

Friends of Middleton Park Steering Group Meeting

18 September 2012

Apologies:

Cllr Trusswell, Cllr Blake, Carole Bloom, Gayle Graham, Geoff Driver, Sherieda Joseph, Tree Artistree, Kris

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.

- Volunteer work included the Middleton Park Estate Volunteers who got involved using strimmers and leaf blowers to cut back vegetation from the Visitor Centre, weeding flower beds, further step maintenance from the Clearings to the Tramway, and removing fly tipping. Lloyds bank brought 12 volunteers who also did some step maintenance, and the Youth Offending Service came twice and amongst other things did some invasive species control and removal of defunct waymarker posts
- Events in the park included a LHFA Wednesday in the Woods attended by 70 people, a Bodger Camp (reported by Friends as 'good fun') showing off traditional woodland crafts, and a Jubilee Event hosted by Leeds Play Network.
- Future events include a Bat Walk on the 19 September at 7.30pm and a seed gathering event for schools on the 9-10 November.

Parks for People Project Update

- The building work is due for completion on 19 October
- The landscape work has suffered a 15-22 day delay due to bad weather over the early summer and although P&C have assigned 8 additional staff to the project will only be completed in December.
- The building will officially be called the 'Middleton Park Visitor Centre'.
- LCC and FoMP were starting to look at the interpretation strategy and interpretation boards for the park
- Landscaping around the bandstand will be revised following comments from the Friends
- The viewing area at Middleton Broom will be re-located following a revised risk assessment to move it from an outlet from the methane pipeline field.

Other points of interest included that Basic Food Hygiene Training will be available for FoMP on 30 October (Nick and Frances agreed to go), the replacement for the rope climbing frame in the playground is still being considered, and any seats removed under the project will be reused elsewhere if they are of good enough condition.

Past Events

The Show – although this was discussed and analysed by the show group it was felt that a feedback session would be beneficial, and Alan suggested that comments should be around what went well / even better if... The following points were made by Friends:

The plant stall went well with lots of sales

The playground was full of children from start to finish with some children wearing tea cosy's for hats, and in fact we had more than 1000 (estimated) people attend overall.

Vehicle control, although efficient, could be improved

Dave Barrett (the bee keeper) reportedly said that it was the best run event he had ever been to

The stewards were fantastic

We managed to keep people on site for longer, although we had started serving teas from 10.30!

Cake sales went well with people buying to take the cakes home

The arrangements for power and water went well – thanks to LCC

The Marquee was set out beautifully and really ‘made’ the show

Richard and Frances reported that they had banked £1271

Birdwalking with Linda Jenkinson – Alan reported that this had been fun, although only a few people attended and Linda reported that she thought that the park had had a ‘birdectomy’ as we didn’t see or hear many birds.

Future Events

Rachel and Alan went through the volunteer rota for the remainder of the month asking for volunteers to come in and support the events that we have on – recorded separately. Alan then led a discussion of items to include on the Friend’s first ‘Winter Programme’ of events, suggesting that these could be more in the way of actions we do rather than being done for us. He mentioned an email with some interesting suggestions from Tree that he said he was going to discuss with her. The following suggestions came out of discussion:

- Santa’s Grotto and carol singing
- Refurbishment of the wooden chairs
- Repairs to the path around the northern edge of the golf course
- Winter walks
- Litter picks
- Bands (brass or otherwise) and recitals in the centre
- Graeme reported that there was a 10K run in the park on 2 December

HLF Project Update

Nick reported that Sean Fleischer insisted that the building be called the Middleton Park Visitor Centre. He said that the Board were happy to include the memorial to Peter Marshall in the centre and that the formal opening of the Centre would take place before Easter 2013. He also mentioned that of Parks and Countryside staff, only Graeme would be based from the Centre with the remaining estate staff remaining at the Golf Club.

Treasurers Report

Richard reported that we had a balance of £9500 in the account (with £5317 going out and £1900 coming in (since 20 August)). Frances mentioned there were outstanding funding applications for activities over the winter with HFA.

Membership update

Rachel reported that we have 72 members so far this year and that she was working with Jim and Steven to include an online membership form on the website.

AOB

Kim said that local schools would be doing some bulb planting soon on Middleton Park Road and Belle Isle Road.

Alan said that there were 135 Facebook friends following the site.