

JULY Friends of Coronation Gardens Committee meeting

10th July 2019, 7-9pm at the Gardener's Arms, Merton Road

Present: Charles (chair), Susannah, Jo, Toby, Dan and Nada (notes)

Apologies: Wendy, Lesley



1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and will be added to the Friends website.

Susannah has produced general leaflets about the Friends and how to join.

We are collecting mobile numbers for future contact with members.

Actions:

Susannah to add notes to website

Jo to try to contact Thames Water about a water supply in the Gardens.

2. Bank account, finances, membership

Dan reconfirmed procedures for paying expenses.

Action: Dan to recirculate payment forms.

We have 14 paid members. No-one had signed up after the picnic.

Actions:

All to try to recruit 5 paid members before next meeting.

Nada to push membership via email newsletter.

We should put leaflets in local businesses, eg the pubs.

Susannah to ask Marina if we can put notices about membership up in the Gardens.

3. Constitution and policies

The constitution and policies were agreed. Changes suggested by Bruce at Wandsworth Council were approved.

Action: Susannah to put on website.

4. Wandsworth Grant Fund

The £1000 grant is to try to inspire civic pride through a small series of events in the Gardens: a nature/history walk in Spring, Easter Egg Hunt and Summer celebration event. Wandsworth Grant Fund may ask for receipts and will require a final report on our activities, they also have participant surveys that we will need to carry out.

5. Feedback from picnic (Jo, Charles, Lesley, Dan)

The picnic was a success – we estimate about 120-150 people attended. The Love Parks Letter were a great attraction. It was good to make contact with local groups, such as the theatre group.

We would also like to thank: World Heat Beat, the Mayor, the cubs for organising the games and SWLTV.

We want the Gardens to 'become a place people want to go, not a place to avoid'.

Jo reported that so far, we had had 48 responses to the survey (from the picnic and online). Responses were relatively positive, and people had noticed changes. People liked the tranquillity in the Gardens as a place to 'get away'. They also used it for exercise. The roses and daffodils were an attraction. Although people requested a children's play area, others like the idea of making up games with their children. The big negative was anti-social behaviour.

Action: Jo to keep the survey open and write up the findings.

There was uncertainty as to whether the Scout Hut would be available if we choose the same weekend next year.

Action: Charles to contact the Scouts.

6. Relationship with Enable

Various committee members had met with different staff from Enable.

- **Locking the gates**

We are in a trial period where there will be more activity from Parks Police.

Action: Nada to circulate Parks Police phone numbers: 02088717532 / 07500959442.

We believe that prevention is better than cure. We discussed the possibility of recruiting a team of volunteers, but we would have to look into issues around safety.

We agreed that we should contact other Friends groups in the borough with a view to changing Council policy.

Actions: Charles and Susannah to contact other groups and continue to attend meetings with Southfields Police.

- **Update on gardening plans**

Although Enable staff have been negative, we see the Gardening Club as a good way on involving volunteers. Susannah will suggest some hardy plants to use and we will organise a bulb planting session in late September.

Charles has requested 25 plants from Enable for Parks Week.

Action: Nada to publicise this through the email newsletter

- **Dog poo ideas**

The committee agreed that we could get some poo bags to distribute.

We would like increased signage.

We would be interested to know if the bye-laws are enforced.

Actions: Jo to approach pet companies, local vets to obtain some.

Nada to ask for information about fines.

- **Next meeting with Enable – date/who wants to be there.**

Dan would like to attend the next meeting with Charles, Susannah and Nada

We agreed on 27th August.

- **Learning from South Park Gardens in Wimbledon**

Susannah and Nada had visited South Park Gardens in Wimbledon. Following listing and a grant from the Heritage Lottery and lots of hard work and battles from the Friends group, Merton Council are now proud of the Gardens. Idverde lock their gates.

Action: Susannah to ask them if they know of the costs involved.

7. **Kim Caddy's support**

Charles and Susannah had met with our local Councillor, Kim Caddy. We are lucky to have Kim's support. She is keen that we apply for Wandsworth Local Fund money.

Action: Charles and Susannah to ask Kim when the next wave of the Fund will open.

8. **Winter WonderGarden**

We agreed that we would hold this event on 14th December 2019. This event will focus on music and carol singing with local schools. We hope that it will not detract in any way from the activities around the turning on of Southfields Christmas lights. Susannah has got all the local schools, the scouts and the marines involved, as well as some small businesses.

Next steps/actions:

Susannah to get together a group of volunteers to organise:

- **Susannah will ask some volunteers to approach local businesses for raffle prizes.**
- **We will continue to work with Enable Events – and complete a risk assessment and other paperwork.**
- **Susannah to get costings for a marquee and generator.**
- **Susannah to consider security.**

The committee agreed that no event will go ahead without costs being covered. All donations etc (eg for stalls for local businesses) should be received in advance. When working with other organisations we need to be clear what we can provide and what we expect them to provide (including that third parties need to carry their own insurance).

Action: Dan and Susannah to liaise about the development of online forms for payments.

9. **Linking with the community – Awards for All application**

Nada, Jo and Susannah will work on a Big Lotter Awards for All grant application focussing on a series of small activities around exploring the nature and history of the Gardens with local schools, charities and other groups, with a focus on displays and activities at the summer picnic in 2020.

10. **Publicity: e-newsletter(s), website and social media**

July e-newsletter will cover:

- Our successes – eg painting, picnic

- Need for membership.
- Call for volunteering around litter picking.
- Free plants from Love Parks.

Action: Charles to contact all local press and media.

11.AOB and date/venue for next meeting

There was a suggestion at the picnic for another Gate into the Gardens next to Replingham Road.

We could organise a litter pick/poop scoop every quarter.

Next meeting: 11th September 2019, 7-9pm, Earl Spencer pub. Susannah to chair.