

Minutes of the Friends of Kilburn Library Garden

Date: 21 March 2009

Present: Jay Venn, Carol French, Denise Delalande, Avril McIntosh,, Carol St John, Andy Bradfield, Karl Hemsley, Joy Ssendagire, Linda George, Wendy Litchfield (minutes)

Apologies: Deborah Allen

New members, Karl and Joy were welcomed to the meeting.

Matters Arising/Feedbacks

Garden Help – The rubbish heap has finally gone. Janet specially came in early at 7.00 a.m. to open the library for the workmen. However, a new heap of rubbish has already been started which includes an old car battery.

Bank Account – We have already spent over £3,000 from the grant. There is about £2,600 left.

*about 1,700 left*

Tree Surgery – Jay has received quotes for this. Her contact Richard has not responded. It might be cheaper for Jay to do the work herself with a labourer. She will charge £350 for two days work plus the cost of the labourer. Originally Linda was to pay Treecare £300 to do the job but there are no library funds now during this financial year. Therefore the cost will come from the project's funds. Next year, we may be able to get reimbursement from library funding. Karl will pursue this. Also the Church next door may be able to contribute to the cost of the job, as tree branches are overhanging their wall and they will benefit. When Jay does the job, she will need to bring a vehicle and it may be possible to park on the Church frontage. Karl will ask for permission. Hopefully, the tree work will be completed before the Skills Workshop Day on Saturday 25 April 2009.

Shed – The shed has been finished. There is now a padlock with two keys. Jay will keep one and the other will be on the chain with the garden keys.

Raised Beds – These are now coming into flower.

Funding – The application for 'Awards for All' has now been submitted.

Carol St John updated the meeting about the possibility of money from Neighbourhood Working. This has not been discussed yet so we will have to chase up the Councillors again. Carol has put forward this as a possible topic for the next Forum Meeting on Tuesday 28 April 2009 at Queens Park Community School at 7.00/7.30 p.m... Someone from our project should attend this meeting and it was requested that Garden Project item be at or near the beginning of the Agenda.

Website – Andy has updated it. It is now looking good.

Health & Safety Training – Carol is organising this. Her Skills Workshop will be Saturday 25 April 2009.

Gardening Books – Keep taking these out.

Coffee Ground Project – Starbucks have said that it is best that these are collected twice a week as they are building up. Avril will donate a trolley to help with the collection. Carol said she did a sample in her own garden and proposed that we had a sample here to build up mulch. We could start by mulching one of the raised beds but for the moment the grounds can be deposited in one area.

Compost – Although it is cheaper to buy in bulk, we have to store it until needed. However, it could be stored round the side of the library. We still need to do further costing for this.

We need to buy more raised beds.

Gutters – The work on the gutters at the back of the library has now been done. However, as a result, more rubbish has been dumped in the garden.

Wall – We still need to contact Planning about this. Linda sent a memo previously but at the time the height of the wall was within limits. Avril has sent e-mail but the official memo has to come from the library. Karl is to continue with this.

A.O.B.

We have now been contacted by Business in the Community, which is one of the Princes Charities, and provide volunteers. They act as a clearinghouse and choose a number of businesses willing to help. One of them then contacts us. The first Friday in June has been allocated and the volunteers come in multiples of 12. They will bring their own tools. The level of funding varies between nothing and thousands, which depends on negotiation between the business and us, although the average spend is about £400. Our details will be put on their website on Monday 23 March.

There is an article in the Queens Park Neighbourhood Brochure about the Garden Project and it appears from the wording that the councillors are claiming the credit for the results and not the project committee who are referred to as ' help from local volunteers'. At first it was thought that we should send a pro-active letter to the councillors stating our views about this but after discussion, as we do not wish to jeopardise future support, it was decided that instead Jay should talk to Will and Emily.

Carol French produced a booklet 'In My Backyard' about a garden project in Southeast London, which details things they have done for their project. Also, there is the Peace Garden in South End Green in Hampstead where local businesses have sponsored the project. Both these could give us ideas for our project. There is the possibility of us getting local support, for example by approaching local famous people. For the last Open Day, we did approach businesses near the library and the local estate agents were supportive of Queens Park Day. Denise and Carol St John volunteered to approach local businesses in the area. Someone could try approaching B&Q again for donations of equipment.

During dry weather, the garden will need watering during the week. We could ask the cleaner to do this.

We should continue locking the water supply to the garden to avoid freezing/flooding. We need to decide what tools we need. People need to bring their own stout shoes although it was decided we need a few pairs of gumboots for emergency use. (Wellington Boots are not satisfactory, as they do not give protection to the feet). The Business volunteers will bring their own equipment. Denise said she had some gumboots to donate. Donations of boots are fine but we should not be expected to provide them although when we receive funding, these could be included in costings..

We are willing to accept donations of plants etc.

Linda will be moving to Town Hall Library in April. She expressed her appreciation, said it was a pleasure working with the project and that she will miss everyone. Karl and Joy will continue working with the project.

Next meeting/event is Saturday 25 April 2009 (Carol's Skills Workshop).

The next Open Day will be held sometime during May.