

# **Minutes of Meanwood Valley Partnership Open Meeting Wednesday 10th May 2017, Holy Trinity Lower Community Hall**

**Present :** Gordon Charlesworth (GC - Chair), Chris Swales (CSw), Norman Ramsden (NR), Annie Skelton, Eileen Hart, Rachel Fletcher (RF) and 17 local residents.

**1 Apologies :** Chris Sheard (CS), Sue Sheard (SS), Janet Matthews (JM), Rachel Ramsden, Carolyn Hull, Vicky Coleman, Karen Waddington, Kingsley Dowling, Jackie Byrne, Ann Burgess, Barbara Blakeney, Chris Needham

**2 Minutes of previous meeting** - agreed

**3 Treasurers bi-monthly Report** (GC)

Bank balance around £7,500. Festival sponsorship £1,650 and Funday expecting £2,000 from LCC Wellbeing Fund. A donation has been given to Meanwood cricket club as a thank you for use of the pitch for funday and for a MVP advert at the club.

Chris Sheard managed to secure a Waitrose green coin collection during April for our continuing schools Christmas light competition.

**4 Festival** (CSw)

C Sw gave an update on a bigger festival with more events and the festival is being advertised more widely as well.

**5 Funday** (GC) - GC gave an update and asked for more volunteers to help on the day.

**6 Meanwood Valley Heritage Lottery Project** (An update from JM was read out.)

As you may remember, following our unsuccessful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund last year, we were advised to reconfigure the project and re-submit. The main points were that we should reduce the amount that we were asking for and to only concentrate on one aspect of the heritage (i.e. the natural or cultural heritage). We decided to concentrate on the natural heritage, as it is the Rangers specialism really and to many the most defining feature of the Valley.

Another major change is that, with the reduction in amount of funding requested to less than £70,0000, we will only be looking at recruiting a ranger for 3 days per week. This project is seen as a spring board to other works including cultural heritage in the valley, and this is one of the main reasons to include the management plan in this bid.

Following several discussions with Dan (the Senior Ranger) he has now sent out the revised project plan, and the main sections form of the application form to all interested parties. He has asked people to let him know their thoughts before the end of May.

We would like to submit an Expression of Interest Form (the first part of the application process) as soon as possible.

**7 Enchanted Forest Project** (SS & CSw)

C Sw gave a brief outline of a proposal Sue Sheard and himself are working on with Douglas Louis (LCC Country Parks Officer) for a series of wooden tablet sculptures of animals in Meanwood Woods (initially probably near the fairy doors).

**8 Friends of Meanwood Park Group** (update from Carolyn Hull (CH) read out)

CH met with Ranger Steve Joul at end of April and has requested dates for a working group.

**9 Good Governance and possible constitutional changes** (update from CS read out)

The last five years have seen a substantial increase in volunteer involvement of the MVP and the continued growth and influence of the organisation. In accordance with any healthy group, we are reviewing governance in line with appropriate codes for the voluntary and community sector - small organisations. If appropriate, amendments will be put forward to the constitution to bring us in line with the message and intent of that code.

**10 Christmas Lights** (update from CS read out)

Following on from Item 4 above, money from last years Waitrose green coin collection assisted with the purchase of a new Christmas light to the design of pupil, Imogen Moore at Green Road Primary School. This will be in place in November this year. As we approach the end of the year, we are looking to continue this competition for a new light in 2018 and we are having discussions with other local primary schools.

As the chairman advised in previous meetings, with an interest in updating the Christmas light offerings we were looking at obtaining involvement of local businesses in them sponsoring or at a greater cost commissioning their own Christmas light. To date we have had interest from one local business and we remain open to suggestions/offers from others.

This years Christmas light switch on is confirmed for November 13th, 2017 at the usual time of 6.00 for 6.30pm.

### **11 Meanwood Stones** (update from CS read out)

You will all by now be aware that the Meanwood Village Stone has been installed in front of the green space outside Ladbrokes and the area tidied up. The stone was inaugurated in position on the 27 April and was dedicated to Meanwood by Fabian Hamilton MP who continues to be a good supporter of the MVP and its aims. Also in attendance were Councillors Sharon Hamilton and Alex Sobel. Chris takes this opportunity to thank them for their continued support.

Chris asks members to note that the two Community Committee sponsored boundary stones that have been commissioned by our local councillor group are likely to be installed in the near future. The nature and type of inauguration for these two stones has not yet been determined, but advice will be given to all via our email and website.

Chris Swales also tabled a vote of thanks to Nigel Lees for his work clearing and planting the site for the village stone.

### **12 Lighting in the Centre of Meanwood** (update from CS read out)

Chris is meeting Leeds Lighting on Wednesday 17 May to look at other alternatives for lighting in the centre of Meanwood. He looks forward to updating you further in the near future.

### **13 Leeds Parks and Green Space Forum** (update from CS read out)

On Thursday 20 April, Chris attended a meeting of the Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Forum. They discussed issues relevant to the continued amenity provision of parks in the Leeds area and to the influence of friends groups. In particular, they were shown examples where friends of Roundhay Park concluded work which also included the recent installation of a playground for grown ups (outdoor gym) as well as children.

### **14 2017 Apple Harvest and Processing** (update from CS read out)

We are looking for volunteers to help with harvest of apples from trees in the Meanwood area following on from the initiative of Transition Meanwood. This by using apples that would be wasted and probably left to rot in gardens. Help will be required to pick apples, help sterilise bottles, get involved in the crushing process and attend various functions to provide this apple juice for the benefit of residents/attendees.

### **15 Other Ideas**

Although our funds are limited, we are looking for other viable and appropriate ideas which we can support and which fall within the aims of the MVP to preserve, protect and enhance the Meanwood Valley.

### **16 13-17 Parkside Rd**

RF said the planning application for Part demolition of existing buildings and erection of three terraced houses with parking has now been approved, thus hopefully the site appearance will improve soon.

### **17 Litter bins in the centre of Meanwood**

GR said that 4 litter bins in the centre of Meanwood had been removed about 5 weeks ago and asked if they were going to be replaced and when. RF agreed to look into this.

### **18 20mph Road Markings**

NR had requested 20mph road markings at the start of the 20mph zone on Green Road and Tongue Lane, but they had not appeared yet. RF agreed to look into this.

### **19 Former Highbury Cricket Pitch site**

Questions were asked about when there will be an update on this. It was agreed to let members know when we know.

### **20 Meanwood Mansion**

Questions about what happening if anything. I was agreed to let members know if we find anything out.

**Date of next open meeting** – Wednesday 12th July 2017 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church, Lower Community Hall, Memorial Drive, LS6 4LF