

## **Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park**

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting held on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022

### **Members Present:**

Paul R. Swift	Judith Swift	Colin Barratt	Ann Spalton	Katie Bonner-O'Brien
Marian Staniforth	Afzaal Nawaz	Janet Grimley	Peter Wood	Linda Wood
Leigh Plant	Matt Wilson			

### **Apologies:**

Jane Barton	Hilary Thrumpton	Mavis Broomhill	Ian Broomhill
Laura Archer			

### **Introduction**

- Paul Swift in an introduction to the meeting stated that it was two years ago to the date that discussion began about preparing for the centenary but that unfortunately because of the lockdown we were unable to progress with any of the planning.
- Paul Swift also stated that Anna Dixon who is a mosaic artist would be arriving late. She will be able to give us some ideas about a mosaic and also the cost that would be involved.

### **Matters arising from the previous meeting**

- Paul Swift began talking about story sheets which were discussed at the last meeting. As there is so little time to produce any story sheets it was decided to post the story sheet it on the Friends website. It was also asked if everyone attending the meeting would write something that can be published on the website as part of Woodthorpe Park's heritage.
- Paul Swift stated that he had done a follow up email to Boots but there has still been no reply from them. He has searched other ways to communicate with them but to no avail!
- He did however have success with Notts TV. They came to a Saturday morning gardening session and interviewed Paul and Peter Wood and Ian Clark. By all accounts it was a good interview and was aired on Notts TV. It appears that Notts TV are going to come back at some later stage too.

### **Publicising Woodthorpe Park's Centenary**

- Illustrated talks was first for discussion and Paul introduced Colin Barrett from SCAMP which stands for Sherwood, Carrington and Mapperley Park group.
- SCAMP has a Facebook page and as part of what they do they organise talks about the local communities.
- Paul will be giving some talks about the Woodthorpe Park Centenary in May both in Carrington and Sherwood. These talks will be publicized and also recorded.
- Colin Barrett felt it was a good outreach to people who live alone and also don't get out much, to encourage them to share their memories.
- Colin Barrett would also help by advertising the centenary celebrations on all of his portals.
- Unfortunately, there was no update on the centenary celebrations as the person concerned was not at the meeting. Paul said that he would make contact to find out any details for the next meeting.
- Paul asked how the residents of Woodthorpe and Winchester court would like to be involved with the celebrations. There will be a planning meeting at the flats so that the residents can decide what they would like to be involved with.

## **Commemorative Mosaic**

- As part of a commemorative mosaic, it was suggested that the Grange should be included and also as it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this should also be included.
- Sir Jesse Boot would also need to be remembered for his contribution to the setting up of the park.
- Many people do not understand the connection of Jesse Boot to Woodthorpe Grange Park.

## **Commemorative Mosaic – continued**

- Anna Dixon arrived at this time and Paul stated that we had contributed some ideas to this project.
- The time scale was discussed and Anna stated that it depended on who was involved and whether we wanted a few people or many groups to be involved.
- Anna is very booked up but she has now put Sophie in contact with Paul and will be coming to the next meeting.
- A few ideas are being put together at the moment and those will be given to her so that they can be adapted to suit mosaics.
- Funding would need to be found for this project when we have a price. A ball park figure is around one thousand pounds.
- If Nottingham city homes is involved though they would contribute to some of the cost. Other community groups could also be involved which would help towards the cost.
- The friends would be able to apply for some funding which could then be released to the overall cost of the events.
- This could lift the profile of the Friends Group.
- Paul asked for any ideas for the mosaic to be emailed to him. There could be an appeal to the community to contribute to the mosaic.
- Matt has asked for forms to fill out requesting funding from the Nottingham city homes and the council. Matt is now applying for funding.
- It would be a bonus if it was ready for the Centenary day.

## **Activities planned for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

- There is to be a nationwide beacon lighting ceremony. As part of the ceremony, those attending the meeting were all asked to offer any ideas of what could happen for the two hours prior to the lighting.
- Beacons will be lit at the same time all over the country.
- Paul Swift stated that he would ask Jane Barton for the updates on what is to happen.
- They are aiming for about five hundred people attending the evening.
- There will be a stage and also security for the evening.
- Extra litter pickers would be needed as well. The cleaning team will be on standby on the next day.
- It was also suggested that people could dress up in 1920's costumes. Paul Barratt said that he knew some actors that could possibly contribute in some way.

The 1st of June needs to be celebrated and commemorated because it is the centenary day of the park but not practical to have a big event because the 2nd of June is the Jubilee ceremony with the beacon lighting and the plan is to draw a large crowd of people to the event. The format of the park centenary event is to be decided on how it will be arranged.

### **Any other Business**

- It was decided that we would be having monthly meetings until the end of June and then have a break and come back in September and have the Annual General Meeting.
- The upcoming dates for the meetings are: 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June and for the AGM the 28<sup>th</sup> of September.
- It will be three years since the last Annual General Meeting. The celebrations are the main focus from now on until the end of June.
- It is also the Sherwood Estate centenary at the same time and they will also be having some sort of celebrations. It is also the Centenary for Saint Martins Church at the same time.
- Paul spoke to Marian about a gazebo that they have used over the years. She has confirmed that the gazebo is available for the use of the Woodthorpe grange friends' group when it is needed.
- One of the gardeners told Peter Wood that a live badger was released into the car park and it made its way to the bottom of the park behind Sherwood vale. The situation was captured on CCTV.

Paul closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.