

Minutes of an open meeting held at the Winchester hall 29th January 2013 called by Mandie Adams-McGuire and Stephen Alexander to discuss the formation of a body to be called The Friends of Moormead

Present: Mandie Adams-McGuire

Stephen Alexander

David Allister

Head of Parks LBRUT

Councillor Geoff Acton

Sgt Day

Safe Neighbourhood Team

Colin Cooper

South West London Environment Network

Apologies: - Councillor Harrison

Councillor Khosa

1. MAM introduced herself & explained the reason for the meeting
2. SA explained the background to the proposal. Some months ago there was a small item in the R&TT about the involvement of the 3rd sector in Parks management. After contacting the ward councillors he had a meeting with David Allister who explained the plans. It seemed that it was unlikely that any local group would want to take on the responsibility of managing Moormead. DA suggested the formation of a Friends group whom LBRUT could consult on the new & future management plans for the park.

SA stressed that at this stage it was proposed that there should be no annual subscription. LBRUT will cover incidental costs for 2 years and, if monies were to be required in the short term, a bucket would be passed around at a general meeting.

SA said that "Moormead" needs to be defined. He suggested that FOM should confine itself to the green areas, pavilion & playground. He suggested that it should not get involved in arguments about car parking or Drummond Place.

3. DA explained that there are 160 parks & gardens in R&T. There are c.60 groups of Friends in the borough. The proposed FOM would not be a council group.

DA made the following points:

-LBRUT has no specific plans for Moormead

- LBRUT has been unable to engage with the community about Moormead because of the lack of a representative body

- The contract for the maintenance of parks expires on 31/3/13. From 1/4/13 there will be x11 separate contracts for various provisions of service with separate performance targets.

- The invitation to the 3rd Sector was aimed at those existing groups with capacity to act. If any group is interested in the future then the doors are still open.

- At the moment DA consults with the 3 ward councillors. He will continue to do so but will also include FOM when formed.

- LBRUT will support financially for 2 years. There are various sources of Community Funds which will become available to a FOM. LBRUT will not be able to apply for these funds but will help & assist a FOM to do so.
- Pavilion in bad state. Condemned. £300K to re-instate. He is entitled and bound to consider any business plans put forward for commercial or community use. So far no credible plans had been submitted.
- The new path from Twickenham will clearly have an impact on Moormead.

4. DA suggested that the way forward was for an independently chaired meeting to be held in 4-6 weeks for enrolled members to vote for a Committee & adopt a Constitution. There should be another General Meeting within 1 year of formation.

5. Questions:-

Why now? - SA explained that the 3rd sector proposal & DA's suggestion of forming a FOM was the trigger.

Future accountability – DA said LBRUT would remain accountable for all aspects of Moormead.

Tennis courts. - DA said that the borough was outsourcing the tennis element. A new provider will be able to provide coaching and fitness training. There will be charges for individual activities but no "joining fee". There will be no changes to the financial arrangements with existing users. New groups may be charged. FOM will be consulted.

Anti-social behaviour – Sgt. Day of the SNT explained that there is CCTV surveillance during the day but night-time surveillance is just too expensive. There are patrols if the roster allows. He urged anyone with worries to contact the SNT.

6. Lloyd Wilson said a few words to the meeting about the Claire Wilson Trust. He & his late wife had tried to get something done about the pavilion. He is involved with the Saturday morning football club and wants to help with plans for rebuild/reinstatement.

7. A representative of FORCE welcomed the formation of a FOM and offered reciprocal membership.