

Friends of Coronation Gardens meeting with Enable Leisure and Culture (October 2019)

Date: 16th October 2019, 1.30 to 3pm
Venue: Charles's house
Present: Marina (Enable) and
Charles, Susannah, and Nada (notes) (Friends of Coronation Gardens)

1. Collecting water from Nursery roof

This action is outstanding from the last meeting.

Action: *Charles to contact the nursery*

2. Planting

The date for the planting day is set for 29th October 2019. We are expecting: Riversdale School and some adult volunteers. The Parks Police will be there with their gazebo if they need it. Susannah has organised coffee from Starbucks and cake from neighbours. Enable will organise water supply if necessary.

Action: *Marina to see if Enable can supply table/gazebo.*

Marina presented a list of wild flowers that will be planted under the avenue. We are not sure which will be successful.

Action: *Marina to find out when the different species might be expected to flower.*

3. Water supply

Although there appears to be a water supply in the Gardens, Enable will need to contact Thames Water to find out.

The Friends requested that this be done as a matter of urgency.

Drainage: We are not sure if there is a problem with drainage in the Gardens. Enable can investigate but have no budget to address any problems.

The Friends would like to keep as many flower beds as possible.

The Friends will monitor flooding and take pictures if any occurs.

4. Awards for All grant

We are very happy to have received this grant (£7550) from National Lottery. The funds are for working with local schools and other groups.

Marina recommended that the Friends contact the schools that might be involved as soon as possible.

Enable can write a press release about the award.

Action: *Nada to send Marina the National Lottery guidelines.*

One of the outputs from the grant is 'interpretation boards'.

Action: *Marina to find out what restrictions might apply in terms of size, position, design and content.*

The grant also covers some of the costs of our winter and summer events. The Friends are working the Cara from Enable Events.

Action: Friends to let Marina know what needs to be done by Enable eg removing the bollard, ensuring the gates shut and publicising that the Gardens will be closed for the event.

5. North West Corner

The plans for this area, including a circle with a centrepiece, and herb beds around the edges with an accessible path were presented.

Once everything is agreed, Enable will send the work out for tender with a view to the work starting possibly in March 2020 and hopefully finished in time for our summer event.

Action: Susannah asked Marina to remind Sam to set up a meeting.

6. Locking the gates

Dan reported that he has a group of 8 volunteers who he will communicate with. Ideally he would like this group to expand to 12 volunteers.

Action: Marina to ask Ian to contact Dan about a firm start date, types of locks to be used, time for 'training' for volunteers. Enable will also need to put up signage explaining the trial for users of the Gardens.

7. Protection mats for school entrance

This is in hand, but Marina is not sure about when. In the longer term we need to think about a more permanent solution.

Action: Marina to investigate and give us a date before the end of the year

8. Tree planting

The Love Parks tree will be planted at the end of November. We are happy with any of the three species suggested by Jess (which give colour), and agreed the position.

Action: Marina to advise us of the planting date, so that we can attend.

Other trees will be planted before March 2020.

Action: Marina to ask Jess to let us know the dates when she knows.

9. Brightside quarterly magazine

Marina has negotiated a regular feature on Friends groups. The first article (November) will be a general one by Marina introducing all the groups. The next one will be about the Friends of Coronation Gardens.

Action: Marina to co-ordinate with Amy at Enable. And to let us know about listings for the Winter event.

10. Paths

Marina shared a plan of where Enable think the paths need attention. We discussed the merits of patching the paths and doing something more permanent, but more expensive.

Action: Marina to find out the options so that we are in a position to decide, and also to see if this work could be co-ordinated with work on the NW Corner.

AOB

Susannah requested that the edging of flower beds be completed for the bulb planting day, and that the fountain area be tidied and the bowl emptied.

Next meeting – Wednesday 18th December 2019, 1-3pm.