

Friends of Middleton Park Steering Group Meeting

17 July 2012

Apologies:

Cllr Groves, Cllr Blake, Shirley, Sherieda, Graeme Ashton, Eileen Hallas, Martin, Ellen, Eileen Pattison

Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising

Leeds City Council Update

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

- Volunteers – the Middleton Park Estate Volunteers continue to meet and have done horticultural work around the Bowling Greens. The Leeds Parks Volunteers had done some work on the shrub beds and vegetation cut backs from the path from Hall Pond to St Mary's Church. Corporate volunteers (from Halifax and Mazars had done work on the steps to the tram rack and painting of the fence around the bowling green.
- Schools – Middleton Park Schools History Project saw 270 year 4 pupils from 6 different schools learn about the history of Middleton Park, and 150 children from Westwood Primary visited on 10 July
- Events – the bird survey on 16 June recorded 28 species. The Family Sports Day also on 16 June, although very wet, attracted 250 attendees, and a display showing the Heritage Lottery Funded improvements to the park was included in the displays at Middleton Railway's 200 Years of Steam celebration.
- Future Events:
 - 16 August – Den Building and Tracks and Trails with Countryside Rangers
 - 22 August – Wednesday in the Woods – a Health for All family event
 - 25 August – a Middleton Meander to explore the HLF Project changes in the park
 - 28 August – Bodger Camp with Countryside Rangers
- Other points of interest – an infant swing cradle has been removed because it was unsafe; an unsafe laburnum tree near the Rose Garden has been removed as it was unsafe; further contact has been made with Adult Social Care about the running of the new park café (which will be from 10.30 to 14.30 Monday to Friday).

Past Events

Wildlife Photography (17 June) – well attended with quite a few people we haven't seen very regularly in the park before

Oddssocks (19 June) – fabulous show again with a dry evening. Friends felt the audience was not much down on previous years and although we were pushed the catering arrangements worked reasonably well. Ivor said he would send some of his photos to Oddssocks and we had got a good spread into the local paper.

Middleton Railway 200 Years of Steam (24 June) – Nick said that he had worked with the German TV company on the day describing the mining heritage of the park, Jim and Alan did 6 walks with various numbers of people off the trains. Friends thought it was a successful collaboration.

Yorkshire Brass Band (8 July) – Friends said that this was one of the best bands we had seen for a while – 20 strong with a good repertoire. Gayle brought along some older less mobile Friends down to listen to the performance.

Teas in the Park (15 July) – notable because we had 25 Friends and customers visiting and enjoying tea and company

Frances and others noted that the children's activities were going well.

Belle Isle, Middleton, and Hunslet Galas all went well, apart from a sudden squall at Hunslet Gala that damaged one of our gazebos.

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.

Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum

Nick discussed the Forum that had been attended by Alan and him. This was an event designed to 'kick start' a forum of local volunteers and community organisations in the Leeds area. Nick and Alan felt that if it encouraged sharing of best practice and ways of doing things (like applying for available funding etc) then it was a good thing to be involved in. Cllr Truswell said he felt it was a positive step too, warning that in a recession the Council needed to be very aware of all the money they had available and spending on things like parks would always be under threat.

Friends agreed that a discussion of a proper commemoration of Peter Marshall's work for the local community should be included on the next agenda for the Steering Group. Some suggestions were immediately tabled:

- Peter Marshall Memorial Garden
- Park benches
- Naming the new Visitor Centre after him
- Commissioning a new stained glass window, which would then be displayed in the new centre along with a memorial plaque – we would need funding of approx. £300 for this.

Trustees Meeting Feedback

N/A

Heritage Lottery Fund Update

Nothing new to report

Treasurers Report

Richard reported that we had received £3800 (inc' £1000 from the Councillors Inner Area South Committee and £75 from Health for All) and that he had paid out approximately £1600 for Oddsocks. We had approx. £11,000 in the bank. We had applied for £1600 from Community First.

Membership update

Rachel reported that 62 members had renewed this year so far and that she will look again at the spreadsheet to see if there were more old members she could ask. She asked whether FoMP should consider a form of corporate membership and when Friends agreed said that she would develop an application form.

AOB

Carol discussed a possible archaeology project to develop our understanding of the remains of the Ice House. This would be undertaken by South Leeds Archaeology alongside FoMP. Carol agreed to develop a proposal before taking to Graeme.

Friends suggested that we could book a youth band for jam sessions in the park – say on the third Sunday of each month. It was agreed that this would need further thought to develop and then could be introduced for next year's programme.