

Friends of South Park AGM

Monday, February 11, 2013

Introduction

Andy Jones welcomed everyone to the FOSP AGM which was held in the Hurlingham and Chelsea school and then handed over to Alex Kennaugh for a review of the past year

Review of the Year

Alex, on behalf of the committee, was pleased to present a report on February 11, 2013 at the AGM as required by our Constitution, and was even more pleased to report a successful year.

It was another **successful growing year** for the market garden and the community gardeners, including our first harvest of South Park honey. Many thanks to **Kathy Roll and Louise Connell**.

The annual **picnic in the park** was held on May 13, 2012 and again was attended by around 450 people. A raffle and a bake sale raised around GBP 400 for the Friends of South Park and we look forward to another great picnic event in May this year. Many thanks to **Andy Jones, Priscilla Ladha**, and the other members of the events team.

South Park was awarded a **Green Flag** this year after a judging process that we were part of in late May. The flag pole was erected in early February and there will be an event with the head of parks from the Council, Cllr Greg Smith, in mid-February.

On July 27, we had a **corporate volunteer day**. A team from an international advertising agency came to help make some dramatic improvements to the Shed, including paint, electric lighting, new flooring and restored doors.

In September, we **trialled a pop-up movie screen** in the park with two showings: one aimed at adults and the other at children. While it was a pleasant experience for some, it didn't have the same support as the picnic event so we will likely not pursue this activity again.

On November 2, 2012 **Thomas's School did an in-service day** in the park with one of their classes, which included nature-related activities in the market garden, gardening, and a picnic. Thanks go to **Lisa Irwin** for organizing this event.

A **woodland bulb planting activity** with the neighbouring schools was spearheaded by committee member **Beth Patrick** on Dec 6, 2012. Five types of bulbs were planted by students at Thomas's, the Holy Cross Bilingual School at Marie d'Orliac, and Sulivan. The GBP 4,000 project was sponsored jointly by Quadron and the Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

And in early 2013, we received fantastic results from our **grant applications**, so special thanks to **Lance Pierson and Andrew Kaufman** who put many hours into preparing the applications:

Cricket nets received a total of GBP 65,000, including 56,000 from the London Marathon Trust, GBP 6,500 from the Council, and GBP 2,000 from Thomas's.

The **MUGA court received a total of GBP 230,000**, including GBP 120,000 from Sports England, GBP 85,000 from the Council, and GBP 25,000 from Voeila Environmental Trust.

Special thanks go to the entire committee for the dedication they bring to the park and its care, and to members, who continue to support the Friends of South Park and its important advocacy role. In particular, we'd like to thank **Julie Land and Anthony Williams** for their eagle eyes and support in all things planning-related.

Maintenance

Lance Pierson has been responsible for dealing with the Council regarding maintenance issues in the park. There was a change of primary personnel during the year and our main contact is now Andy Thorne who has been most helpful. There was a list of 14 outstanding maintenance jobs to be completed and steady progress has been made as follows:

1) 'Asbestos: danger' notice @ SE Corner - We investigated, discovered there was no danger, and removed the notice.

2) Children's play area :

- a) dog-entry points in north, east and south fences closed.
- c) gates replaced with self-locking ones - apparent failure to self-close in cold weather being investigated.
- d) safety posts and ropes added by sides of the slide.
- e) 2 benches added in southern half of area.

3) Rubbish bins needed lids to prevent birds scattering the rubbish - fitted to all but 7 of the bins. The old-style 'open' bins are gradually being replaced by 'Victoriana' design with fixed top.

4) Damaged bin by Woolneigh Gate - replaced with Victoriana bin.

5) Broken, unsightly bin-holder in tai-chi area - removed.

6) Bench missing north of Woolneigh gate – replaced with bench of newer, sturdier design.

7) Notice-boards with out-of-date and poorly displayed notices - Notice-boards updated and tidied; relationship established with the Parks Police who are responsible.

8) Northern half of fence round dog exercise area needed tightening - Being done in Feb 2013.

9) Gates to basketball court could not close - proper handle and lock fitted, so that the gate can be closed.

10) Gaps in fencing round basketball court, garden fence south of Hugon Lodge and Multi-use Games Area. - Basketball court and garden fence patched up; MUGA awaiting revamp later in 2013.

11) Broken wall in Tai chi area - awaiting right weather to plant replacement pyracantha shrubs.

12) Pot-holes in paths - some filled in, but many not. Council staff have applied for £50,000 grant in 2013 to re-surface the 'inner square' round the tennis courts.

13) Part of wall south of Woolneigh Gate, bordering South Park Mews, badly needs painting - still not done. To be in budget for 2013-14. Ivy will be removed in preparation ASAP.

14) York stone flags missing from paved section in SE Corner - I have accepted this, and agreed to wait for the fuller alteration in the masterplan.

Two issues were raised from the floor namely that ivy on the park wall needed to be removed and that in the locked changing rooms there appears to be a boiler that is on all day, every day which surely must be a huge waste of money. This would be taken up with the Council.

Publicity

A report on the past year would be available on the website www.friendsofsouthpark.co.uk

There are 4 noticeboards in the Park with nothing in them and it was felt that the committee needed to publicise FOSP and the work they do much more by the production of newsletters and keeping the noticeboards up to date.

Sport Facilities in the park

There is a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to put out to tender to commercial organisations the hardcore surfaces in the park and the booking system for the pitches etc. The council are now drafting a report although there is no decision as yet.

Rocks Lane Presentation

A family run company, Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centres (www.rockslane.co.uk), was set up by Chris Warren some 20 years ago and has set up and operated a Sports Hub in parks in Barnes, Chiswick and Fulham's Bishops Park and were invited to present their views and ideas to the FOSP.

The key to a successful operation is to find out what the residents want and they felt it would be very advantageous to work with an existing group such as FOSP. There are 3 key issues pricing, access and social capital but it also has to make a profit. In Barnes they have a total of 13 playable areas including 4 hard courts for tennis which is also floodlit, astroturf courts for football, cricket and tennis, and a 3G surface for football. Many local schools use them as their Sports grounds with private schools paying a fee and State schools for free to cover maintenance and upgrading costs. There are staff on site at all times and they operate a booking system. They employ local people wherever possible such as sports' coaches

They started working with Bishops Park in 2011 but it is restricted to tennis at the moment. They have a year round programme with coaching for children from 3 year olds upwards; 1 and 2 day tournaments; adult tennis leagues; cardio tennis sessions 3 times a week; LTA affiliation which gives the benefit of participating in the Wimbledon Championship ticket ballot; schools' tennis encompassing 12 schools.

If they were to operate in South Park they would need a minimum of 7+ playable areas.

Concern was expressed by the meeting that the hardcore area by Hugon Road could cause residents problems with noise and light particularly in the evenings and also by Settrington Road residents with tennis courts and cricket nets. It was generally felt that South Park is mainly a recreational park not primarily a sports' hub like their other ventures. Andy thanked them for attending and their interesting presentation.

Elections

The officers and committee members elected for 2013 are:

Chair: Andy Jones

Vice-Chair: Kathy Roll

Secretary: Dianne Imthurn

Treasurer: Louise Connell

Committee members are Alex Kennaugh, Priscilla Ladha, Gloria Guy, Beth Patrick, Tony Beaton, Claire Gordon, Jaimie Lester, Pru Errington, Sweder Van Ijerso

Teo Catino, Lisa Irwin, Karen Haines serve as ex-officio members.