

Minutes of the Friends of Kilburn Library Garden

Date: 16th August 2008

Present: Jay Venn, Danielle Osieck, Rohan Osieck, Esme Talbot,
Nick Adams, Sunshine Flint, Carol Cooper, Ed Fordham,
Carol French, Avril MacIntosh, Linda George,
Wendy Litchfield (Minutes)

Jay welcomed the new members to the meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting

- Debra's card.
- money statements*
- 1) Bank Account – Debra is dealing with this. It does not need another signature but needs the signatory's name and address. BRAVA are holding money for us and will pay out any invoices submitted to them.
 - 2) Tree Surgery – We are not in a conservation area so we can remove trees as long as we add other plants. The ash trees on the foundations of the building and the elderberry trees need to be removed.
 - 3) Storage Shed – A ready made metal one is ideal.
 - 4) Ideas for the Garden – Discussed later.
 - 5) Health & Safety Issues. – Because the Garden is on Council premises, Health & Safety is very important. Nobody should be working in the Garden on their own. People working in the Garden should sign in and out the visitors' book in the library. A Health & Safety disclaimer form needs to be signed. Some members have already received very basic Health & Safety induction.
 - 6) Dig Days – Instead of having formal digging days, anyone wishing to dig can do so. There is much work to do in the next 2 to 3 weeks digging out the rubbish and putting it in bags. Any Saturday and Thursdays between 4.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. are available for people to dig.
 - 7) Meetings – It has been agreed that we meet once a month.
 - 8) Benches - Avril is dealing with this.
 - 9) Garden Tap – We now have three quotes.
 - 10) News, Events & Website - We do have a website. There is an e-mail reply function for Kilburn Library.
 - 11) Open Day Raffle Prizes – We are working on this.

Quotes for Garden Tap

leak

We have received three separate quotations but we do not have to take the cheapest. Eric's quote was nearly £4,000 but pipes would have gone inside the library and this possibly might cause a leak problem. With

pipes outside, there is the possibility of freezing. However, there would be a stopcock up in the library and a draincock should we wish to drain the pipes when freezing is likely.

The prices quoted were £700(+vat), £870(+vat) and £1,200 inclusive. In all cases the pipes will run along the roof.

At some time in the future, the library will be refurbished and this would include the pipes to the garden. However, in the short term, we need a water supply to get us started. Jay will contact the contractors to see if insulation is included in the quotes (only one mentions insulation). It is also important that we are able to turn off the water supply when necessary. A lock shield was also mentioned – the contractors should be able to know what this is.

Suggestion/Preliminary Design Idea

We are now getting to the stage where we can design the garden.

Jay showed the meeting the plans and produced a 'do-it-yourself' garden design kit with 'cut-outs' for benches and flower beds. We want disabled access so the paths need to be a metre wide and need to be paved or hard-standing. We talked about having raised beds but these need to have straight edges unless they have brick surrounds. We need a mixture of seating (movable benches) and double benches are ideal because people need somewhere to put their books. We would have a soft area for the children to sit on, a reading tree and steps going up would be a possibility. There could be a tiered effect so that the children can sit round, while listening to stories. Although, at present, there appears to be an incline in the garden, the level keeps dropping as the rubbish is removed.

Other suggestions included a tree house like a Wendy house with bookshelves. There would be a gate into the main garden but the fence would be taken down and replaced with a trellis so that the main garden is visible. Some members thought that a pond (even with a grid over it) was not a good idea because of safety issues. Instead a solar powered water feature, a bird bath or a reflective surface resembling water were suggested, although maintenance could be difficult due to leaves etc.

At present, because of the amount of trees in the garden, there are problems with tree roots in the ground. We should leave the large ash tree for now (could be taken down later) but it could be reduced by 30%. We could plant smaller versions of that type of tree that would only grow to 15 feet. An espalier tree was suggested which is attractive and not high maintenance.

Feedbacks

We have looked on E-Bay for timber and also there are a number of salvage yards in the area. Avril has found a site offering a variety of wood and sleepers.

As there are a number of artists in the area, we could ask one to design a garden feature.

We should start to build things in the Garden this autumn.

Kilburn Library has a stall on Queens Park Day (Sunday 14th September from 12.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.) and part of the stall could be used for publicity promoting the Garden. Ed said he could do leaflet for this. If anyone wishes to volunteer to help on the day, they should contact Linda. It was decided that it was not a good idea to have another Garden Open Day this year but better to have one in Spring and Autumn 2009 when there is more to show.

Ed said he can get hold of benches for the Garden.

Avril said that there were problems with some people's e-mail addresses but this has now been sorted. She will keep e-mailing people with information.

Linda has been trying to work with Groundwork. Their parent company has a funding stream i.e. small, medium or large. She will try for the small amount which is from £10,000 to £25,000. There are many questions to be answered and Linda will send a link to Jay. Also Linda will try to arrange an appointment with their designer and Jay. Brent Groundwork can supply people to do all the heavy work in the Garden.

We raised £24 at the Kilburn Festival which was given to Jay. Jay needs to be paid back for the rotavator and Avril is due some money.

Avril suggested that as the sales are on, now may be good time to buy more tools.

AOB

Carol suggested that we raise funds by carol singing at Queens Park Station about two weeks before Christmas. Ed said that Kilburn Community Choir could be asked to sing.

It was suggested that we could have a box for donations on the stall at Queens Park Day.

Next meeting is Saturday 13th September at 12.00p.m.