

Minutes of the Lancaster Green Spaces Forum

Thursday 16 May 2019, 2.00pm, Scout Hut, Greaves Park , Lancaster

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence: Abi Mills, Kamilla Elliott
2. Attending: Friends of Greaves Park - Gill Davies, Sarah Blackler. Ian Procter (Fairfield Association); Malcolm Walker (Friends of Long Marsh Lane Gardens); Cedric Wrothall (Friends of Williamson Park)
3. The history of Greaves Park was briefly outlined by members, followed by a walk round the park. The maintenance of the large trees was discussed, and also the familiar problem of the scale of work needed compared with the number of volunteers. However, much has been achieved, particularly the clearing of paths in the higher areas, and the re-emergence of the croquet lawn, thanks to the hard work of the Friends. The major ongoing project is the community garden, which is steadily being improved and developed by working parties, including partnership activities with other local groups (such as the scouts). A successful funding bid has enabled a boundary hedge to be planted. Meanwhile, the large grassy bank near the old houses has also been cleared and a more varied flower range is hoped for, as the light levels improve. The Friends of Greaves Park website includes a regular blog, a diary of events and the recently produced map of the park.
See **friendsofgreavespark@weebly.com**
4. Updates from other Friends groups
 - Fairfield Association – Ian reported that the Pony Wood opening is still delayed, due to the honey fungus problem. It is not yet clear whether the disease has spread to a second large oak.
 - Williamson Park – the Friends group has been consulted on a potential new outdoor play development by the council, in partnership with a private firm. It is understood that this would not be free to use. Friends are concerned that the proposed area is within Fenham Carr, where they have worked to develop wildlife friendly provision. However, much detail about this project remains confidential.
 - Ryelands Park - Friends are still working on the beds behind and around the house, and hope to be able to add more equipment to the new gym activity area.
5. Matters arising from previous minutes:
 - We have not heard any more about the proposed map showing the locations of the different Friends groups, which Stef Gray agreed to organise, following our last year meeting. Stef is of course very busy taking over her new role, but we hope to have this for Heritage Open Day. It was also suggested that a walk from park to park would be a great idea for Heritage Open Day, including a sponsored walk to raise money for the park groups.

- Kamilla had agreed to find out if any more Morecambe reps would like to be added to the list. She would like to hear from Morecambe Friends groups to see how we might encourage them to become more involved in future LGS Forums.
6. Date of next forum: August 1st, from 7pm, at Fairfield Reserve. Please note – there are no toilets or other facilities within the reserve (the nearest is at the station).

Thanks to LGS trustee Jean O'Neill for taking the minutes in Kamilla's absence.