

Friends of Middleton Park Steering Group Meeting

21 August 2012

Apologies:

Cllr Trusswell, Cllr Blake, Shirley, Sherieda, Eileen Hallas

Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising

HLF Project Update from Dave Morgan and Martin Wright – LCC

Dave and Martin came along to the meet Friends to reassure us over the state of the project. The following points arose during discussion:

- There was a slight delay of around 15 days to the landscape work due to the weather, but the Council were very confident that they would be able to get everything finished by 9 November
- Street furniture would be added at the very end
- All the resin bounded gravel was available and would be completed in one go
- The railings were ordered
- The old park gates would be refurbished and kept in store
- It was agreed that the path to the coal seam needed further extending to be useful
- Communication between the project and the Friends had improved and a regular update would now be posted weekly in the park

Alan introduced a map that included all the potential location of all the interpretation boards

Leeds City Council Update

Graeme gave an update on Parks and Countryside activities in the park since June.

- Volunteer work included the Middleton Park Estate Volunteers who got involved with cutting back vegetation on Balkliffe Lane, weeding flower and shrub beds, creating defined edges to beds, and painting fencing around the bowling green. Department of Health brought 9 volunteers to work on the area outside of the Rose Garden. The Youth Offending Service have been undertaking reparation work in the park every Tuesday during the summer holidays, getting involved in step creation, scraping back vegetation encroaching on to the drive, invasive species control (Himalayan Balsam) and the removal of defunct waymarker posts.
- School involvement included Sharpe Lane Primary and Leeds College of Building students who have created a scale model of a horse gin for display in the new centre.
- Events in the park included a Bat walk on 15/8/12 that attracted 27 people; Den Building and tracks and trails event run by P&C Rangers that attracted 15 people; and Ultimate Military Fitness who continue to provide fitness lessons in the park three times a week
- Future events included: a Wednesday in the Woods family event on 22/8/12; a Middleton Meander on 25/8/12; a Bodger Camp – traditional woodland crafts with P&C Rangers on 28/8/12; O2 who will be volunteering on 30/8/12 and undertaking step restoration from Clearings to Tramway; a Jubilee Celebration event on 1/9/12 run by Leeds Play Network; and a Bat Walk on 19/9/12

Graeme also included some other points of interest:

- He is working with WYAS on a 'celebration' event to mark the recent Schools History Project at Middleton Park. A date of 22/10/12 has been pencilled in. This will see some of the pupils from each of the schools involved in the project come to the new centre to display some of the work they produced (poems, drawings and models) and celebrate the history of the park. More information and invites to the Friends will follow.

- A volunteer Rob Nichol has started to help with various marketing and communication needs of the park. Initially he will be looking at a leaflet explaining what the park has to offer. He will of course be in communication with the Friends.
- The two infant swing cradles in the playground have been replaced.
- Adult Social Care will be operating a café from the new centre during the week. Once they have access to the building they will have a 2 week period when they will fine tune their procedures before opening to the public – this will now be 22.10.12. They will operate the café 5 days of the week between 10.30am – 2.30pm.

Past Events

Festival of British Archaeology (22 July) – Alan and Jim led a walk with over 20 people around three ages of Middleton Park – with many thanks from those who went on the walk.

Tingley Band and Middleton Park Access for all day (29 July) – a very large band who create a wonderful atmosphere and are very enthusiastic. Gayle brought some guests from a local old peoples home in the minibus, although Friends felt that this could be more effective / efficiently for future occasions

Yorkshire Brass Quintet (5 August) – another successful band

Circus Skills Workshop (12 August) – Friends agreed that this had been infinitely more successful than the last time earlier in the summer when it rained heavily all afternoon. Professor Fiddlesticks did some balancing and other tricks under the gazebos, and then did a lengthy balloon workshop that the children seemed to really enjoy

Future Events

Rachel and Alan went through the volunteer rota for the next month asking for volunteers to come in and support the events that we have on – recorded separately. It was further agreed that Graeme should ask Louise Martin from WYAS who developed the schools project to come and speak at our AGM in November.

FOMP Flower Craft and Produce Show (9 Sept)

Friends had already heard from LCC that they would fully support the show and assist with power and water. Berman have also offered to help pay for additional toilet facilities. There was a plea from the organisers for craft show items to be entered or at least displayed, and for bakers to bake / make something for the day

Peter Marshall Memorial

Friends **agreed** that it was appropriate that we commemorate the life of Peter Marshall by commissioning a stained glass window that Friends hope will be possible to have displayed in the new visitor centre. Nick said he would raise with the Project Board and also discuss it with the Sir George Martin Trust to ensure that they were happy with the idea. It was further **agreed** that the stained glass window volunteers should go away and develop a suitable design for agreement at a future Steering Committee.

Raised Planter

After discussion Friends agreed that the raised planter in the way of the new path should be removed. Various suggestions were put forward for a raised bed that FOMP would officially look after (including a sensory garden) possibly using the railway sleepers being removed to make way for the knee high railing. It was agreed that the Friends would come up with a design and suggested plants and that we would work with the Council from there

Trustees Meeting Feedback

N/A

Heritage Lottery Fund Update

Included above

Treasurers Report

Richard reported that we had a balance of £12000 in the account. Frances mentioned a cheque from Play Pals for £2000 and that she had agreed that it was appropriate for us to use it as long as our events were open to all. An application was in to 'Community First' which would cover us to the end of September.

Membership update

Rachel reported that we have 68 members so far this year and that she was still working to follow up with those who hadn't paid their membership subscription this year.

AOB

Carol introduced a paper describing a proposal to develop an archaeological dig around the possible site of the Ice House. During discussion it was agreed that this needed to be developed further with LCC and that it would possibly go ahead early in the new year – pending approval from LCC.