

## FRIENDS OF PITTVILLE MEETING

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007

Present:	Mr John Crowther	Councillor Mrs Diane Hibbert
	Mr Desmond Fitzgerald	Mr Adam Reynolds
	Mr Richard Courts	Mr Terry Wilce

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
	Apologies were received from Messrs Ron Pattinson, Peter Simmons and Ken Jennings.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006</b>
2.1	(2.2)As promised John C had rung Charles Tucker regarding the pollution entering Pittville Lake. He could report that seepage had eased off and was in possession of an abatement plan from Wimpey's but this information has yet to be forwarded to CBC. Once that is to hand it will be presented to this meeting for discussion.
2.2	(2.4)Terry W reported that the Fire Brigade had been carrying out practice exercises in the Park yesterday. One of their exercises was to dredge the Lake and Terry requested they look for the missing bollard. One bollard was found but it was not the one in question.  This was cleaned and placed in one of the gaps but unfortunately the plate is broken and therefore it cannot be locked. Adam R offered to instruct Ian Bonnar (Parks and Playground Technical Officer) to visit the carry out any necessary repair. At the same time he will place bollards in positions that best suit their size – some are smaller than others.
2.3	(2.6)Staff have been trying to obtain an ice cream bicycle for use around the play area and John C reported that an order has been placed with Pashley Bikes. This will be made to our specification and should be delivered by end of February.
2.4	(4.3)It had previously been thought that a sum of money had been donated by the family of Terry Higgins to be used on the park. However, Adam R looked into this and the money had been offered by a company that Terry Higgins had a close association with who wanted to spend it in his memory in Pittville Park. Martin Quantock, Cheltenham Business Partnership Manager, is the contact with this company and he will get back to them when we have a definite design and cost.  It was hoped to use this money for new gates and railings on East Approach Drive. However, the process of obtaining listed building consent and planning permission has been very complex and time consuming although it is hoped that a planning application will be submitted very shortly. The final cost of the approved railings and gates is not yet known.  Terry W suggested that the Pump Room be approached for a contribution.
2.5	(4.7)Ian Bonnar will be asked to identify and repair the cast iron pipe located near the Pump Room.

3.	<b>Walkabout Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007</b>
	The notes of the walkabout which took place on 26 <sup>th</sup> January were discussed. Various matters require attention and these have been passed to landscape officers for investigation and remedy.
3.1	(1.)Ian Bonnar will be asked to visit East Approach Drive to view the overgrown boundary hedge.
3.2	<p>A number of items were about grass verges in poor condition because of people parking on them or contractors having to turn vehicles and driving over them. Adam R will investigate whether hard surfaces can be added instead of seeding them because the problem will continue.</p> <p>It was decided to leave the areas affected by the work being carried out in Albert Road until the work has been completed.</p> <p>It was suggested that a mechanism be put in place to ensure that companies return to repair damage when jobs have been finished. Some promise to return at a later date once settlement has occurred but this does not happen.</p>
3.3	<p>(10)Discussion took place regarding graffiti on the equipment facing Evesham Road. The following suggestions / questions were made / asked :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Ask the User Group to use a specific area to graffiti</u> It is thought not to be the User Group but youngsters just interested in visiting the Park and drawing on the equipment. Adam R suggested painting out the work and seeing how long it takes to get back in the same condition. Periodic painting might be a better answer and this might be something youth volunteers could be involved in, rather than using officer time.</li> <li>• <u>When the Midwinter area is redeveloped, will the skateboard ramp be removed from Pittville?</u> When redevelopment work is carried it may include the possibility a new skateboard ramp which would be in the same area of the town as the Pittville ramp. It is not known at the moment whether both will remain but it is felt that the Pittville ramp has been a great success so might remain insitu. A suggestion was made to plants shrubs and trees as a screen for the ramps which will allow people to see through but would stifle some of the noise.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Tree Walk and Labels</b> (Christopher Chavasse, Tree Officer, joined the meeting to discuss this item)
	<p>Christopher brought to the meeting, a wooden plaque cut from a tree recently felled by one of our tree contractors. This was shown as a template for the plaques that will be hung from a selection of trees throughout the park after having their names printed or engraved in some way. The meeting approved of these plaques but suggested a meeting be held with Peter Simmons to obtain his views.</p> <p>An alternative would be a similar plaque already on some of the trees which is a small plastic disc and these have been insitu for many years.</p> <p>It is suggested that a leaflet be designed and made available, as part of this environmental/educational initiative, (and possibly on their website to be downloaded) identifying a tree walk through the park and information on each species of tree</p>

	<p>identified.</p> <p>The cost of the leaflets are expected to be :</p> <p>For an A4 sheet folded in 3 and printed on both sides with a map is expected to cost £54 for 300. This would be digitally printed and therefore many colours will be able to be used.</p> <p>Each proof will cost £5 with a £12 charge for touching up artwork.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>HLF Application and Park Improvements</b>
5.1	<p>An Heritage Lottery Fund application for a project development grant has been submitted and the decision is expected by the end of March. If we are successful, we already have the support of a number of Council departments in developing a steering group to undertake specific elements of the work .</p> <p>Cllr Hibbert explained that she had asked the Executive Committee to advise the Treasurer how many volunteer hours each has spent as this will prove community involvement and add to our application. Adam R explained that he has already put this into the bid but it would be good to have definite hours in case we are asked for further evidence.</p>
5.2	<p>Cllr Hibbert talked to the meeting about Awards for All. She was in possession of an application form which she obtained following John C's mention at the recent Friends of meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested that an application be made for funds towards a new bridge but the meeting was unsure whether this is the same Fund as the HLF who already have our application for the whole Park. There is concern that the main application for a project development grant be jeopardised if more than one application is made and they are not clearly coordinated and communicated to HLF.</p> <p>Referring back to previous quotations, Adam R said he would expect the sum required to be in excess of £15k.</p> <p>Advice was sought from the meeting as how best to proceed and John C advised that a report has to be compiled showing evidence of why a bridge is required and what sort of structure is suitable.</p> <p>The paperwork to hand stated a maximum amount of £10k is available but Cllr Hibbert asked whether it would be best to "sound out" Awards for All to ascertain whether this was the sort of project that could be successful.</p> <p>Discussion also took place regarding the Young Roots scheme and John C offered to provide a pack to Cllr Hibbert.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Any Further Business</b>
6.1	<p>Desmond Fitzgerald asked whether the meeting thought of the relationship between the Friends of Pittville group and the council as a partnership. He was a little disappointed that some committee members felt this was not the case but, after discussion it was agreed that, because of the good relationship held, we are a partnership.</p>
6.2	<p>Discussion took place to decide the correct name of this meeting. It was finally</p>

	decided that it would be known as the "Friends of Pittville Sub-Committee".
6.3	The circulation of minutes was discussed and it was decided that this topic would be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. In the meantime, John C will contact Ron Pattinson to obtain his views.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>
	Walkabout - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2007 at 2.30 Meeting - Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2007 at 12.30 in Central Depot.