

Minutes of the Friends of Kilburn Library Garden

Date: 25 April 2009

Present: Jay Venn, Carol French, Denise Delalande, Avril McIntosh,, Carol St John, Deborah Allen, Dora, Karl Hemsley, Wendy Litchfield (minutes)

Matters Arising/Feedbacks

Garden Help – The rubbish heap has gone. There is wood left in the Garden but this is not rubbish and will be used in the garden.

Bank Account – At the beginning of April, there was £2,500 in the account. Since then we have spent £800 so there is a balance of £1700 left. We also have £30 cash on hand.

Tree Surgery – This has now been done by Jay with the help of two boy labourers and about six garden project volunteers. Jay charged £400 for the two days and there may be a delivery charge of £8.51 for the chipper. Jay also had to pay £16 parking fees on the first day although the second day was free. Deborah will contact the Parking Shop about getting parking ticket books for the Project. It was mentioned that the tree surgery work down the side of the library was due to lack of maintenance programme from Brent who should have done much of this work. Hypodermic needles, a broken sewer pipe etc. were found during the tree surgery work, which pose a serious health and safety problem. It was suggested that Brent erect a gate half way down the side alley.

As the Church next door originally approached us about the trees/leaves and will be benefiting from the tree surgery, it was suggested that perhaps they could be asked for a contribution towards the cost of the work.

Funding – The application for ‘Awards for All’ was returned to us because something was slightly incorrect (a technicality). It was not rejected and has now been resubmitted.

The next Area Forum meeting is on Tuesday 28 April and both Karl and Jay will be attending to put our case forward. Karl has a short slot for the library generally but will mention the Garden Project. Carol St John is on the Steering Committee for the Forum. The meeting might result in more money for us.

Local businesses could be approached for funding. The local managers sometimes have small amounts of money for local projects as goodwill gestures. The end of April is the best time to approach businesses. We should keep a list of the people contacted and approach them on a regular basis.

Website – We should keep submitting items to Andy. Jay has her tree surgery item and Carol French her Skills Workshop.

Health & Safety Training – This is on regular basis. Today Carol ran her basic garden skills training with free plants and drinks/cakes afterwards.

Gardening Books – We have to demonstrate that there is a demand for these so we should keep taking them out. We have a display stand for these but it was suggested that we also need a display stand for the Kilburn Library Garden as we had previously. This might attract more members. Perhaps we could circulate details to other libraries or put on the notice board. Avril has pictures from the beginning of the project for display. Avril will give Karl a CD containing pictures.

Coffee Ground Project – Carol St John has been bringing the grounds from Starbucks. Carol French will designate an area in the garden where the grounds can be placed.

Compost – Jay is to calculate how many beds we need to buy and the amount of compost. We also need trellises and a garden hose.

Brent gives away two free bags of compost from the green waste collection. They could be approached and we might be allocated some.

Gutters – The work has been done but Karl is to contact the builders to take away their rubbish.

Wall – Karl is to follow this up with Planning. There are concerns about the height of the wall.

Business in the Community – We are waiting to see if anyone contacts us from this. Jay will follow this up with her contact in about a week's time.

Queens Park Neighbourhood Brochure – Jay has done nothing further about this. It appeared from the brochure that the councillors are claiming credit for the results in the garden.

Garden Watering – The cleaner should not be asked to do this. Instead, during dry weather, this will be put on the rota for library staff to water the garden. The garden tap needs attention as the tap under the sink in the staff room appears to be stuck.

Tools – We do not need hand tools at the moment and need to look at the budget before purchasing these. It was pointed out that when our funds hit zero, we could claim an extra 10% from the original grant. (£400 held in reserve).

If anyone has old boots to donate, we are willing to accept them. Perhaps B&Q could be asked for a donation of boots in various sizes.

Open Day – This was agreed for Saturday 6 June from 12pm to 4pm. It was decided that the publicity should be more professional this time and also that we have something advertising the Open Day at the entrance to the Library. Avril will contact a graphic designer she knows about the publicity. On the day, we need tables and face painting for the children. Perhaps Debby from the Library who did this last time would be willing to do this again. Denise will organise children's activities.

A.O.B.

As the garden condition still looks bad, it was decided to hire the rotavator for another day. The cost is about £90 per day and Saturday 9 May 2009 at about 10 a.m. was the date agreed for this.

Today, more weeding is to be done and the Garden is to be sprayed to kill the brambles and perennial weed.

This week there is an article in the Kilburn Times about the Garden Project. Karl will get a photographer/journalist from the Kilburn Times for the Open Day.

Next meeting Saturday 30 May 2009 at 11.30 am to finalise the Open Day