

Summary

1: **Council** : Matters concerning FOHP and the Council are to be directed via our Council Liaison, Mayveen Blackwell

2: **Litter Picking**: Inaugurated, Ian Critchley leading and first pick completed with 10 people attending. Further picks on the first Sunday of each month at 10.30, specific problems to be dealt with ad hoc via Ian Critchley.

3: **Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven)** stump will have to be taken down by the council, and the Indian Bean and Birch will have the protectors removed by the council.

4: **Sensory Garden** - the council have promised more timely attention and a replanting with scented plants next year.

5: **Park Status**- Listed status and Green Flag may be difficult but will be pursued.

6: **Wildlife**: Events next year will be planned in conjunction with the Council and Avon Wildlife trust - community/family event for birds, bats and insects etc.

7: **Social Media**: A facebook page will be instigated where all the latest news and developments will be put. The Website will in time be redeveloped and will hold the agreed proposals and actions and discovered facts.

8: **Council work**: Generally on Mondays and Fridays, Colin and Justin etc...

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF HENRIETTA GARDENS
HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 pm**

Present: Henry Ford (Chair) HF, Ian Critchley (IC), David Carr (DC), David Robinson (DR), Erica Timothy (ET), Erica Jones (EJ), Maveen Blackwell (MB) Julia Virley (JV)

Apologies: Susan McCarraher

Minutes of the last meeting were approved

Report from the membership secretary and Treasurer (IC) There are 2 bills to sign. We started with £375 and now have a balance of £1118.23 due to many generous donations including £150 from the Villa Magdela. There are currently 45 members. HF suggested emailing people who were on the original list reporting on what the committee had achieved so far. MB suggested that we put leaflets through doors including St Johns Road. It was suggested that a A5 leaflet would suffice and ideas were requested as to the content. ET suggested putting a notice on the stump in the park.

Council Liaison Report from MB Firstly it was stressed that any approach to the Council must go via MB or Jeremy Diamond. **Litter:** MB reported that they had had a good meeting . IC reported that Jeremy Diamond had been very helpful. 12 people had turned up to litter pick on Sunday. There was a good induction course provided by Jeremy Diamond. 6/7 bags of rubbish were collected. The Sensory Garden was particularly bad. Two syringes were found but the Council does not hand out Sharps Boxes but HF does have one It took 12 people about 1 hour to pick up 6/7 bags. It was suggested that we litter pick on the first Sunday of each month. Litter is not collected by the Council at the weekend. The litter picking kit is in HF/IC's garage and 3 keys are available. ET thought that the litter problem would be lessened during the winter. MB said that the badgers can get food out of the bins and MB will go back to the Council with this problem. There must be badger proof bins around. It had already been decided by the Council that Solar BigBelly Bins were not suitable. IC said the summer was difficult as the bins provided are full to overflowing. The bags that are collected with rubbish are normally placed against the wall but this is no good. We need a large Eurobin said ET and it should

be in the compost area. ET said that the contents of the rubbish bins should be recycled too and so to ask the Council for recycling bins.

Action: IC and MB to meet Jeremy Diamond on site.

Trees: The Ailanthus has to come down and the Cypress Tree with the broken branch has been cut down and removed. The Council have agreed to plant a replacement. The Yellow Bean tree will have its support removed as it is chaffing the tree. The Plane Tree is OK although HF thinks it is diseased and the leaves are damaged. The tree stump will be ground out by the Council sometime. The Ginko tree is suckering up but ET says to leave it alone. MB reported that plants were on order for next years planting and MB was due to meet Mark on Wednesday 5.10. EJ reported that the gates to the Sensory Gardens were bent and to get an order in to repair it and paint it. A picture of the railings would be sent to the Property Department. The Committee thought that a robust notice should be on the gates to the Sensory Gardens **Action:** MB to discuss this with Jeremy and Mark. ET also reported that the Hawthorn tree was old and dying.

Sensory Garden: MB reported that there has been some catching up on pruning and weeding. Last years neglect will not happen again. Winter work will include clearing the pathways between the bushes and getting rid of overgrown and unwanted shrubs. MB reported that the Council believes the park is worthy of Green Flag status. MB to discuss this with Mark on Wednesday. The Council has no bird or bat boxes. HF reported that he had been in touch with the Avon Wildlife Trust who were very helpful but we must get in touch with the Council first before attaching anything on the trees.

Events in the Park: Mark and Jeremy will inform us when applications are made. Jeremy had heard of a food type market in the park but had no more details at the time of our meeting. The Committee had no problem with events taking place in the park esp. family parties, weddings etc. as long as they did not abuse the park and were orderly and did not upset the locals. Perhaps if we do get Green Flag status we should celebrate with a small party?

MB and Mark Cassidy to meet. He is bringing a map of the planting in the Sensory Garden. ET would like a copy. EJ wanted to make it a **sensory garden** again.

HF thanked MB for all her hard work.

Report on the Parks Status by DC Reported that it is difficult to get Listed status from Historic England. Everyone wants to be listed these days to protect their parks. Applicants now have to meet a selection of criteria and he suggested that we don't. DC has sent the paperwork to Councillor Peter Turner but DC is not confident. EJ said it must stand for something that we are in a World Heritage Site with Georgian Buildings around and the connections with the Holburne Museum. It was decided that DC would send in the application and see what happens. The proposed development of housing in the park which had been rumoured is a non starter. DC to get more information from Nigel Websper, Chair of PERA. HF said that he had been in touch with a local historian who had all the details of the park from its inception.

Social Media DR DR and HF had met to discuss the updating of the website. They are making a test website for the committee to look at. MBs report to go onto the website.

Mapping Project ET reported that she has a digital Ordnance Survey Council map and it is wrong! She is busy measuring the trees etc. and will then have a live map. HF reported that a friend of his had a drone and was very keen to film the park for us.

Rough Sleeping If anyone is found sleeping in the park the matter should be reported to Council Connect. People have been sleeping in the Henrietta Mews entrance. 5 men were around with a trolley drinking and a couple of them had aggressive dogs. **Action:** MB to find out if there is a reporting procedure.

Any Other Business ET wondered if we could lobby for the toilets not to be locked at night. It was pointed out that the toilets generally had been subcontracted out so not a Council problem. MB thought that the Sensory Garden may be a drop zone for drugs. Committee to keep a watchful eyes.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6 December at 7.30 at MB's home.
(Please note that Julia will be away at this time).

Council Liaison Summary

1. All communications between FoHP and B&NES Council go through Mayveen Blackwell to Jeremy Dymond, Play and Community Development Officer.
2. Ian Critchley is leading our new Litter Picking team of volunteers. Jeremy has provided training and equipment; already one sweep of the park has been completed. Everyone is encouraged to pick up twigs and sticks. Ian will arrange a collection site.
3. The decaying Ailanthus was felled and the stump, previously filled with concrete, will be demolished as there is too much rot for it to be saved.
4. The officer in charge of trees has responded to concerns about some other trees.
5. The team of gardeners led by Colin is regularly in the park on Mondays and Fridays. Soon they will be engaged in winter work which involves leaf clearance, followed by Autumn and early Spring pruning and planting.
6. The Memorial Garden has been somewhat neglected and the aim is to restore it to a true "sensory" garden with aromatic plants. There will be less wasted space after pruning and clearance of overgrown shrubs.
7. The committee is keen to provide bird, and possibly bat, nesting boxes and the Council is willing to co-operate.
8. B&NES Events Manager will inform us of requests for events in the park.
9. Henrietta Park complies with almost all of the criteria for Green Flag status so the Council is supporting us in an application.

10. Mayveen has met with Mark Cassidy, Team Leader of Parks and Trees, also Events Manager, to discuss future plans.