business**

10.1 Kevin reported new graffiti and problems with groups of youths. Julie said that since Peter has left, the police no longer get reports of problem behaviour. There appears to be a gap in communication, with Simon Meeks asking for people to contact Neighbourhood wardens and Fiona and information not getting to the police.

10.2 City Care staff have been witnessed not tackling difficult behaviour in the park. The issue is that this is not in their job description.

10.3 At the recent SNAP meeting Eaton Park was carried over for a further three months as a priority area.

**Agreed:** Judith to ask Bob Cronk, Head of Community cohesion, to give some thought to improving communication between City Care and the police ref issues raised by members of the public with City Care staff.

10.4 Judith raised the question of commemorating Captain Sandys Wynch.

**Agreed:** This will be looked at as part of the fundraising. We'll look into the possibility of producing a simple history that can be available for a small charge from the café. This could be promoted in the park notice board. We could also consider producing a tree guide.

10.5 Skate park. Julie reported that exploratory holes have been dug to look into drainage. The funding has come from the Homes and Communities Agency.

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

On Thursday 29 October 2009 at 7pm in Eaton Park Community Centre.