

# CANOE LAKE PARK SUPPORT GROUP

## Notes of the meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Present:** David Baynes (chair)  
John Cooke - Canoe Lake Leisure  
Sue Stokes - Southsea Green  
Jean Robson - Southsea Green  
Goff Gleadle - Southsea Green  
Avril Eley - Canoe Lake cafe  
Chris Richards - PCC Culture (Community Projects)  
Cllr. Steve Pitt - Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

**Apologies:** Adrian Rozier - PCC Parks Manager  
Graham Newcombe - Friends of Cumberland House Museum + Southsea Green  
Isla McMinn - Canoe Lake Nursery

Councillor Pitt was warmly welcomed to the meeting and introduced himself, giving brief details of his background in events, music and management.

**1. Notes of the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May:** accepted as a true record

**2. Additional agenda items:**

- SE in Bloom proposal
- Seafront Patrols
- Coastal Defences

**3. Site Security:**

- Mark Graham has still not contacted Isla, Avril or Chris about their contracts or about invoicing.
- An additional touch point has been installed on the café's blue hut
- John reported one or two missed patrols, which he had raised with Mark Graham. He again committed to email a copy of a report to all the subscribers
- Avril reported that the café CCTV system had been upgraded and extended
- John is discussing the installation of path lights within his boundaries which would be controlled from within the pavilion ie would be switched off at night when it closes
- So far, there had been few incidents of any significance this year

**4. 2018/19 events**

- The hanging baskets session went well and the garden centre gained a few sales and future customers from it. Thanks to David for giving out garden centre leaflets in the park. Chris offered to produce an A4 laminated version of the leaflet for Southsea Green's notice board
- David is looking at organising another music event in the museum garden next year, with a smaller ensemble to better fit on the terrace; possibly an acoustic performance with a small PA and clip mics. He would like something classical this time
- Possible sport event eg croquet, which would present no hazard to other park users
- Possibly a drama event, under canvas
- Possible use of the lake for events, e.g. a model boat / re-enactment event - Avril pointed out that this would need to be before 10am because of the swans. She felt that the lake is currently very murky and needs a drain and dredge

## **5. Councillor Pitt**

Councillor Pitt told the meeting that the current council administration is focusing upon culture and sport as tools to regeneration. There are thousands of creative jobs in the city and they, as well as important sports events such as the recent tennis tournament, not only contribute financially but also raise the profile of the city.

The budget for CLS is currently less than half the figure 10 years ago which means looking at new ways of generating funding. The council is currently looking at corporate partnership with crowdfunding to lever in financial support for projects and developments

## **6. Additional Toilets**

There are significant problems with Portaloos, in particular their tendency to get pushed over, spilling hazardous chemicals and faeces.

Councillor Pitt reported that the British Toilet Association will be visiting the city soon to give advice on toilet issues and may have some innovative proposals

There is money allocated in the council's capital budget to public toilets but this was committed to College Park

It could be worth considered the temporary installation of a couple of portaloos during each event

## **7. Additional Welcome Signs**

David has been chasing the underspend on the original CIL allocation to install two additional Welcome signs. He is awaiting a cost for these.

It was also mentioned that the park needs better marketing to tourists: Councillor Pitt will raise this with Jane Singh, our tourism officer

## **8. Any Other Business**

- SE in Bloom proposal - Sue outlined her vision for enhancing the impact for visitors to the park, which could include additional or different planting. Ideas might include poppies for D Day 75 next year, a colour theme throughout the park, growing strawberries in hanging baskets for a strawberry tea etc etc It was agreed that a sub-group be set up to explore these ideas and to look at the in Bloom criteria. Sue will convene the first meeting
- Seafront patrols - these have been introduced by the new administration and will initially run from 9am to 5pm from Easter to September. This could be extended into the evening if necessary, plus for events. The route will be from the Hotwalls to the pitch and putt and their remit is to keep an eye out for problems but to go for soft interventions; they will also advise and give support. The funding has been made available by the Resources and the Community Safety portfolio holders.
- Coastal defences - David encouraged everyone to attend the final consultation session at Fratton as resident feedback is important. Young people are being 'polled' via social media. David said that the opinions of visitors to Southsea should be sought.

- Setting up the group as a legal entity - it was felt the time was right to do this, to enable funding applications to be made - for which a bank account is necessary. Chris will bring a draft constitution to the next meeting. Consideration also needs to be given to the recruitment of local residents but this should await agreement on the group's aims

**9. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 3.00 in the tennis pavilion