

Friends of Middleton Park Steering Group Meeting

18 December 2012

Apologies:

Carole, Shirley, Sherieda, Tree, Cllr Blake

Matters Arising

- Eileen raised issues around access to the park from Winrose Drive as discussed at the last meeting. During discussion it was confirmed that:
 - The entrances were nearly completed but that the paths were impassable for wheelchair users
 - LCC Highways had indicated that there were no plans to change the drop kerb at that site
 - John Preston of TCV had raised the possibility of developing a cycleway from Belle Isle that could use this route and would mean that there would be additional funding available to make a difference to the paths. Graeme said that the feedback the results of any discussions
- Golf Review – although not discussed previously Cllr Trusswell raised concerns over the golf review. He said that there was a meeting planned with Cllr Dobson the following evening at the Golf Club and suggested that the Friends' attended.

Leeds City Council Update

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

- Volunteer work included the Middleton Park Estate Volunteers who got involved with cutting back encroaching vegetation on the Clearings and step maintenance near the Tramway and the Middleton Grove Entrance
- Events in the park included the Leeds Schools Cross-Country Association with 250 competitors, the Leeds 10K Christmas run, a Christmas crafts workshop and the PECO Cross-Country Race.
- Things of note in the near future include the Boxing Day walk, a cross-country run organized by the police on 9 January, and the Parks and Countryside Forum being held at the Visitor Centre on 23 Jan.

Parks for People Project Update

- Although the building work was completed in October, the contractor continues to undertake snagging work
- Since 10 December Adult Social Care have been operating a café 5 days a week in the Visitor Centre
- Landscape works continue (there has been at least a 22 day delay), and include the main Town Street entrance, creating the Lodge footprint, work on the gravel maze in the Rose Garden, and installation of the representation of the horse gin
- Friends heard an update on the stained glass window memorial to Peter Marshall. It is in its final design stage. The Group discussed possible options for where it could be sited.
- Graeme also gave the Friends details of the proposal to close the Golf Course in the park and return the land to park land.

Past Events

Litter Pick (26 October) – this went well although Alan noted that the bags that had been left for use were double size!

Winter Walk (11 November) – this was disappointing with only three attending, although the weather was excellent

FOMP AGM (20 November) – Friends agreed that the presentation by Marianne Grainger on the school's history project had been excellent, and that there was the possibility of organising a young archaeologists club on the back of it.

Bird Walk (25 November) – Alan reported that there had been three people along on this walk, along with Linda, and that this time we had seen some birds

Fuddle (25 November) – Alan reported that this had been well attended with Friends taking the opportunity to come down and take a look around the new Visitor Centre

Christmas Crafts (9 December) – this had been led by Steve Joul but supported by the Friends. Nick said that the turnout of guests had been disappointing and that the charge for the event may have put people off, although Graeme said that in his experience charging led to increased attendance as people expect a quality event.

Winter Walk (16 December) – on this special walk led by Gayle there were 11 people and 3 dogs. The Trustees (those who went) said that they enjoyed it and people came for refreshments afterwards.

Future Events

13 January – Bird Walk with Linda Jenkinson led by Alan. It was agreed that these needed additional publicity, possibly at Morrison's and other supermarkets, or on school noticeboards

23 January – Parks and Countryside Forum – Alan mentioned that this was taking place in the park and included a walk put on by the Friends before the main event took place highlighting main points of interest around the park. It was agreed that this would be mentioned at the next meeting.

Ice House – it was agreed that as Carole was away this could be deferred to the next meeting.

Trustees Meeting

Nick and Alan gave the Friends some quick feedback on the last Trustees meeting, where the Trustees had discussed:

- the remaining winter programme and made some proposals for the summer programme 2013
- the interpretation boards
- and added to the proposed FOMP Risk Register
- the Food Hygiene and First Aid courses that were available and the possible use of a disclaimer

Treasurers Report

Richard reported that there was no change in the balance that FOMP had in the bank from the last meeting.

Membership

Rachel reported that we had 75 members and that the membership form was not included as an electronic form on the website.

Newsletter

Steven reported all submissions were now in but that he still needed to resolve the printing of it where some print is lost. It was agreed that it would be quarterly and that we could possibly get it printed at HFA. Graeme indicated that there was some funding in the HLF project for a Newsletter.