



Minutes of the meeting of the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds 02/04/2014

PRESENT.

Members: David Simkins (Chairman).
Clare Birch (secretary), David Bigby (treasurer), A. Ingram, P. Robinson
and E. Robinson and C.Smith.

APOLOGIES.

None

MINUTES.

1. Adoption of the Constitution

Agreed that the constitution was to be adopted – no issues raised.

Main aims of The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds are;

- Supports enhancement of the bath grounds for the benefit of public enjoyment and sporting use
- Supports community ownership of the bath grounds
- Support use of the bath grounds by community sports organisations provided that this does not unduly interfere with the enjoyment of other members of the public
- Opposes the use of any part of the bath grounds to build houses and any other non-recreational or non-sporting use

2. Interim Officers Reports

a. Acting Chair

Thanked everyone for coming and briefly outlined the aims the Friends of the Ashby Bath Grounds and an overview of the group's vision.

b. Acting secretary

Recent events that the Friend of Ashby Bath Grounds had been involved with were described;

- Village Green application (September 2013)
- Human chain on Bath Grounds (December 2013)
- Fundraising Quiz (February 2014)
- Demo Bath Grounds and high street (March 2014)
- Ashby 20 (March 2014)
- Saturday mornings petitioning and objection letters
- Delivery of 1000 flyers door to door/ putting up of information posters
- Lobbying T. Councillors/ discussions with T. Councillors
- Town Council Meeting on 24 March – voted against both applications
- Delivery of petition and standard objection letters to the district council on 01 April , 2014

Totals of Petitions and objection letters were reported;

- Total 3089 petition signature (includes 1102 e-petitions)
- Total of 648 objection letters against houses
- Total of 551 objection letters against pavilion and kiosk.

Plus all personnel objection letters and Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds objection letters

An overview of next steps were briefly covered which included the;

- Lobbying of district councillor ready for District Planning meeting, end of May
- Keeping up profile of Friends of Ashby Bath grounds;
- Fundraising
- Vision for the Bath Grounds – working with the Town Council

c. Acting Treasurer

There was an update by the Treasurer - Total monies in £310, amount remaining in funds is £112.50. A discussion followed regarding the financial year accounts and it was agreed that this would be from April – March.

3. Election of Officers

Dave Simkins was nominated for Chair which was seconded and accepted
Clare Birch was nominated for secretary which was seconded and accepted
Dave Bigby was nominated for treasurer which was seconded and accepted.

4. Election of committee members

The following people volunteered and were accepted as committee members as follows;

Annie Ingram

Elaine Robinson

Phil Robinson

Chris Smith

David McAAvoy

Yvonne Smith

5. Eureka Park Restoration Project

A Presentation was given by Bethan Scragg the Community Engagement Officer for the Eureka park restoration project, which received over £500,000 Heritage Lottery funding to restore the Eureka park at Swadlicote.

In addition to this money another £200,000 has been secured to improve the park area as a result of match funding by the co-ordination of a community engagement programme, where

money is saved by using groups of community volunteers – which adds additional value to the project.

Bethan talked about long lost features, such as the floral clock, paddling pool, rose arch walk and water cascades which are to be restored or interpreted. Footpath improvements are to be made, planting of trees and herbaceous borders and improvements to recreational facilities. All of which has now started at Eureka park with a lot of the work to be completed this year.

There is also a 5 year initiative called the Invisible Heritage project which will explore, restore and celebrate the lost heritage of the park. This was something that Bethan thought would also be of great importance for the Bath Grounds due to its significant Heritage.

Other areas Bethan described for the Eureka park project included;

The involvement of schools, community groups and district work projects, guides and air cadets in the project.

How the project has included education activities, design competitions, conservation days, wildlife activities, events – using the local park for all kinds of educational activities on an on-going basis – raising the profile of the park and its importance to the community

Vision for the Bath Grounds

Bethan discussed;

The historical features of the Bath grounds and how over time these had suffered such that the Bath Grounds were lacking in any infrastructure.

She talked about the importance of the following;

- Stakeholders
- Getting the public involved
- Involvement of Local schools
- Town council and District Council buy in
- Getting User groups involved – Bowls, Cricket and Rotary support
- Using agency Groups such as Sure-start, Home-start,

She also discussed what things to cover during the ‘consultation’ process to get lottery funding i.e , what the community needs are;

- Heritage research and memories, heritage walks to find out what people remember
- Photos and historical timeline
- Generate people interest – target everyone
- Inspiration parks that can help with ideas
- Why people use space – need to speak with lots of people and groups to get funding

- SWOT analysis of the bath grounds (strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities, threats) – need to get info from children, groups, general public, schools, council etc.
- Need to have a lot of detail about what people want and why.
- Day in the life of the park to gain a better understanding

Bethan described activities that had been carried out to prove that it could be done as part of the eureka park 'consultation';

- School children using the park to do activities rather than the school hiring a bus to go miles away – i.e bird box project/ wildlife project activities
- A music event was held on the park to prove it could be done
- Local primary school was encouraged to do play rehearsals on the park

The main steps to acquiring lottery funding were described;

1. Project enquiry form – 1000 words maximum
2. Expression of Interest
3. Consultation - stage 1 and Stage 2

N.B Bath Grounds would need to have the lease in place for heritage lottery funding

Finally Bethan also detailed the following ideas ;

- Masterplan from Ashmead Price – already plan drawn up for Bath Grounds that we could utilise as an initial body of work so we would not be working from scratch so it would not take us too long to come up with some form of masterplan – we could then cost it up as a rough guide
- Can approach district council as they have a lot of resources – park department?
- Can decide if we want to do everything in one go – or do little chunks?
- Can use body called groundwork Leicestershire – environmental charity
- Can use Landfill tax monies to see if we could get funding
- Look into Town Council Funds
- Look into Lottery £10,000 application – do small chunks of work?
- Speak to District council / town council – community development workers? – if no help then go to County Council
- Sign up to funding via websites
- Enlist School leavers - low level training/ work along park staff
- Look into Community payback organisations
- Work with local estate agents to show property can go up when green spaces are improved!

6. Vision for the Bath Grounds

Following on from Bethan's presentation the Chair expressed that the long-term vision for the Bath grounds was similar to the Eureka park Project and that the Friends of the Ashby bath Grounds would like to restore the grounds to their former glory to be an asset to both the Town and the .

In conclusion there was a lot we could learn from the Eureka project

The short and long term visions were briefly mentioned but it was agreed that due to time constraints this area would be pursued at the next committee meeting.

AOB

None