



Friends of Murray Park

Notes of Meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7pm at Murrayside Community Centre

Present:

Officers: Tracy Rowe (Chair)
Lesley Fayers (Treasurer)

Members: Dennis Carpenter, Paul Gilbert, Joanne Mansie
Malcolm and Jenny Ebbs, Jill Richardson

Also Present: SCC Cllr Bill Quinton, IBC Cll Roxanne Downes,
Lisa Stannard Head of Parks and Cemeteries at IBC

Apologies: Sue Bird (Secretary), Nick Wilcox (IBC)

1 Excluded Persons

Action

There were no excluded persons.

2 Welcome

The Chair welcomed new member Jill Richardson, and additional attendee Lisa Stannard Head of Parks and Cemeteries at IBC.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

- a) No cycling signs have been installed at each entrance
- b) Both gates to the wildflower meadow are being custom remade. Gate on the orchard will be repaired at the same time.
- c) Table tennis non slip mats have been installed, alongside the new signage that was previously vandalised. The new signs have been glued to each side of the table to hopefully deter future vandalism.

- d) The proposed dog enclosure to the side of the wildflower meadow is pending further agreement.
- e) Park Patrol phone number is now prominent within the park notice boards.
- f) The trees have now all been installed including a replacement tree for Cllr Sarah Barber. New fruit trees have been added to the orchard.
- g) In the North East quadrant wildlife area the team have laid a biodegradable weed suppressing membrane and screened topsoil on top, which will be seeded with Wildflowers over the next few weeks. This was purchased for another project that didn't happen, and should hopefully ensure the wildflowers are not out competed by the existing perennial and broad leafed vegetation.

As part of the improvements the Wildlife Team have installed a Stag Beetle pyramid in one corner using the log that had laid in the area for the last few years.

- h) The Wildlife Team have also installed 5 Bird Nesting (Tit Boxes) at the Northern end (South quadrant), so please keep a look out and let us know if you see any activity!
- i) The Muga ball stop net will be installed in the near future, but no date yet.
- j) Our website has now been updated.

5 Refurbishment of Children's Play Area 2024/25

LS encouraged people to look at other IBC parks that had already been refurbished to get a feel for what we would like for Murray Road Park as we have plenty of time to gather ideas. There was a useful discussion on what could work well and what may not.

All

LS advised us of a collaborative software tool called Padlet which once installed allowed users to input ideas on play equipment.

It was suggested that a time limit notice may be useful at busy times for the ball court, a bit like the one on the tennis court.

6 Trees

The new trees have been well received and no further vandalism has been reported. **GR** reported that there seemed to be quite a bit of dog waste around the base of the trees.

LS said that funding has been secured for an extra post for a tree watering person. This will ensure that they get the best start over the summer dry period.

LF asked why the cherry tree avenue on the north end stopped short. This is because of underground services prevents planting any further along.

ME reported that some wires on the tree cages are sticking out and could catch people walking past.

7 Vandalism

No new vandalism has been reported although it has been noted that on occasions several youths have congregated in the toilets. It was also requested that the gap between the two toilets could be fenced off.

8 Dog Training area

See item d) under matters arising.

9 Finance

No change from last meeting.

10 Any Other Business

ME raised the matter of no grass and standing water on the East side of the park. He said that in past years aerating the ground had been done regularly. With more dog walkers on the park the ground is getting quite compacted. It is expected that the grass will come back once the growing season gets under way.

LF/TR asked if it might be possible for a running track to be installed along one side of the park or at the north end by the adult gym equipment. **LS** said she would raise it with her Health and Wellbeing group that she is a part of.

TR asked for funding ideas to increase the amount of keep fit equipment / and to set a date for a litter pick & to try out the new Gazebo/equipment.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th May 2023 at MCD.