**Bath Grounds Advisory Group**

**Meeting Notes – 3rd November 2021**

**Bath Grounds Cricket Club, Ashby de la Zouch**

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| **Attendees** | **Area of interest/ attraction** |
| Mike Ball (MB) | Town Councillor (Chair) |
| Mel Mitchell (MM) | Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chair) |
| Mark Arjoo (MA) | Leicestershire Police |
| Vince Mott (VM) | Friends of Bath Grounds |
| Will Hawkins (WH) | Ashby Bowls Club |
| Delyth Perry (DP) | Litter Picking Group |
| Cat Ridgway (CR) | Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC |
| **Absentees** |  |
| Tom Yates (TY) | Ashby Hastings Cricket Club |

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| Agenda Item | Comments | Action by |
| 1. **Apologies & Housekeeping**
 | MM welcomed all attendees. Tom Yates was absent from the meeting – hopefully Tom, or another member of the cricket club, will be able to join the next meeting.  |  |
| 1. **Minutes**
 | MB asked if anyone had any issues regarding the previous meeting’s minutes, none were raised. |  |
| 1. **Operational Matters**
 | Eden Tree had been booked to grind down the remaining tree stumps – this should be happening today (3/11/2). The broken bollard by the cricket ground had been replaced. The Japanese knotweed has been treated last month. The interpretation board near Maggie’s bench is at the depot as it has been vandalised – there is graffiti all over the front and the actual board has been wrenched off the stand so needs to be welded back onto the stand. Councillor Bigby has a spare Perspex cover which can be used once the board had been rewelded. VM will speak to his contact to hopefully sort this and will liaise with the Town Council/MM. VM explained that there were other actions, such as the cleaning of the bird boxes, that the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds (FOABG) usually carry out but the group is currently struggling due to the resignation of committee members and key volunteers. The FOABG are trying to replace committee members. There is an AGM coming up on 24/11/21 and VM will update MM of the outcome. | VM/MM |
| 1. **Agree which ideas for potential improvement/innovation to pursue:**
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| a) | Clearing vegetation from far side of cricket pitch including vegetation on Network Rail side of fence – MA/MB/MM to revisit during evening to investigate effect of the foliage on light. | MA/MB/MM |
| b) | Creation of a footpath on far side of cricket pitch thus creating a complete footpath around the perimeter of the grounds – Cost to be investigated by MM. VM will supply MM with details of costs, contacts etc from Heritage Path project. | VM/MM |
| c) | Large bush to be removed on the way up to the wild flower walk – MA mentioned bush is being used due to a lack of toilets on grounds. MM will liaise with groundstaff to action though may look at cutting bush back rather than removing altogether. | MM |
| d) | Installation of lighting around top of the park near the bowls club – MM will investigate this further (costing, quantity of lights needed, best location and where the power would be drawn from). | MM |
| e) | CCTV for the whole park – will be placed on hold for time being as likely to be expensive and also need to see outcome of installation of additional lights as above. | Hold |
| f) | Dedicated groundsman – MM will investigate this idea further with Town Clerk. Would need to consider workload, seasonal activities (including busier months/seasons) and possibility of the role also looking after other parks within Ashby. | MM |
| g) | Potential re-housing of fish mosaic – From preliminary discussions could be incorporated into a welcome sign, similar to the one at the South Street entrance. Need a volunteer from the group to explore this further – to be revisited at a future meeting. | TBA |
| **Green flag retention** | MB explained that there are various actions that the group will need to carry out in order to retain the green flag. These will be shared out at the next meeting and include:1. Development of health and safety policy (incl risk assessment)
2. Development of site-specific website
3. Environment & biodiversity policy
4. Comprehensive visitor survey – perhaps being posted on Council website to reach wider audience for feedback
5. Forward work programme

It would be helpful if members of the group can look at these actions and have a think about which ones they would like to get involved with.  | All |
| **Green flag update:** |  |
| 1. Flag pole –
 | MM stated that flag pole will be raised in the next few weeks by a contractor at the previously agreed position. |  |
| 1. Signage – agree positions
 | MM presented the signage received from the Green Flag awarding body. It was agreed that the three signs will be placed at the South Street entrance, Prior Park entrance and the entrance by the cricket club. MM will liaise with the Head Groundsman to sort. MB wanted to ensure that the retention of the green flag is publicised. MB to liaise with the Town Clerk re. publicity | MM/MB |
| **AOB** | VM mentioned groundsman using larger vehicles over the grounds, MM explained that the larger vehicles are only used when necessary i.e. if one of the vehicles is out of service. DP mentioned green bin needs emptying, MM will ensure district council is contacted. MB informed everyone that the Remembrance service would take place on Bath Grounds on 14/11/21 due to COVID restrictions.  | MM |
| **Close and date of next meeting** | The next meeting is Wednesday 26th January at 10:30am at Legion House. | All |