



**Note of FOTH meeting Thursday 21 September 2006
7.15pm Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill**

Present: Susan (Chair), Rob, Gillian, Liz R, Maureen, Kit, Jenny, Helen & Richard, Phyll & Vernon Roger & Carol.

Apologies: Sally, Helen, Val, Pete Crawford, Caroline, Claire, Ben, Liz and Alan, Michelle & Ian (Wooforz).

1. Approve previous minutes

The minutes were approved.

2. Wooforz

Wooforz is the dog walking organization that was mentioned at a previous meeting. We were sorry to hear they could not be with us this evening because of a bereavement. We'll invite them for next time (Early November) **Action - Susan**

3. Nature in the City update

Sally's new funding is called **Nature in the City**. She will be dealing with Troopers Hill, Eastwood Farm, Northern Slopes, Narrowways Millennium Green, Badocks Woods, Manor Woods Valley. Sally will spend more time with Northern Slopes and less with us. There will be money for 5 events and 1 group activity (disadvantaged, aged etc) 1 school event per site. Possible leaflet funding. Environmental interpretation project. Nature in the City newsletter.

4. New CPM

Gary is back from his sabbatical. There has been a reshuffle in parks management and John Threadgold is taking this area. Gary is getting South Bristol.

5. Good news and bad – issues for the Parks Department

There are 2 red benches on the Field. Funding from Akzo Nobel (thanks Alan!) and free installation from Bristol Parks (thank you Caroline).

Rob showed the meeting an email from Caroline and his reply following the following issues:

The new wheelchair access path has been scraped off. The Parks Dept said they can't carry out extra work (getting it put back properly) before the next financial year. They have offered to liaise with YANSEC <http://www.yansec.org.uk> but we won't get the money from YANSEC until they finish the path. This is totally unacceptable to FOTH.

The quote for the lower chimney didn't include the scaffolding. FOTH would like the person who gave the quote to be held to it.

The quote for removing graffiti from the Chimney was £1183, which seems excessive. We think it could be done by two men in half a day, probably with a wire brush. Surely the Council has a standing contract with someone for this kind of work.

A smaller area than expected of hay has been cut near Greendown. FOTH has asked that the remaining area receive a herb cut.

The knotweed hasn't been treated this year. This means last year's money was wasted too as it has to be treated every year.

The missing rail in the wheelchair gate can also not be replaced until the next financial year. We think it should be done at the contractor's expense as they removed the bars to make it easier to operate

the padlocks and their actions have made the £2,800 gates seriously less effective. The police have fined the motorcyclist in question £30.

Caroline can arrange to have the milestone path blocked to motorcycle access in the next financial year.

Invoices for the wooden benches. Have not had invoices from the council so we can't get the money from YANSEC and can't get the next grant. The invoices should now arrive on Monday (25th September).

Bristol Parks have organised their Christmas party to clash with our AGM. We had booked the date a year in advance and thought we had Caroline's commitment to attend.

The meeting supported Rob's reply on these issues. We agreed to try to have a meeting with Bristol Parks before the AGM for a focused discussion. Possibly 15th November with John Threadgold. Just the committee will attend. **Action – Susan.**

We are one of 3 sites being put forward for a Green Flag award <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/> Along with the Downs and Blaise Castle (exalted company!)

The following were also discussed:

Entrance gates from Troopers Hill Road. We thought the entrances could be done in conjunction with traffic calming, as there is more traffic and will be more still with the advent of the Showcase bus route. **Action – Susan to write to Highways department.**

68 flats are to be built on the site of the old carpet factory on Crews Hill Road. There has also been an application to build 18 flats on the site of a property on Niblett's Hill. It was felt this would put even more strain on the local road infrastructure.

6 & 7. Feedback on incidents – Feedback on events

We skipped these items (except for bikes, litter, noise, which we came back to)

Evening activity on the Hill. There have been hordes of kids on the hill in the evening. The Dispersal Order for the Hanham Co-op may have caused it. Generally they have not caused significant damage, though concerns have been raised about the noise and isolated incidents at Greendown.

Rob advised that any incidents should be reported to the police. The more reports they have, the more likely they are to be able to get more resources for our area.

8. Kite event

Set up at 1:00

Event from 3:00 – 6:00 (with gloves for helpers at the kite demo)

Kit kites will be £2.00

Roger and Carol have kindly offered to help. Roger will be bringing a selection of different kites and will give a display. Carol will make kites from carrier bags. Roger and Carol will bring decorative things to stick to the plastic kites. We will need a PA (Kit to contact Jonathan Lane)

Kit will do a press release. **Action – Kit.**

9. Feedback

Family Funday raised £160. The winning balloon landed just north of Le Mans, France.

There will be 6 weeks consultation of the Green Spaces Strategy. Possibly Jan – Feb.

There's a Parks Forum Meeting on 23/09 at 9:30

Date of Next meeting:

Tuesday 7th November 7.15pm