

Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting 17th October 2012

Attendance

Chair: Cllr George Davies

Councillors: Cllr Denise Roberts; Cllr David Elderton, Cllr Cherry Povall, Cllr Stuart Kelly, Cllr Jean Stapleton, Cllr Allan Brighouse

Members: [REDACTED]

Wirral Council Officers: [REDACTED]

Item 1 Apologies

Cllr Brian Kenny, Insp. Roy McGregor, [REDACTED]

Item 2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Item 3 Matters Arising

Cllr Elderton raised a question over traffic calming measures.

[REDACTED] confirmed signage for the advisory speed limit had been approved by the Conservation Officer.

There was then a question over funding for the above and a request for legal advice on how this advisory speed limit could be made enforceable.

Item 4 Park Manager's Report

[REDACTED] reported the fall in number of school visits and suggested possible reasons for it, including poor weather and the closure of two schools which regularly visited the park.

Cllr Stapleton asked why such small numbers from University Academy

[REDACTED] suggested the loss of the education officer has affected contact.

[REDACTED] suggested a possible role for a volunteer to contact schools and encourage visits.

[REDACTED] reported that the work experience programme was a real success as was the Physical Activities programme.

[REDACTED] suggested that income from commercial activities could help with finances.

[REDACTED] said an increase was required in commercial operations

[REDACTED] predicted that this will increase

[REDACTED] reported to the group regarding the park's drainage

It was agreed by all that exceptional weather this year has caused flooding and was unavoidable.

[REDACTED] suggested the Events Arena could take surplus water which will also enhance biodiversity

[REDACTED] referred to the increase in concreting over gardens which doesn't allow water to drain and thereby causes increased flooding.

[REDACTED] reported on underground water tank proposed by United Utilities because of flooding to basements in Park Road South.

[REDACTED] said that there was a potential revenue asset from development of remaining plots in the park, and the United Utilities proposal to build a storage tank on the plot by Gothic Lodge would make this asset difficult to sell.

Cllr George Davies reported the ESWA club was closing down and the building was for sale.

[REDACTED] asked if the park could make use of the area.

Cllr George Davies suggested keeping eye on developments.

[REDACTED] reported the launch of the Park Watch scheme, adding that members were being recruited before calling the first (inaugural) meeting.

[REDACTED] gave a report on IRIMS Incident Reporting and Management System, saying there are were some "glitches" remaining but it should be up and running in a couple of months.

[REDACTED] reported on the new Dog Control Order being proposed to exclude dogs from all children's play areas in Wirral. He also reported on the possibility for a further Dog Control Order requiring an owner to put a dog on lead if requested, currently the byelaws state only that the dog must be under control.

Cllr Elderton suggested publicising the result of any further action after the event be recorded.

[REDACTED] expressed his concern at the nature and number of dog related incidents, suggesting the voluntary code of conduct was no good.

[REDACTED] updated the group on the success of the Forest School Initiative.

Item 5 Membership of Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee

Cllr George Davies requested to expand group to take in the Councillor with cabinet responsibility for Cultural Services. This was agreed by all.

Item 6 Any Other Business

[REDACTED] suggested an opportunity for external funding for restoration of the Jackson Memorial, Bandstand, Conservatory and Horticultural Training.

[REDACTED] suggested that the Friends of Birkenhead Park be invited to submit a report to future meetings.

Item 7 Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed to meet in Mid April 2013.