

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Notes of Meeting held on 25 July 2025

Attendees

FoWGP

Paul Swift (Chair)
Peter Wood
Linda Wood
Helena Shipston
Janet Grimley
Matt Wilson
Derek Stafford
Dharmatane Grundy

NCC

Hilary Thumpston

Apologies

Marian Staniforth

Agenda

Item 1 – Matters arising from meeting held on 2 May 2025

No matters arising outside the items on the agenda for 25 July 2025.

Item 2 – Progress Report by Chair

FOWGP now has 26 members.

The Community Police Officer (PC Martin Barker) and his PCSO have been invited to attend meetings of the group to provide advice and answer any questions but have not yet been able to attend.

A letter of thanks has been received regarding the tree walk around the park led by Peter during Sherwood Art Week.

Paul has received good feedback from those ex-NCC employees who attended the heritage walk he recently led around the park. He also noted the recognition that parks and open spaces are now increasingly reliant on the support of volunteers to provide on-going maintenance.

Paul also received good feedback from the Sherwood parish walk he led and hopes to be able to do it again in the future. FOWGP needs to appoint a membership secretary as soon as possible, as Paul will be unable to continue that role given his other commitments. He would like to discuss this further and hopefully make an appointment at the next meeting.

Item 3 – Train Sculpture

The buffer is still awaited.

Hilary advised that the person who will carry out the painting of the sculpture is due to finish his current job shortly and will then move on to this task.

Paul was concerned that the undergrowth around the sculpture should be cleared before the painter starts work, but Hilary advised that this will not be necessary in advance of the painting.

Matt noted that the FOWGP's contribution of £1,137 towards this work had already been paid and that the current account balance is now £1,555.66.

Item 4 – Gravestone

Peter advised that the specialist who offered to carry out the restoration at no cost is still committed and will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Item 5 – FOWGP Integration With Nottingham Green Guardians

Hilary advised that NGG meet at the park on the first Tuesday of each month and that FOWGP would be welcome to attend as volunteers.

Peter advised that the FOWGP volunteers were now meeting on Sunday mornings.

Other Matters

Hilary provided the following updates on behalf of NCC:-

All the applications for Green Flag status for parks in the city have been successful and there is now some further revenue to apply for awards for more parks next year, which will include Woodthorpe Grange. An application will also be submitted for heritage Green Flag status for the park at the same time.

A new barrier for the car park will be provided next year.

Funding has been secured from the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, which will be used to re-surface the footpath leading from the café to the flats.

Peter noted the recent Open Spaces Forum meeting he attended and the useful exchange of experiences and ideas in relation to parks management.

Peter referred to the Scarlet Oak tree that had recently been stolen and it was confirmed by Hilary that this will be replaced. Peter also noted the deteriorating condition of the large Cherry tree near to the house and asked whether this will be replaced before it has to be removed. Hilary advised that NCC was looking at providing legacy planting through the park in recognition of the limited life span of a number of mature trees.

Paul asked whether Community Payback were still involved in the park and Hillary confirmed that they were.

Dharamtane, as a new group member, asked about the purpose of the group and Matt gave a brief overview of recent, current and potential future activities.

Matt suggested that the group could look to re-engage with local residents living in the sheltered housing complex adjoining the park. Paul proposed to invite the warden to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

Friday 24 October 2025 2.00 pm (Annual General Meeting).