

## **Minutes of the Friends of Redcatch Park**

**7pm on Tue 6 September 2022 at the Park Pavilion Redcatch Park**

**Present:** Alex L (Chair), Ben R (Treasurer), Sue D (Secretary) Sian Ellis-Thomas, Lesley Powell and Attendees inc Ward Cllrs, reps from RCA, RCG, Cratus Bldg Services and BCC Parks and local residents

**1**        **Apologies for Absence:**

Mike Alden, Steve Clampin

**2**        **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** copies were circulated for info but to be accepted at the next committee meeting

**3**        **Chair's Report:: AL**

This meeting had been called to elect a new chair as he was now standing down and due to other commitments would be leaving the committee. Further elections were also needed for other people interested in joining the committee. AL nominated Sian Ellis-Thomas to take the position of chair. No other nomination had been received and there were none from the floor. SE-T was seconded and elected unanimously.

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**Statement of Intent - Chair SE-T**

I'd like to say thanks to Alex for his work in the last three years during a very difficult time.

- a About Me: In February this year, together with Lesley Powell, we launched a campaign to prevent a 72 foot Telecoms Mast being forced into the middle of this park. I'd only been in Knowle for three months, but already I loved this park and was determined not to see that happen. As you know we won that campaign. Our passion was evident and as a result of our work on the campaign, we were asked to join the committee for Friends Of Redcatch Park. We didn't hesitate, and fully intend to bring the same passion and determination to our work for this group.
- b History: FORP was set up by Councillor Chris Davies and some local residents in 2002 to help tackle anti-social behaviour in the park and turn it into a place where the community were happy to visit as opposed to avoid. Their initiatives and hard work resulted in many positive improvements that has seen it recognised time and again for its achievements. The start and success of the amazing Redcatch Community Garden has helped cement its position as a park that punches well over its weight.
- c It's a well proven fact that in today's world, in order to survive and thrive, all parks need active and engaged community park groups. Since around 2018, membership of FORP has dropped to almost zero. The pandemic and committee drop off has further contributed to a lack of energy and impetus. It desperately needs new energy, ideas and action. And that's where we come in.

We are committed to relaunching FORP

- d
  - There will be new branding
  - A new website and central email box
  - We will post regular updates on the site and on Facebook about issues affecting the park
  - We are electing new committee members to bring fresh ideas, voices and expertise
  - We will instigate initiatives to help maintain and improve the park
  - We will encourage volunteers to help with initiatives in the park
  - We will Implement a Park Users Survey to ascertain concerns and wishes
  - We will actively foster better communications with non-digital park users who don't have access or interest in the internet

- Investigate grants, CIL and Section 106 money available and make applications where possible
- Investigate FORP becoming a registered CIC so that it can apply for grants where this is a prerequisite
- And we will be the active liaison with Redcatch Quarter Developers to secure the best for Redcatch Park and its users in what is the single biggest issue to affect the park and which will impact on the park for all future generations

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**Election of Committee:**

- Lesley Powell was nominated to stand as Vice Chair
- Susan Davies agreed to continue as Secretary
- Ben Rawlings agreed to continue as Treasurer but only until a replacement was found.
- **All were seconded and elected unanimously**

The following were nominated and seconded to stand as committee members and **were elected unanimously**. No other nominations were received from the floor.

- Rev Matt Norris – Redcatch Community Church
- Campbell Hutchison – a very passionate park user
- Ben Skingly –was very active in helping with the mast campaign
- Mike Alden – Mike runs The Park football club that use Redcatch which is seeking a Community Asset Transfer of the Pavilion in partnership with the Community Garden

- Claudia Collins supported the mast campaign

## 6 **Annual Membership Subscription S E-T**

- a Back in the day FORP had a £5 subscription, but this was impossible to maintain manually and so dwindled to nothing. Even though we, as committee members, are giving our time and expertise for free, we do need money to run the organisation to cover annual fees and expenses as well as have a small fund which we can use for small ad hoc initiatives in the park.
- b After consideration, we propose an annual fee of £20 per household and £10 for OAPs and those on benefits. The committee would also have the authority to apply concessions where this would exclude membership and disenfranchise anyone in financial hardship who was keen to be actively involved. It was proposed from the floor that membership be advertised as a gift opportunity or paying forward for another to join.
- c Subscriptions will be managed and maintained through the FORP website and all proceeds will go directly into the FORP bank account with all expenditure approved by the committee and recorded by the treasurer.
- d As well as having a committee acting on their behalf to maintain FORP and improve the park for everybody, Subscribed Members will also have:
  - the right to vote at the AGM and other meetings by invitation
  - they will be encouraged to put forward ideas and committee nominations
  - they will get regular updates about park initiatives, events and news direct to their inbox

If people want to be involved in helping with the park activities / upkeep /events, but don't want to pay a subscription they will of course be very welcome and can join the mailing list. They won't have voting rights, but will be kept up to date with news.

**The proposal for re-instating membership subs as above was carried unanimously.**

## 7 **Update to FORP constitution LP**

- The existing constitution for FORP was done 20 years ago and is no longer fit for purpose. We want to update it in line with other organisations to clarify membership terms and rights. Here are the proposed changes -

- All members of FORP are volunteers and will not receive any remuneration for their services to the organisation
- As the elected representatives of FORP, the committee members will suggest, vote on and instigate any new initiatives.
- Committee Meetings will be quarterly or by arrangement. Subscribed members can attend these by invitation
- Subscribed Members can all attend and vote at the AGM or if invited to do so by the committee at any other meeting.
- Any Subscribed Member can put themselves or anyone else forward as a committee member at the AGM.
- An annual membership fee will be charged and a subscribed membership list will be kept.
- There will be a 50% reduction of the annual membership fee for OAPs and those claiming benefits.
- Subscribed members can leave at any time and no further subscription will be taken
- This money from subs will be the slush fund for the organisation to cover all running costs including, meetings, stationery, printing, website and email hosting annual fees and ad hoc initiatives in/improvements to the park
- Park users who do not wish to pay the annual subscription can join the mailing list for the website to get updates and can make suggestions for initiatives but will not be eligible to vote.
- Membership will be offered to age 16+
- There will be a discretionary free membership for any person unable to pay membership due to hardship but who wishes to get involved or become a committee member
- Discretionary free Honorary Membership can be given to people who go over and above for the park

### **All proposals were passed unanimously**

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#### **Donations & Bequeathments S E-T**

- a Some people may wish to make additional or regular donations or bequeathments in memoriam to the park. This process will be made easier to access on the website via a simple form. People will also be able to send an email or telephone if they do not have access to the internet.
- b Sponsorship would also be sought from local businesses and organisations which would be highlighted on FORP website.

## **Status of Redcatch Quarter Development Liaison S E-T**

We see FORP's role as separate to Knowle Neighbourhood Planning Group although we are in close contact with them and are supporting each other as groups with concerns and aims in common. Our aim is to keep the park and its users at the centre of our focus. We are not here to object to the development, KNPG have the expertise in their group to do that and we are confident they will and are taking them to task on all the relevant fronts. Our job is to work with all interested parties to ensure the best outcome for the park and its users should the development move forward.

To that aim, we are concentrating on meeting with all the interested parties including:

**KNPG** – we've already had two meetings with KNPG

**BCC Parks Department** – meeting being arranged with Jonathan James and Richard Fletcher

**BCC Planning Department** (Meeting with Peter Westbury Weds 7th)

**BCC Project Manager** Matt Scammell responsible for cycle paths

**Knowle Councillors** – We have met with Chris and Gary to clarify the process of applying for Section 106 money and CIL money which will directly benefit the park. It's very confusing but what is clear is that we need to act very quickly to get our applications in to have a chance of getting the money required.

**RQ Developers** - We have met once with the Developers and were given a presentation of the proposal before it was officially submitted. We discussed preparing a list of concerns and items we would like to be considered for the park.

They are more than aware that the proposed sharing of the park boundary means an obligation to listen to and work with parks, planning, RCG and FORP to allocate the requisite funds to make it work for the whole community as well as the new residents of the development.

The application has now been published and we are going through this with a fine toothcomb to compile a list of comments and queries. You can access the documents on the BCC Planning Portal. Get in touch if you need this link.

- Cllr Hopkins explained the Green Flag award which had been won by the park for several years when this was supported by the city council. He had spoken to Keep Britain Tidy and been advised that it was now possible to enter directly through them.
- Cycling in the park/cycle lane.
- Contact with PCSOs to visit the park when ASB reported.
- Liaise with Parks to ensure the inner entrance gate was kept closed to prevent unauthorised vehicle access to the park.

**10            Date of the Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday 6 December 7pm in Park Pavilion**



**Chair .....**

**Date: 7.9.2022**