

Friends of Roseburn Park Annual General Meeting 2016

Minutes -21st September 2016

Present: Neil Gardiner, Val Forbes, Barbara Knowles, Pete Gregson (Chairperson), Jane Stevenson, L Westwater-Scott, A Yule, R Symmons, E Harrold, M Docherty, P Harding, Ged O'Reilly, Bertha Walker, Sue Goods, R Kennedy, A Anderson, Len and June Lodge, Laura Haigh, N Inglis, K Rowse, Lily Scott, Richard Scott, Margaret Kuyeon, O Simsek, Apologies: Hamish Ross, Eleana Caldwell, Darren Wraight, Ritchie Fraser, Cllr Balfour, Cllr Ross, John Yellowlees.

1. The Chairperson gave a report on last year's activities: In the year since the last AGM (15th Sept 2015) FoRP:
- Held park events (Xmas Carols 13/12/15, Fundraising Disco 4/7/16 and Bakeoff and Mini-Olympic games 4/9/16)
 - Developed a park- wide vision, associated plan drawings, Park Improvement Plan with in-principle approval of the Parks Officer, ran an online and on - paper consultation with local residents about the plans (141 responses), held a public consultation event (13/4/16), several private consultation events with residents in local sheltered housing developments, a separate consultation exercise with all classes at Roseburn Primary School, further discussed with the Police 'Secure by Design' team, presented the plans at West Neighbourhood Partnership and Murrayfield Community Council, and made bids to One City Trust (unsuccessful), the West Neighbourhood Partnership and Robertson Trust for funding to develop the plans and take them through the planning process
 - Located several would-be leaseholders and drew up plans for conversion of the old toilet block into a café with toilet, including architectural drawings and a business plan, and submitted the latter to the City Council
 - Facilitated the removal of asbestos from the Armory building
 - Organised a public meeting to hear of Murrayfield Wanderers plans to move to the park.
 - Organised the transcription of the title deeds
 - Helped prevent the felling of several trees and retain one for re-use for tree seating
 - Distributed a newsletter online and in printed form through local businesses and maintained active Facebook and Website pages. Also had two items featured in the Murrayfield Grapevine and one in the Evening News.
 - Provided online membership sign- up and online donation facilities
 - Attended most flood prevention stakeholder, Murrayfield Community Council, West Neighbourhood Partnership Environmental Subcommittee meetings.
 - Liaised with numerous City Council officers and others

There was a great deal of discussion around the improvement plan- one resident said she knew nothing of the playpark location and thought that the noise would be a problem- she lived on the other side of the street. There were concerns about losing the old play area. It was suggested a sandpit might work here.

There was also much discussion around the Wanderers plans for the park. It was felt that already the existing sports usage took too much of the park up. The Chair suggested that those present could speak to the local Cllrs if they had a view, since it was the Council that controlled the park.

There were two volunteers who wanted to look at the Wanderers proposals with Neil; Kim Rowse and Ged O'Reilly.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had submitted his apologies so the Chair outlined the year's accounts, noting that there had been a loss over the year of £629, partly due to the Improvement Plan expenses. However, the recent Bake-off and Mini-olympics had generated £600.

3. Election of Committee

Jane Stevenson supervised the election of the new committee: there were 6 places and those appointed were Pete Gregson, Hamish Ross, Neil Gardiner, Val Forbes, Barbara Knowles, John Yellowlees.

4. Roseburn Path- splitting for cyclists' proposal.

The chairperson explained that the Council had asked FoRP Committee to comment on the proposal to paint a white line down the middle of the path, reserving one side for cyclists. All were concerned about the occasional conflict and especially the blind spot at the toilet block. He explained that the Committee had already proposed routing the cyclists behind the block, which needed to be explored. There were concerns about splitting the path, given it was not very wide and there were dogs and children who would stray into the path of the cyclists, who would probably be going faster. The chair took a straw poll of those present: 15 were against splitting the path; 5 in favour. He asked for a vote on routing cyclists behind the toilet block; 20 were in favour, with 1 against.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm; there were donations made to the FoRP collecting box to pay for the room hire.