

NOTES FROM THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COLLETT PARK USERS GROUP

Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 6.30pm in the SWEDA Officer, Park Road, Shepton Mallet.

Present: 11 members of the public, 4 councillors, representative from Idverde and Town Clerk

1.0 Introduction

The Chairman, Cllr Chris Inchley, thanked people for attending.

1.1 The purpose of the meeting was given, in that Collett Park is a public open space, managed by the town council, but that the town council wants and needs input from the public, to assist with its long term plans, to ensure that the park is used to the best of its abilities, and that any future development is done with the expressed wishes of the community.

1.2 The Town Clerk outlined some projects that were already being considered and invited ideas for other projects

1.3 The Idverde Manager explained how the park is currently maintained

1.4 Other councillors contributed throughout the meetings

2.0 IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 Paths

For the park to be made more accessible for wheelchairs and push chairs, with areas of pavement to be built up.

Some of the paths belong to Mendip District Council, but a review of paths can be undertaken as part of an infrastructure improvement plan

2.2 Raised Beds

To create an area in the park for community use, for therapeutic flower/herb/veg beds for the public to use. Involve Men's Shed in the making of the raised beds, and involve the Horticultural Society with planting. MDC has already earmarked an area that the beds could be placed, adjacent to the Millennium Way cycle path.

For the Horticultural Society to contribution locally grown plants to the park, and to hold some workshops

2.3 Waste Bins

Is it possible to have split bins to take recycled waste? Currently there is an issue over recycled waste being contaminated with food and dog waste. However, some new bins for recycled waste only might encourage the public to be mindful of what they dispose of.

2.4 Marketing of the park

Looking for ideas to develop interpretation boards, maps, trails, photo competition

2.5 Events

Drifters Club would like more information of what is happening in the park.

Great British Clean 20 March to 13 April: looking for ideas of activities to do in the park.

Love your Park Week: plans were being made for a Band Concert in bandstand on 19th July, followed by 2 more concerts over the summer

Looking for volunteers to help with these: welcoming the band, photos, assisting with chairs

Invite the ukulele bank to play and have themed days for community groups

2.6 Walks and Fitness

Yoga lessons were being arranged for the park over the coming months

Grants might be available to expand the offer to include other activities like Thai Chi

Park run and Junior Park run takes place every weekend

Day time health walks led by the County Council could be expanded

2.7 Trees

There is an annual Tree charter day which can be celebrated

Tree leaflets can be introduced, or even a tree species app

2.8 Biodiversity

A biodiversity count is being commissioned, to establish the baseline of species and their habitats, this spring. The further work will be done to introduce plants to attract more wildlife and consideration will be given to their habitats (bug hotels, hedgehog houses, duck platforms).

For locals to participate in the RSPB bird count in January and for butterfly count in the summer.

To introduce more snowdrops with partnership work with the Snowdrop Festival and introduce more wild flower areas.

2.9 Other activities

Gardening club, workshops, sculpture trail

2.10 Involvement of others

Idverde, Woodland Trust, RSPC, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Whitstone Eco Club, Men's Shed, Horticultural Society

2.11 Communication

Despite many posters and social media posts, people stated they had not been aware of the meeting. So need to advertise in a different manner

2.12 Going Forward

Future meetings to be held in the library?

For people to communicate with other groups in town, or the group that they represent and ask what others are willing to do, or if others would like to be involved.

Need a more focused meeting to develop some strands into project areas

For the notes to be placed on the website and circulated and for a new meeting to be arranged.