

FRIENDS OF PITTVILLE MEETING

Thursday 2nd November 2006

Present:	Cllr David Prince	Mr John Crowther
	Mr Desmond Fitzgerald	Mr Peter Simmons
	Mr Ron Pattinson	Mr Richard Courts

1.	<p>Apologies An apology was received from Cllr Diane Hibbert</p>
2.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – 21st September 2006</p>
2.1	Lights in the underpass are now working.
2.2	<p>Around the lake lighting seems to be working in some areas but not in others which is causing a few problems now that the darker nights have begun.</p> <p>John Crowther suggested that Richard Courts arrange to walk the area with Alan Beck, Senior Engineer, to investigate the extent of the problem. It was also suggested that Alan or a representative should be invited to the next meeting to discuss this further. Although the lighting was installed some time ago it was not switched on immediately and therefore the guarantee should be examined in case it is still active.</p>
2.3	Information boards in the park were discussed and Cllr Prince suggested that the Friends of Group be issued with a key in order to post leaflets and notices.
2.4	During the music festival a tent was put on the grass outside the Pump Rooms with a metal stake hammered into the concrete. There is still damage and requires repair. Richard Courts to investigate.
2.5	Problems were being experienced as a result of youths from Pittville School leaving litter etc. Julie Winterman at the School will be contacted to discuss a remedy to the problems.
2.6	<p>The latest walkabout was attended by Ralph Pullin and took place on 27th October and discussion took place regarding the notes provided. Comments were generally positive but the following points require attention :</p> <p>One main problem is litter being left around the skateboard park. This week had been half term school holidays and therefore the area had been used more. It was suggested that a different design of bin be provided and Richard Courts was asked to investigate the bins presently being used and how they can be altered.</p> <p>It was also explained that, due to winter hours, the crew are one man short and therefore collections may not be as often.</p>
2.7	Near the Pump Room there is a litter bin where the ground has dropped slightly around the base and where water gathers. It was asked whether this can be levelled off with tarmac and Richard Courts was asked to investigate.
2.8	John Crowther reported to the meeting that he had been made aware of a problem whereby pollution from the new Sainsbury's site was leaking into the brook and subsequently travelling into the Lake.

	<p>The Environment Agency was aware of this and a meeting had been attended by contractors building on that site, Environment Agency and Council representatives.</p> <p>This problem has been taken very seriously by all, especially the Council as this follows the recent de-silting of the lake which was very costly. Wimpy's have agreed to remove material and submitted a mitigation plan to stop this happening again in the future.</p> <p>Geoff Beer, Senior Engineer, will investigate the problem in readiness of Wimpy's clearance.</p> <p>John Crowther offered to email any information to hand to members of this meeting. This will be followed up by a further meeting with the Environment Agency.</p>
2.9	<p>John Crowther reported that an article had been in the Echo last night regarding pollution in Marle Hill (former landfill site). Earlier this year bore holes were drilled into the golf course with the results now to hand. Evidence of methane, carbon dioxide and water pollutants are reported.</p> <p>A public meeting had been held earlier this week to discuss health and safety implications and also the affect this could have on property values.</p> <p>This problem is fixable but further investigations are required. It is believed that money is available via DEFRA.</p>
2.10	<p>Following a Cabinet meeting on 17th October 2006 authorisation was given to apply for HLF funding for a Pittville Restoration Project. A meeting has now been arranged for 16th November 2006 with various Council officers to discuss moving this project forward.</p> <p>There is a Landscape Agency meeting arranged for 30th November to discuss the Conservation and Management Plan and John Crowther asked that Roger Turner be invited to attend.</p>
2.11	<p>Cllr Prince requested copies (electronic and hard) of the small lottery bid form for the footbridge grant. These are for the members of this meeting who will meet one evening.</p>
2.12	<p>Desmond Fitzgerald expressed concerns about the bollards and gates not being locked. One gate is being left open because the man locking cannot guarantee everyone is out of the park. Desmond feels that this is not a problem because he has been locked in and found it easy to get out.</p> <p>It was felt that there are too many things that can be vandalised with high expense and therefore John Crowther instructed Richard Courts to ensure that all gates are locked at Pittville.</p> <p>One bollard is missing and it is believed that this could be in the lake.</p>
2.13	<p>Discussion took place regarding the staff of the Pump Rooms as it is felt by all that they do not involve themselves with the matters of the Park even though they are situated there.</p> <p>John Crowther announced that a prospective partner is being sought to share the management and cost of running the Pump Rooms.</p>

2.14	Park Watch signs were requested for Pittville Crescent (3) and the 2 surrounding Squares (4). It is believed that a number of spare signs are being held by the Community Rangers and if this is correct Richard Courts will endeavour to have them installed.
2.15	<p>Discussions took place regarding the Central Cross Café. This has now been closed for the winter although final running costs are not available as yet. Ideas for running the café will take place through the winter in readiness of next year's season.</p> <p>The café will be open for the Cheltenham Race Festival in March to serve cooked food as this year's trial was felt to be successful but in 2007 better advertising will be arranged.</p> <p>It is hoped to obtain an ice cream bicycle to have on trial during a half-term or Easter school holiday.</p>
3.	Date of Next Meeting
	Walkabout - Friday 1 st December
	Meeting - Thursday 7 th December at 12.30 in Central Depot.