



The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground

Meeting: AGM, 1st December 2022
Venue: Azelia Hall, Beckenham

AGM Apologies

Cllr Christine Harris (Kelsey and Eden Park Ward)
John Backway
Wendy and Lisa Faulkner
Roberta Welham
Amy Rogers (idverde)
Brian Blandford

AGM Attendees

Cllr Mike Tickner (Kelsey and Eden Park Ward)
Penny Read (idverde Community Manager)
Chris Phillips
Sarah Phillips
Terry Guntrip
Martin Hewitt
Barbara Anderson
Greg Ferris
Dave Cook
Mr Coles

1.0 Minutes of the AGM 30.11.2021

1.1 It was agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the previous AGM.
Prop: Sarah Phillips; Sec: Terry Guntrip

1.2 Matters arising: nil.

2.0 Reports from the officers

2.1 Chairman's report

The Chairman thanked the officers and committee members for their continuing support to the Friends over the last year.

Key points as follows:

2.1.1 New Friends signboard

The Friends purchased a new sign board which is now located near the park café, which promotes the work of the Friends and major events in the park. The signboard is sturdy, painted a pleasant shade of green and includes the logo of the Friends.

2.1.2 Jubilee Parks Fund

Following a committee meeting in September, the chairman assisted by the committee made an application to Bromley Council's fund for improved signage for the Recreation Ground which we believe will improve accessibility and identify the multiple recreational facilities on offer, and attract new visitors and maximise usage for all. The colour and branding of the signage could match the new Friends signboard. The proposal which is in competition with applications from other Parks is currently under consideration by Bromley Council. Over one hundred signatures of local residents were obtained in support of the application.

2.1.3 Park toilets

The Friends are increasingly concerned about the state of the park's toilets, following several recent complaints from the public. The toilets are dilapidated and at the end of their life.

The toilets have deteriorated recently and have experienced vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The state of the toilets has led to the ward Councillor escalating the situation with the Portfolio Holder for parks at Bromley Council.

Much effort has been spent trying to repair the damage. A long-term solution would possibly involve a new café building with integral toilets, managed as a franchise.

The chairman suggested that perhaps the time had come to demolish the toilets and erect a vandal resistant structure on the concrete base, or perhaps alter the WC by the playground.

Penny Read said that she had raised the issue with the Portfolio Holder. idverde ground staff are contracted by Bromley Council to clean and re-stock the toilets every morning when the toilets are unlocked; the Service level Agreement is once a day. But the task is clearly an uphill struggle. She said the toilets had been deep cleaned.

The chairman said that the Friends should campaign next year for replacement facilities. The toilets should at least be locked each night. The toilets will be needed for events centred on the refurbished bandstand. Perhaps CCTV should be installed as a deterrent.

2.1.4 Paddling pool

The chairman said that the paddling pool had been as popular as ever when open during the summer. Penny Read said that Bromley Council was looking to prepare a feasibility study to repair or replace the pool.

2.1.5 The bandstand restoration

The chairman had been part of a working group with Bromley Council officers and the selected architects (Purcell) to develop proposals for tender. David Braybrook, the Council's Strategic Commissioning Officer for Carbon Management and Green Space submitted a report to the AGM as follows:

We regret to report that in spite of indications of interest from multiple contractors including some visiting the Recreation Ground on an open day, we did not receive any tender submissions. We have since undertaken some further market research to ascertain the reasons for this and made some tweaks to our process and have gone back out to Tender. We now believe that we will work to the following timetable, which should allow works to finish before any Bowies Beckenham Oddity event that might be planned for August 2023.

Documents made available from	4 th November 2022
Closing date for clarification questions	9 th December 2022
Closing date for Return of Tenders	16 th December 2022
Evaluation of submitted tenders	27 th January 2023
Anticipated date to advise tenderers	27 th January 2023
Anticipated Standstill Period	10 th February 2023 (End)
Anticipated Award date	13 th February 2023
Contract Commencement Date	March 2023
Contract Completion Date	14 th July 2023

We are pleased to announce that the proposals for restoration were granted Planning approval and Listed building consent at the Council's Plans Sub-Committee No. 4 on the 24th November 2022. The Council has put together a news release and Twitter posts to celebrate this milestone, which the Friends have been invited to further share.

Cllr Tickner commented that perhaps the very lengthy 200-page specification document had put off potential tenderers

2.1.6 Smaller bandstand/gazebo

A commitment had been made by the organisers of the Soul Town event to contribute towards the refurbishment, but no proposals had been received to date. The Chairman will try to contact Lucy Bateman to check on progress.

2.1.7 Recreational activities

The park is in constant use for recreation from dog walking to football, tennis and bowls and other sports, in keeping with its name and original purpose. The football pavilion remains disused, and it is to be hoped that a football club such as Seymour Villas could take over the care and management of the premises.

The Bowls club are always keen to find new members: contact Greg Ferris on 079 2131 0207

2.1.8 Musical and other events

Despite the continuing effects of the pandemic and the poor state of the bandstand, several events were successfully held in 2022, including:

19th June 2022: the Beckenham Concert Band played at the bandstand. The large size of the band demonstrated how having an area outside of the bandstand suitable for overspill of musicians was very necessary

13th August 2022 the Oddity Festival. This was very well organised and well-attended event which continues to raise money for the bandstand. The Friends had a stall at this event at which we handed out information about the bandstand refurbishment.

3rd September 2022 Soul Town Festival. This is proving to be better managed than before, with less anti-social activity, partly due to representations from the Friends. The organisers have pledged to restore the small gazebo near the bandstand. The Bowls Club said they had felt almost cut off by the layout of the festival, and this needs to be addressed in any future events.

5th November: fireworks: The Friends had assisted the Scouts.

2.1.9 Conclusion

The Recreation Ground continues to be vital to the surrounding community for recreational and leisure activities. Its central location makes it a hub between the town centre, the Beckenham Beacon and the surrounding residential areas. It is to be hoped that the repair of the bandstand will restore pride in its heritage at the centre of this thriving community.

2.2 Treasurer's Report

The Acting Treasurer presented the attached accounts for the year to 30th September 2022. The accounts were audited by Terry Guntrip. A vote to approve the accounts was proposed by Chris Phillips and seconded by Dave Cook and the accounts were unanimously approved.

The Acting Treasurer explained that the accounts were split 3 ways into the main Friends account with two supplementary accounts for the bandstand and paddling pool projects.

2.3 Membership Secretary

John Backway had submitted the following report in advance of the meeting:

2.3.1 Summary

2.3.1.1 Membership of the Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground (FoCRRG) currently stands at 54.

2.3.1.2 Nine new members were recruited during the year, but seven members cancelled their membership, making a net increase of two compared to 2021.

2.3.1.3 Income from membership fees totalled £265 during the year, including some one-off donations. This is up from £210 in 2021.

2.3.1.4 PayPal remains by far the most popular method of payment for membership, with 87% of members choosing to use a recurring PayPal subscription for FoCRRG membership. The remaining 13% is a mixture of cash and cheque.

2.3.2 Activities during 2022 / plans for 2023

2.3.2.1 *Membership recruitment and fundraising took place at the following events:*

- *19th June: Beckenham Concert Band*
- *13th August: Bowie Fest*

2.3.2.2 *In addition to our cash collection bucket, we have also procured a SumUp card payment device which allows us to take debit/credit card payments and deposit funds directly into the FoCRRG bank account.*

2.3.2.3 *A new FoCRRG noticeboard was installed in the park on 24th November, funded by the FoCRRG with installation by idVerde. The FoCRRG is grateful to idVerde for installing the noticeboard on our behalf.*

2.3.2.4 *The noticeboard will be used to publicise the restoration of the bandstand, encourage more local residents to join FoCRRG, generate support for new campaigns and showcase events in the park.*

2.3.2.5 *An updated membership flyer has been produced which will be displayed in the new noticeboard. Printed copies of the flyer will be made once current stock is exhausted, in anticipation of future events and opportunities to distribute to potential new members.*

2.3.2.6 *In 2023 we will plan to support the completion of the bandstand restoration by participating in reopening events and continuing to publicise the FoCRRG. Once the bandstand has reopened, our focus will then shift from the bandstand to other areas of interest to the membership and local community, such as the toilet and paddling pool refurbishment campaigns.*

2.4 Webmaster Report

The website has been updated with information about the Recreation Ground facilities and with news such as the listing of buildings in the park and the bandstand restoration programme and contains a link to the latest newsletter with a joining application form. As news comes in it is added to the website. There are 2 or 3 newsletters issued each year.

2.5 Events Coordinator

It was reported that a likely event in 2023 is based on taste of the Caribbean.

It was suggested that the Crystal Palace Progress Band were contacted to perform at an event in the summer.

3.0 Election of officers

A request was made for any offers or nominations from the floor for any of the substantive posts on the committee. None were voiced, so voting proceeded thus:

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Chair	Chris Phillips	Cllr Mike Tickner	Terry Guntrip	Unanimous
Acting Treasurer	Sarah Phillips	Chris Phillips	Cllr Mike Tickner	Unanimous
Membership secretary	John Backway	Chris Phillips	Cllr Mike Tickner	Unanimous
Webmaster	Terry Guntrip	Chris Phillips	Cllr Mike Tickner	Unanimous
Events co-ordinators	Wendy Faulkner Brian Blandford	Chris Phillips	Cllr Mike Tickner	Unanimous
Committee Members	Cllr Harris Lisa-Marie Faulkner-Brent	Chris Phillips	Cllr Mike Tickner	Unanimous
Independent examiner	Terry Guntrip	Chris Phillips	Greg Ferris	Unanimous

8.0 Any other business

Next committee meeting to be arranged in January.

The chairman and acting treasurer said that they will be standing down in these roles at next year's AGM, but will continue to support the Friends.

Penny Read said that all new replacement litter bins were now of the covered-top type.