

Friends of Towneley Park meeting . Thursday April 14th 2016. Friends meeting room 10 am – 12.30pm

Present: Pat Ashton: Maureen Frankland: Ann Mason: Keith Buchanan: Roger Leach: Grayson Holden: Ronnie Pollard: Pat Colbran: Margaret Crane: Richard Moss: Andy Buck: Steve Woods.

Apologies for Absence: Pete Ashton: Andrew Johnson: Susan Barker: Diane Flynn

Thanks to Roger for showing the DVD of the work being undertaken on the Little Lime Walk. Andy requested a copy.

1. Pat Ashton chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and checked everyone had signed the attendance sheet.
2. The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted.
Matters arising: a) Following discussion re litter bins, Andy was given £1000 to buy 2 litter bins. BBC will buy additional litter bins. Andy will check with Simon re stickers for the top of litter bins. All agreed on the need to encourage the public to use litter bins or take their litter home, but NOT drop litter. Litter bins to be placed near the hall, on the path around Higher Towneley playing fields, and at the Riverside car park.
 - b) the motor bike racks at Riverside car park have been cleaned and repaired by the BBC staff.
 - c) It is not planned to have curtains in the meeting room as they will get damp in the winter.
 - d) It was agreed that there will be no FOTP activity on May day. The Bric a Brac stall was held at Easter.
3. The **Treasurer's report** covered the last six months, in which our income had been £2239, of which £1546 had been raised through events and £200 donation from Councillor Margaret Brindle for the newsletter. Our expenditure had been £4809, but this included memorial benches which will be funded by donations and £1684 on the meeting room, and £1390 on contributions towards events, all of which are planned expenditures. Our balance is £14272.
Charity Checkout:- have been paid £119 to act as agents for our fund raising. The public can submit to them through our website or facebook and then they will forward the money to us (less a charge of 2.43%) and apply for Gift Aid where appropriate. HMRC will forward the Gift Aid (25%) directly to our Bank account.
Insurance:- the group authorised Maureen to pay £78.02 for Public Liability Insurance to Zurich Insurance Co. using the money supplied by BBC in 2015.
- 4 a) Andy apologised for previous absence, due to pressure of work. He reported that over the summer there will be Steve and Rob, 1 temp, 1 or 2 apprentices working at Towneley.
b) BBC are changing some machinery, replacing 1 larger older vehicle with 2 smaller more efficient vehicles for mowing etc. There are picnic benches which will urgently be removed from Barwise by Steve. FOTP offered to buy two more benches to be ordered in the near future, and FOTP to be informed when they arrive so that an FOTP working party can help to install them.
c) The Rounders competition had now been relocated to the Prairie; there will only be rounders practise in Towneley, 4 pitches on the triangle. There has been a request for Cricket, but no follow up once charges were identified. These both would have required a lot of additional work for the gardeners.
d) At present there are no plans to charge for the Park Run. There is already an income from the 250 people on the Park run as they pay for parking. Our route has been changed recently, but is well established and doesn't need setting up for the 5k run.
e) There is now a full summer programme in the Park, including a new "Walk a Mile in Carers shoes" in aid of carers link on June 11th possibly including the BBC TV broadcasters. **Andy to e mail details to Maureen.** Also "Drop the Beat" will be a 3 day event on August 12th and 13th (12noon – 11pm) and August 14th (12noon – 8pm). It will focus more on music than dancing and will highlight live bands and local talent. Funds raised will support future events and some will be given to charities e.g. FOTP. There will be a replacement for the Race for Life on September 18th , men & women, in aid of cancer locally.
f) Some residents have complained re events, but these have now been resolved.
g) Keith Wilson has now finished all work in Towneley, but his Wednesday volunteer group once a month continues under Steve's direction. Steve will co-ordinate the Balsam picking with this group.
h) There has been some vandalism on the flashing on the roof of the Stables Café and the deer in the Italian Garden have been badly broken.
5. **Area reviews – FULLEDGE** – Serious issue of **exposed metal netting**. SEVERE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE. Andy & Ronnie had both expressed concern when it was first installed but now several people have tripped and fallen seriously. URGENT ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN – even though this will be expensive as it all needs to be replaced . LCC installed this but it is very dangerous.
The **fencing along the road side**, buckled by a fallen tree, is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. THIS NEEDS REPAIR as it is near the river and poses a HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK.

The **cobbles** on the road crossing are coming loose and are breaking up the tarmac around them. Steve has reported this to Mohammed at BBC but it is LCC's responsibility. This is posing a HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK. All cars entering the school and park by this route travel over these cobbles and children & adults use the crossing. **Andy will pass on these concerns to LCC.** There is a litter picker, David, who regularly litter picks on the Fulfilled and Big Billy area. The Tree team have also done some good work along the river side. The Council's sweeper has worked in this area.

RIVERSIDE –

- a) Some of the square wooden posts around the Rotunda need replacing. The task is not difficult, but the tanalised posts are made to size and will be expensive. FOTP may be able to help to fund this if we know the cost.
- b) The Cargo net has had to be removed from the children's playground because the ropes were fraying. This could cost £7000 - £8000. BBC are seeking ways to try and fund this. FOTP suggest Awards for All or Habassa.
- c) The display case for Towneley News etc inside the rotunda needs replacing.

BARWISE - Several picnic tables need to be removed and replaced.

SMALLHOLDINGS AND DEER PARK – There are ducks with chicks already on the pond. These can cause problems in the park. Steve and team have replaced 30 bollards up deer Park Road. The area around the entrance to the 9 hole Golf course has been cleared of shrubs. The area has been treated with herbicide and will eventually be covered with rotted wood chip and planted with wild flower seeds.

HIGHER TOWNELEY PLAYING FIELDS – New memorial bench looks good, but at least one other is needed on the new tracks and a litter bin would be useful. The area is generally good. Bonfire/Borage area is terribly wet and needs draining, but there are problems because of the potential for Bonfire pollution in the river. Borage may re-grow there after reseeding after last year's Bonfire.

THANET LEE – There are some very muddy areas that again need filling. The Tunnel does not seem to drain and becomes a standing puddle.

CAUSEWAY END – there are 5 benches at the Bowling Green and one of these needs removing and repairing. Steve to look into this.

TRIANGLE - The daffodils look amazing. Ken Darwen commented on facebook "Maureen and the Friends, the planting is a credit to you and all your hard work. Colour everywhere. Well done and keep up the good work."

Thanks to Margaret who has made a plan of all the "daffodil gaps" so we know where to plant later in the year.

Some members are still concerned that the road at the end of the triangle needs to be marked to give preference.

Many car drivers are uncertain who has right of way. IS THIS A HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE?

LITTLE LIME WALK – Steve is now in charge of the project. He will add logs, hedge trimmer and cut back brambles etc, cut down the Laurel at the far end, and Rob will spray the nettles before next week. FOTP ask Offshoots volunteers and BBC to get involved, The FOTP cannot do the work on own. Without other involvement we will not complete the work.

6. Feedback: Bird Feeding – All completed successfully including public's use of fat balls. 2x£5 donations received. Dustbin of fat balls donated by Original Factory Shop have been used by the public on the bird table.

Comments Box – very few comments received. Pat C to check in future. Maureen to forward details to Pat.

Scooters – John to be asked to check and clean. Maureen to check paper work and donations.

Easter – Success despite the weather. New route a success and good to use in future. Big thanks to Pat and Pete for all their planning. Good family atmosphere, makes the event very special for all. Ann Starkie to be thanked for the chicks. Knitted, sewn, felt and wooden toys seem to be popular with the children. Good to use these in future. Some new pictures will be needed next year as the wet pictures were spoilt. Ken to be asked to laminate the pictures next year.

Newsletter – Everyone asked to distribute them. Spare copies in Meeting room. Noted that white print on green is difficult to read and should be avoided in future. FOTP events are not bold enough. Front picture does not show it is at Towneley, but it does show that Towneley is a place for children to enjoy. Thanks to Margaret and Maureen for completing Newsletter in Pat A's absence.

7. Living Legacy: a) Meeting room – Thanks to all who have worked on the room, it is now looking brilliant. An excellent team effort. Thanks to Ken Darwen for fridge, microwave and radio. **Tasks remaining- Keith** will varnish dado rail by the window and touch up the doors. **Pete** will repaint the noticeboard outside. **Pat A** will buy a small wall clock. **Ronnie** to weigh up carpet cleaning task and ask for help. **Andrew** will remove iron bars and make new cupboard under sink. **Pauline** may provide a new kitchen cupboard when her kitchen is replaced. **Margaret** will check re auction for chairs or others may take them if required. **Maureen** will replace with chairs from boiler room and search out silk wall hanging from the hall. **Towneley crafters** will work to complete cushions. ICE details of contacts for emergencies are within the cupboard door above the kettle, as is a First Aid box.

We have no requests for others to use the room at present, but Simon has said we may charge for use of the room should this arise. A donations box will remain on the worktop for anyone who wants to contribute to drinks etc., but as most of us are “volunteer workers” we would not be expected to contribute. Those who purchase milk biscuits etc for the group can reclaim expenses from the FOTP funds if they wish. If needed, Maureen will make a rota of people to clean the Meeting Room once a month.

b) Calder wildflower garden – this may be delayed. The use of wildflowers, and how, when and where they are planted needs to be explored.

c) Three memorial benches have been purchased. Two have been installed. One has been ordered. Maureen is negotiating with donors re plaques etc.

d) Litter provision – see 2. Minutes of the last meeting.

e) Barwise play area – see 4b. Other plans need further investigation probably during winter 2016/17

8. Maureen to check with Graphics re the cost of a re-print of 500 of **The Changing Landscape**. Discuss at the next meeting.

VIP scheme – Spring tasks circulated to try and get the public more involved in helping in the Park. Maureen has displayed in the foyer, and will try to display at Rotunda. As volunteers FOTP have contributed approximately £73,000 to the park since 2007. In 2016 we have contributed 350 hours of work to the park in the first three months of the year.

May Day – the FOTP will **not** be involved as a group in the activities in the Park on that day.

Clearing the Italian garden etc. – see the chart below.

Brass band afternoon Sunday June 12th with Stacksteads Band– After the meeting Andy has asked for a donation of £200 for the event. This is our normal contribution so Maureen has agreed to pay. Cakes and volunteers required. See chart below.

Heritage and Woodland Day – We want to use the Servants dining room and the Housekeepers room again. We will be the sole providers of drinks, cakes and biscuits on the day. Our aim is to make enough cakes to make a profit, but to sell all that we make, even if we run out. We want to do Car Parking on the field and charge £1 per car. We do not/ will not get involved in raffle tickets and the programmes.

9. Regular activities **Gardening Club** – to continue as usual on first Thursday of the month. Pete to find out about display plaques to show that we have worked on specific flower beds. “The Friends of Towneley Park have worked on this area of the Park.”

Little Lime Walk – display signs now tell people about the project. Working party will continue on third Thursdays. Roger’s DVD is a good example of the FOTP and VIP’s at work. We may also work on the vandalised deer.

Mosaic workshops continuing on alternate Mondays. No meeting on the Bank Holiday. Large mosaic making steady progress.

10. Any other business:

a) Some members are still concerned about the road at the end of the triangle so that a right of way is made more obvious, especially as a line had been painted on the road at the garden centre. There is general concern about the speed of traffic through the Park. Is there anything that can be done.

b) Pat and Pete to adapt resources they have and provide a Scavenger hunt/Family Fun walk to be used over the summer holidays. To be collected from the hall shop at a charge of £1 per sheet.

c) Pete has noted that several black benches need painting - perhaps these can be added to the volunteer tasks for the Park.

d) After the AGM would the FOTP like a meal at a) Stables b) in the Meeting Room with a hot meal provided c) The Worsthorne café. To think about and discuss at the next meeting.

e) CVS Volunteer event on June 2nd, 3rd or 4th – in town centre. If anyone is available and willing to set up the noticeboard and give out leaflets etc. please let Maureen know. Maureen not available.

f) The display leaflet holder at the rotunda is broken and needs to be replaced.

g) Can the tunnel behind the park be cleared of leaves, mud etc. and the drain checked so that water does not collect there?

REGULAR ACTIVITIES – All welcome

Mosaic Workshops- Alternate Mondays 1.30pm- 3.30pm continuing Monday next April 18th

Gardening Club-1st Thursday of each month – 10am -12noon

Little Lime Walk working group – 3rd Thursday of each month 10am – 12noon

PLEASE LET MAUREEN KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP AT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS . THANKS

1) Removing plants from the Italian garden – provisionally w/c May 23rd

Keith: Margaret: Ronnie: Pete: Maureen: Andrew: Pat Colbran

2) Organising Plant sale stall -Refilling stall to sell plants / collecting money at end of day/ tidying the table – provisionally w/c/ May 23rd

Day	Person
Monday 23 rd	Pat and Pete
Tuesday 24 th	Anne Mason
Wednesday 25 th	Keith
Thursday 26 th	Pat C.
Friday 27 th	
Saturday 28 th	
Sunday 29 th	

3) Replanting plants in the Italian Garden – provisionally June 6th-10th dependent on weather

Margaret: Ronnie ? : Pete: Maureen: Andrew

4) SUNDAY JUNE 12th Stacksteads Brass Band in the Park- 1pm prepare. Band 2pm -4pm

All hands on deck if possible – Cakes/ scones etc welcome. Do not cut Cakes. We will cut and price on the day

Margaret: Ronnie: Pat C: Pat and Pete: Maureen: