

## Friends of Pittville Subcommittee Meeting with Cheltenham Borough Council

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Present:	Mr John Crowther	Mr Desmond Fitzgerald
	Mr Peter Simmons	Mr Ron Pattinson
	Mr Richard Courts	Mr Terry Wilce

Mr Terry Wilce from the Pump Room attended this meeting and requested notification of all future dates.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr David Prince and Cllr Mrs Diane Hibbert
<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006</b>
2.1	(2.2) Alan Beck, Senior Engineer, had agreed to repair lights once in receipt of post numbers which Richard C will provide.  Some of the lights are obscured by tree branches - the Tree Officer will be approached to inspect and order pruning where necessary.
2.2	(2.8) It was reported that there is still a problem with pollution entering the lake and at times, in fact yesterday, the water was very brown.  Wimpeys have taken this problem very seriously and a plan of action has been put together to stop this problem continuing. The question was asked, how will the residuum be cleared out, but this should be explained in the action plan. John C is in possession of the plan and will let all members have sight of it.  John C will also contact Mr Charles Tucker of the Environment Agency for the latest position.
2.3	(2.10) With regard to the Pittville Restoration Project, there was good attendance at the meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> November with many agreeing to support the Management Plan. The deadline for submission to the HLF is 15 <sup>th</sup> December. There was also a Landscape Agency meeting held on 30 <sup>th</sup> November and Ron Pattinson offered to forward the notes of that meeting to John C/Rosemary Mansbridge and Adam Reynolds.
2.4	(2.12) The bollards were discussed again : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terry W explained that a couple of weeks ago 4 bollards went missing – 3 were found but as there were grounds marks running toward the lake, it would seem that the fourth had been thrown in the lake. CBC were asked to try and retrieve the bollard and offered to speak to Wayne Sedgwick, senior ranger.</li> <li>• 3 are now locked with 1 missing but there is presently a problem with padlocks at the base of the bollards.</li> <li>• The Pump Room is responsible for unlocking 2 of the padlocks for events with Green Environment being responsible for the others but some are so far apart that vehicles can drive through them.</li> <li>• Terry W explained that the bollards are very heavy with a strong suction causing a health &amp; safety issue. Staff at the Pump Room (especially female staff) has difficulty as they become very awkward to manoeuvre.</li> <li>• It was wondered whether fold down ornamental bollards could be fitted but it is unlikely that English Heritage would agree as the park is a listed area.</li> </ul>
2.5	(2.14) The Park Watch signs have been installed as requested.

2.6	<p>(2.15) The meeting once again discussed next year's use of the Café and John C explained that the budget proposal are due for consultation shortly. There is a growth bid to increase the Park Watch Scheme and he is hopeful that this will stay in the budget.</p> <p>It was suggested that Walls in Gloucester might have an ice cream bicycle for hire next summer (<i>Jean Smith has contacted them in the past and nothing is available</i>).</p> <p>With regard to selling ice cream in the park, Terry W advised that Redcliffe Catering, who have the catering contract for the Council, might complain.</p>
3.	<b>Walkabout Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006</b>
	<p>The notes of the walkabout which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December between Peter S and John Rees were discussed. Various matters require attention and these have been passed to landscape officers for investigation and remedy.</p>
3.1	<p>Richard C explained that the usual winter tidy up was imminent with some of the listed items being dealt with next week. John C stressed the importance of clearing the leaves away from the edges of the lake.</p>
3.2	<p>Terry W raised the subject of vandalism to the bandstand. In his experience he has found that if damage is repaired quickly vandalism stops but if repairs are not carried out more incidents occur. He congratulated the division on their speed in repairing recent damage.</p> <p>All has been quiet for 9 months and feels that the school are contributors to this. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the headmistress with a possible invitation to the next walkabout.</p>
3.3	<p>Mr David Horstead, Chair of Governors of Dunalley School, has been in touch with regard to funding for their wild garden. Original funding had been received from Breathing Spaces (lottery bid). At present the fencing between the garden and park is being refurbished but there is no funding available for replacement.</p>
4.	<b>Any Other Business</b>
4.1	<p>A meeting had been held between Peter S, John C and Chris Chavasse, Tree Officer, to discuss tree labels and leaflets which will give information about trees to visitors. Christopher will investigate costs and designs of labels etc and it was thought a good idea to place leaflets in the Pump Rooms. Decisions cannot be made until costs are known as a limited budget is available.</p>
4.2	<p>Ron P and Desmond F talked about the website and ideas for family attractions. Information on some areas has been included on the website but others are still to be done. It would be good to be able to download and print information on items such as a tree trail or nature trail to read whilst in the park. Arranging these trails could possibly be a school project.</p>
4.3	<p>Money had been donated a number of years ago by the family of Terry Higgins to be used on the park. Adam Reynolds is to be asked for the amount and where the money is being stored.</p>
4.4	<p>Desmond F expressed concern about the gates being left open following Christmas parties at the Pump Room as damage has then been caused. Terry W suggested that the main gates be locked over Christmas and the pedestrian gate left open.</p> <p>Terry will ensure that the timers are turned off over Christmas so that the lights will be off. This usually stops people congregating under the canopy.</p>

4.5	<p>Terry W reported that :</p> <p>The wall at the rear of the Pump Room is being extended to stop mud washing down into the drains. The work is expected to begin shortly and John C suggested this would be a good time to carry out planting work.</p>
4.6	<p>Alterations are being made to the area where the wheelie bins are kept. They will then be chained in place to prevent them being pushed against the building and set fire to.</p>
4.7	<p>On a piece of waste ground near the Pump Room there is a 4inch cast iron pipe which is dangerous and requires attention.</p>
4.8	<p>General tree work is required as some have suckers growing.</p>
4.9	<p>The Pump Room holds concerts most weeks when staff unlock the gates at 5 pm to allow visiting artists to enter but by the time people arrive the gates have been locked again without staff realising. It was agreed that a list of events will be emailed to landscape officers on a regular basis to allow them to remain unlocked.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
	<p>Walkabout - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007  Meeting - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 at 12.30 in Central Depot.</p>