

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION MEETING

Held Tuesday 13th September at 5.30pm in Totnes Fire Station

Present: Jim Carfrae, Sue Holmes, David Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Robert Vint, Roma Church, Liz Warnes, Stephanie Parker, Catherine Munro, Ed Vidler, Wendy Reid, Alex Wish, Jill Tomalin

1. APOLOGIES

Lorette Logie

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th August were adopted (misspelling of Peter Randall Page in item 13 corrected).

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. Alex reminded us that any bagged rubbish left outside the gate will be removed by SHDC Operations Team when the collect from Heath Way.

10. The issue of edible plants will not be pursued (because of history at the Lamb Garden etc)

5. Maintenance – Alex reported that the garden is now properly on the SHDC system (e.g. grass cutting, which will be done 30 times pa rather than 16). Sylvanus are working in accordance with Charlotte's plan and SHDC policy. He warned that deep cuts in the SHDC budget are likely to mean reductions in some areas in future. Roma said that a volunteer wanted to take responsibility for the wild flower bank (west boundary) and the bank by the herb garden – **Roma to email Alex** to confirm exactly what she would do.

Dave mentioned that Jeannette and Roma wanted a new "Gardening" section on the website to cover such matters. **Dave to implement (done)**.

8. Licence – delays means some 'LGA' responsibilities should still be done by SHDC signage – Alex reported there was (slow) progress on producing 'fingerboards' to point the way to the garden.

11. Jim has arranged that the Bay Horse Inn will host a Quiz Night in aid of the LGA on Monday 10th October (8pm). **Dave** agreed to publicise on the website (**done**) and produce a notice for the notice board. He also said that Matt Harvey has agreed to officiate at the October unveiling.

4. REPORTS

Pool Project. Jill (JT) said that progress on archaeology restricted until on/after 1st November draining of pool (newts). Although there were no funds available to pay Charlotte, she has agreed to look over the design (to be produced by Alex). Janet asked if there was any progress on the bid for the £5.4k 'Midas' money. Alex said that Ross was 'minded' to divide it in tow between our bid (for the Peter Randall-Page 'spout', and Anne Ward's 'Rotherfold' bid. The committee felt strongly that such a compromise was the worst possible outcome, since neither bid would find it easy to go ahead with only half the money. It was agreed that Ed should write to Ross objecting to his proposal. The Pool Group will be meeting with Alex on 15th September to brief him on the community's views (as expressed at the June Design Event).

Herb Garden. Wendy confirmed that the planned maintenance of the Herb Garden will be delayed so that it still looks good for the Public Art unveiling in October. Alex said that work on an A3 permanent sign (a 'map' of the planting) was underway. Janet proposed that the LGA Committee should formally write to Jeannette with our official thanks. **Jim** to draft a letter.

Advisory Committee. Dave had conducted a survey of visitor numbers (as requested at the last meeting):

At times more than 20 people in the garden, but typically 4-6

Afternoons more popular than mornings or evenings

Majority of visitors are parents with young children. Older adults do visit on their own, but unaccompanied children are rare. Teenagers are noticeable by their absence.

The seating is very popular – perhaps more is needed.

Children play lots of noisy, but clearly very enjoyable, games in the garden.

Dave noted that we didn't have a good idea of what visitors would like to see added, removed or changed – perhaps some sort of suggestions box was needed? **Dave** to put up a notice outside the garden asking for suggestions to be emailed to the committee.

5. SHED UPDATE

Alex said the shed had been ordered from Toby Sheds and would be delivered (to SHDC) on 22/9. Concern was expressed that the shed might be the traditional Toby 'orange' colour – whereas it had been planned to be an unobtrusive dark green. **Alex** to ensure it is not garish. The construction of the base has still to be arranged.

6. SCULPTURE/ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Jim and Alex, with an SHDC engineer, had visited Rosie and a timetable agreed:

28/9 holes to be dug (position agreed with Jim and Janet)

10/10 SHDC will collect pieces from Rosie

11/10 work will be installed in the garden (5 days to settle in)

16/10 opening event

The event will last from 2-4 with the unveiling (hosted by Matt Harvey) at 3pm. There was discussion of various items – food, drinks, a raffle, things for children to do.

Steph/Liz/Roma to contact Hilary Priest (head of the Grove) to discuss use of the giant figures and involvement of the children.

It was agreed that **Jim should officially invite** the Mayor (Judy Westacott).

Liz said that Totnes Radio might be able to supply a PA system.

7. GARDEN RESPONSIBILITIES

Wendy said the paths need treating to remove weeds (glycosate).

8. DAISY TRAIL

postponed until next meeting. Sue reminded us of the Walking and Activities Festival – 23rd - 26th September – the Totnes Garden Trail is part of this.

9. FUTURE FUNDING

Apart from the Quiz Night and a Raffle at the Unveiling this is still problematic. To be discussed at the next meeting.

10. AOB

Wendy said that Susan Taylor (whose 'wildlife in the garden' photos are now on the website) would like to officially work in the garden. **Wendy** agreed to ask her if she would like to attend the next meeting to discuss this.

11. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be at 5.30 on Tuesday 11th October at the Fire Station.