

## Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Members Present:

Paul R. Swift	Janet Grimley	Marian Staniforth	Linda Wood	Peter Wood
Ian Broomhill	Sandra Horner	Hilary Thumpston	Janet Barton	Helen Lee
Maria Narducci	Laura Archer	Matt Wilson	Gemma Howard	
Judith Swift				

**Apologies:** Mavis Broomhill Anne Spalton

**Welcome.** Paul Swift welcomed everyone in particular Hilary Thumpston, Jane Barton and Sandra Horner. Paul asked whether everyone was happy with the minutes of the last meeting which was held on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November last year (2021).

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.** Everyone agreed that they were happy with the minutes. Hilary Thumpston stated that she manages six wards, not parks. She manages 32 parks.

### Woodthorpe Grange Park updates: Three items

#### 1. Saturday Morning Gardening Sessions

- It was discussed at the last meeting, the plan for a memorial for our late chairman Alex Staniforth.
- The Sunken Garden was to be originally used for this purpose and the design was to be put out to tender so that school children can submit their designs for the centenary in June.
- The idea is for the sunken garden to be restored in some form, though not as a rose garden as it was before as the upkeep is enormous.
- The grass will be kept around the edges and the beds will be dug over and planted according to the chosen design.
- General discussion around this topic ensued.
- The Saturday gardeners will not be cleaning up any of the sunken garden beds at this stage but later when the design is in place it will be known as the memorial garden. Up to now the Saturday gardeners have been working on two beds in the sunken garden but will now discontinue that as it will interfere with the chosen design.
- There was a general discussion about what has been achieved by the Saturday gardeners. Paul stated that there is a tree that is covered in ivy and is next to the walled garden and could be a danger to the public as the tree is rotten. They felt that it would be best to cut it down.
- It was stated that there had been some miscommunication about what needed to be done by the Saturday gardeners.

#### 2. Woodthorpe Park Story Sheets

- Paul came up with an idea that we can use now and also for the centenary, which he came across at Highfields Park at the University. He cannibalised their version of the questionnaire to suit Woodthorpe Park. The sheet was passed around for everyone to see it.
- The idea is to gauge the public view of the park that would be available in the plant shop and also the café. Matt suggested that Paul should put the story sheet on the website. Paul will have to work out how it would be possible.
- Paul asked at this time if the Friends could have posters with the Nottingham City logo on them, telling people about Woodthorpe Park and the contact details for the website etc. Hillary agreed that that would be possible. She asked Paul to do a template and to email it to her.

### 3. Contact made with Boots, Nottingham Civic Society, Sherwood Art Week.

- Paul stated that he had approached Boots about sponsoring a Blue Plaque for the park but he has not had any response from them. The plaque would commemorate Jesse Boot because he donated £10,000 towards the purchase of the park in 1921.
- Paul also contacted the Civic Society with regards to the plaque but again no response from them. The same can be said for Sherwood Art Week. Hillary suggested that it would be a good idea to email boots again as sometimes unintentionally it could have been missed.
- Paul suggested that during Sherwood Art Week we could have an Art in the Park where local artists could display and sell their art during the Centenary/Jubilee celebrations week. Paul has stated that he will attempt to contact them all again.

A student journalist has been looking for good things to write about Sherwood and made contact via our Facebook page but nothing came of it.

Sandra asked Paul if he could email her what he had written to promote the park and centenary on the website and that she would make sure that it was put on the Parks and Open Spaces Website and other appropriate pages.

### Special items

- It was suggested that past employees of the park tell their stories and get in contact.
- Paul suggested that he would like to hear from people who remembered the room where we are meeting when it was a café. For people to share their memories of this time.
- Paul reminded everyone that there is a space on the website called poets corner where people can submit poetry that they have written about the park. Some poetry has been submitted. However, Paul stated that he would like to get it published. Matt suggested that the children could also be involved in this.
- Matt asked if the grass would be cut and ready for the Celebrations for the Centenary week and was assured that everything would be pristine for that time.
- Fly-tipping in the park is a different matter and cannot always be cleaned up straight away as it is a police matter and they have to follow up on it first.
- It was suggested that a week before the celebrations Clean Champions, members of the public and also perhaps the gardening group form a mass litter pick.
  
- Jane stated that the idea for the Centenary was that the beds would be overflowing with plants of red, white and blue. She stated that she would speak to the nursery about hanging baskets and other planters around the park. She also stated that for that week they would be reinstating the story park with the help of Hollies Day nursery. There will also be additional activities put on, yoga will be put on twice a day from Monday to Friday, children will be able to do nature hunts, books will be put out for them to read and also orienteering. This will all be done in the stage area of the park and will also be decorated.
  
- All the activities will take place from Monday until Sunday for that week. For some of the week, they are looking at bringing in a heritage fair.
- They are looking at the possibility of having a street party set up in the park though this is not certain at the moment. Paul giving a history walk has also been suggested.
- Two ladies from the Coop Charity who are called Member Pioneers and are from the Mapperley and Sherwood areas each area could apply for £150 to go to a cause or charity.
- The ladies felt that they possibly could donate a bench from the Coop for the park Centenary.
- It was suggested that a traditional Fete could be held, sort of a Village Fete.
- Peter Wood stated that he would do a tree walk but would need an up to date treemap.

- The possibility of having another mosaic was brought up to which Paul stated that he would contact Anna Dixon who created the other mosaics in the park. Hillary stated that they would put together some ideas for the mosaics and then Paul could approach Anna with what has been decided on.
- It was suggested that some saplings could be planted for the centenary celebrations but Sandra stated that it was the wrong time of the year to plant saplings but it could still be tied in later in the year.
- Gemma Howard, who works for Experian, suggested that because of where she works, she could find out whether Experian would sponsor a plaque if there is no contact with Boots or the Nottingham Civic Society. She also stated that she and her team would like to be involved in volunteering in the park on a regular basis. She was advised to talk to Sandra as she is the volunteer coordinator.
- It was requested that for the centenary celebrations that we could have portaloos brought in as the café toilets would not be adequate for the number of people expected.
- Jane will be discussing the cleanliness of the coffee shop and requesting that they have a clean up as there have been negative comments about the standards.
- The subject of providing more bins was mentioned but Paul rather than having the park full of wheelie bins it would be better if we could have volunteers checking and emptying bins that are already there.
- The beacon on the park will also be lit for the Jubilee celebrations. This was previously installed and lit for the Golden Jubilee countrywide celebrations. This will be an evening event.
- It was also discussed that there had been the removal of mature and uncommon plants and trees by the gardeners. Some people had expressed their concern about the situation. Sandra stated that she would speak to the gardeners. She stated that it was a mixture of safety and also the fact that the cutting back of these had not been done as much in the last few years.
- The state of the pitch and put greens was discussed but with the lack of funding at the moment nothing has been decided except to just keep it going.
- Paul encouraged everyone to get involved in the Parks and open spaces group as it covers all parks and open spaces together. The contact details are all on our website.

The date of the next meeting will be on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2022 beginning at the usual time of 6.30pm and will be held at Winwood Court adjacent to Winchester and Woodthorpe Court flats.