

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm on 23rd January 2023 on Zoom

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Sue Whitmarsh, Simon Stafford, Helen Murie, Marian Evans, Annette Lawson.

1. **Apologies:** Bob , Anne Marrie

2. **Previous minutes:** Accepted

3. **Matters arising:**

Litter bins - ordered but no communication re where it is.

Tree planting - Nation Trust are doing some press articles with pictures of our trees. The ONE SHow wants to do a feature. Too short notice to have anyone involved.

4. **Corisande Road entrance project:**

The Fence has been done, but could have been tidied up better. Worried about garage door not being able to open. Sue to have a look to check if happy. Money not received yet as some outstanding information is needed. Gaps between concrete panels and fencing could allow ivy etc to grow through. We could plant something to fill the gaps such as tumbling plants eg vincas. Bricks left in border need digging out. An electric scooter was abandoned in the alley on the bed. Dog poo not being picked up. Otherwise all looking good. Snowdrops and daff are showing through. More planting to be done eg ornamental grass on north side. £60 donated by one of the houses on Corisande Road. Need more planting on south side but difficult due to lack of sun. Helen to suggest shade lovers.

5. **Bournbrook Recreation Ground Aldi Section 106 and Selly Oak CDT Biodiversity gain**

Plan to rescue the library and build some affordable houses. Aldi want to expand and use some of the site. Skate park also an issue but neither Aldi nor Selly Oak Development Group want to use the skate park area. The agreement needs to include the replacement of the multi use games area (park). This could go in several places. Selly Oak proposal includes removing sometimes so would need to put more biodiversity somewhere else eg in Selly Oak park to compensate. Some suggestions include scarifying the meadow , extending the small millennium wood and planting some undergrowth, planting some mature hedge. Planting native species scores higher in calculation of biodiversity. £100,000 fine if biodiversity not achieved.

6. **Gardening Group:**

Daffs coming up. Jan Tomlinson asked if we wanted some tulips, maybe for circular bed.

7. **Conservation Group:**

Meet every Thursday afternoon about 2.00pm depending on weather. Current volunteers are Bob, Ted, Adrian, Jan and Paul. Willow cutting scheduled for 28th Jan and 5th Feb at 10.00. Posting on Open Spaces forum to invite people to help themselves to the cuttings.

7. **Litter Picking Group:**

Litter picking continues to occur every 2nd saturday in the month at 10am. Will be setting up a WhatsApp group as so much easier to communicate last minute changes.

Annette having no luck getting rid of the trollies. Most come from Sainsburys but not all. Scrap companies won't take them if identifiable without permission. No one responding to requests for permission. Could just dump them in the car park, but some difficult to wheel and could probably only take one at a time in a car. Could contact councillor.

Council only taking rubbish bags but leave other rubbish such as ties, chairs, cones etc. Better not to take

them to impound but leave in park and report as fly tipped.

A lot of litter is coming from Macdonalds and other fast food outlets. Suggestion to name and shame on face book with photos. City wide issue.

8. Any other business:

Some Lombardi poplar trees need to come down near Gibbins Road. They look healthy but large branches fall of in the wind causing a hazard. Rather than take them out completely and leaving gaps, agreed to cut them down to just above head height to maintain the barrier. Would be useful to get sight of the full park report on trees. There is no replacement program for removed trees.

Water storage - Jan has sent some suggestions that would cost about £300. Where would we locate it?

Composting - need to re-look at this

Lapal Canal Trust talk was well attended. Suggestion that some clearance would take place ahead of digging out the route, but we would prefer the lake and wild life habitats should be left alone until ready to build the canal.

Open Spaces Forum - more walking groups. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a walk leader theres is a funding bid for training re risk assessment, planning, promotion, etc. What else do park users want to take part in the park? Eg Tai Chi, art classes in scout hut, etc etc?

9) Dates of Future Meetings and Events:

Committee meetings: 6.00pm on zoom

Monday 27th March 2023

Monday 24th April 2023

Monday 22nd May 2023

Festival

Monday Pre-Meet 12 June 2023

Saturday Festival 17th June 2023

