

# Friends of Queen Mary's Park

Minutes of committee meeting held at The Diamond Centre (DC)  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Present: Cllr Moira Butt (chaired meeting), Steve Axon (Chairman of the Diamond Centre), David Aylett, Sue Halliday, Carl Brown, Robert Houlihan, Susan Kenworthy, Anne Jameson (Secretary/minutes).

Apologies: Marilynne Burbage, Richard Brumwell, Roy Budgett, Ray Liffen

1. Minutes of AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were reviewed and Robert Houlihan corrected that instead of no members coming forward to join the committee, there had been a misunderstanding and he had volunteered to become a committee member.  
Robert was then co opted on to the committee.  
Later in the meeting Robert H proposed Susan Kenworthy to come onto the committee, and a show of hands agreed that she should be co opted also.
2. RH and CB reported that they had a meeting with PCSO Diane in QMP on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> March 14 to discuss activities going on in the park and the effectiveness of the PCSOs patrols in the park.  
Local residents RH and SK reported that the patrols are happening too early in the evenings as groups of teenagers arrive and gather in various areas within the park around 9 or 10pm.  
There is an increase of litter afterwards of drinks containers and packaging associated with drugs.  
The committee discussed the possibility of making the park and 'alcohol free' area. Cllr MB to enquire how to go about requesting this status.  
Cllr MB also advised that there are weekly meetings on Wednesday mornings to speak to the PCSOs.  
SK reported that the dynamics of the park have changed in the last year, and the neglect of the maintenance as agreed with the Parks Dept 18 months ago have left certain areas feeling too secluded and unsafe for park users if faced with a confrontation of any sort.
3. The committee would like some information about the funds left from the Section 106 monies used to pay for the maintenance of the park.  
There has recently been £300k from Bellway Homes given to LBS for the maintenance and improvement of the woods and surrounding borders near the new houses on the old QMH site.  
There was also mention of Public Realm money used to provide an information board for the park which is sited near the monkey puzzle tree on the SAM site. The identical information board near Kenny Drive entrance was paid for by the Friends of QM Hospital for Children in memory of the hospital and its staff.  
Cllr MB to enquire about Section 106 monies.

4. A Friends Group member living in the Burns Close/ Kenny Drive area has requested a discussion by the committee about the feasibility of opening up the car park in the park for people to use who are visiting the park. The member reports that the roads surrounding the entrance at Kenny Drive are often gridlocked by both nursery parents and park visitors.  
The committee members discussed the issue thoroughly and unanimously voted against it because of the high risk of opening up the park to allow travellers / joy riders to access and misuse the area. The tarmac area is used regularly by children and families to learn to ride bikes / scooters and play ball games etc.
5. RH enquired about the cleaning of the tarmac area – is it part of the maintenance agreement with the council? RH reported that the drain in the centre of the hard standing is blocked with debris and retains water in a large puddle.  
AJ to contact Bill Wyatt and enquire if it is due to be cleaned in the near future, and if it is not covered by the maintenance team, could the council provide sacks that could be collected by the street cleaning teams so that the Friends Group could clean and clear the area themselves.  
It was reported that the litter and dog waste bins are normally emptied regularly, and SK reports to the council if any bins are missed and overflowing, and they are then usually emptied the same or next day.  
There is an increase of dog mess being left on the ground, and it has been suggested that a notice be posted in the notice board reminding dog owners of their responsibility to clean up after their pets, and it is an offence not to do so. RH has offered to take care of the notice board.
6. CB gave a summary of the Friends of Parks Groups meeting that he attended on 20<sup>th</sup> March. He has given the committee a draft copy of the Management Agreement in respect of the Late Bronze Age SAM site between English Heritage and LBS.  
Committee members are unclear whether this management and maintenance agreement includes the whole park or just the SAM site.  
AJ to contact Bill Wyatt for more information and suggest an onsite meeting with Parks Dept and Friends group members to discuss in more detail.
7. Short discussion about Stanley Park High School still using the main field for games concluded that it is a very complicated situation and as the space is for public use, as long as they do not breach the by-laws by playing ‘dangerous’ sports, they are at liberty to continue using the area.
8. One of the committee members has commented that the railings installed to replace the old broken fencing on the boundary with the access road to the Drapers centre are a very good design but need a coat of paint. It has been suggested that the Friends Group ask for volunteers and form a ‘painting party’. It is understood that LBS will provide the paint and brushes.
9. LBS has been allocated £2000 from Public Realm funds to complete a feasibility study and support an application to Viridor for funding to install fencing to create a ‘dog free’ area in the park. DA has met with Bill Wyatt to

start the process. SA has offered to help DA complete the application form if needed, and offered his expertise in forwarding the application.

The proposed site is the grass area situated next to the tarmac square, the fencing will be low maintenance metal with a roll top, self closing gates allowing access for grass cutting. It is proposed to leave the area clear of any play equipment or benches so that it can be used for picnicking and small children to play, away from the nuisance of dog mess or the possibility of dogs chasing toddlers.

10. Membership of the Friends Group is currently 38, an increase of 6 since last year.

11. Treasurer's Report not provided.

12. AOB:

No one seems to know who decorated one of the trees in the back meadow near the first bench with Christmas baubles and a Father Christmas teddy bear last December. It looked very festive and raised some smiles.

A park user has put up some specific bird feeders to attract golden chaffinches.

There have been reports of badger activity also.

Committee was in agreement to give the Diamond Centre a donation of £50 for the use of their meeting room for our 3x year meetings. SA thanked the committee for the suggestion. AJ to request cheque from RB to be given at the Supporter's evening in May.

Date of next meeting; Tuesday July 15<sup>th</sup> 2014

7.30pm at the Diamond Centre meeting room.

Chair - Richard Brumwell

Treasurer - Roy Budgett

Secretary - Anne Jameson

Committee members - David Aylett, Sue Halliday, Ray Liffen, Carl Brown, Marilynne Burbage, Cllr Moira Butt, Robert Houlihan, Susan Kenworthy.