

CLIFTON PARK RESTORATION PROJECT BOARD
Friday, 10th December, 2010

Present:- Councillor St. John (in the Chair) and The Mayor (Councillor McNeely).

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Ali, Dodson, Falvey, Lakin, Walker and Wootton.

Also in attendance:- Elaine Humphreys, Chair of the Friends Group

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September, 2010, were agreed as a correct record.

6. PROGRESS TOUR

Prior to the start of the meeting, Board Members toured the Garden Building and Walled Garden to inspect progress towards their completion.

7. PROJECT UPDATE

David Burton, Consultant Project Manager, and Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, reported on the progress made to date in relation to the park restoration project.

In terms of UCS it was noted that, following advice received from Legal Services and the external contract dispute specialist, it had been decided that no further discussion should take place with the Administrator. The Administrator has been advised that the Council are not willing to make any offers in relation to settling the dispute. Financial Services, in separate correspondence, have been advised by the Administrator that no monies would be available at the end of the liquidation to settle any outstanding invoices. It, therefore, remained a possibility that the Administrator would seek to recover money from the Council via the Adjudication process set out in the Contract. The project team and advisors have been put on notice that this may happen at short notice and all initial preparatory work has been undertaken to respond effectively.

Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, reported that the contractor had indicated that an amount equivalent to the retention sum should be released as part of the settlement, but that this was rejected.

David Burton, Consultant Project Manager, elaborated further on the site security and the patrols which were now only continuing around the Activity Building each evening and the insurance of the site works.

Further information was also provided on the works to complete the Garden Building and the Walled Garden, the mosaic, which had now been installed and the works that were still outstanding. A press statement had also been issued prior to the start of Hurst's contract containing details of the projected timescale for completion of the Garden House.

It was also noted that a meeting was held with the Heritage Lottery Fund Monitor on 15th October, 2010. This included a visit to the Garden House, where the Monitor expressed satisfaction with the works to complete the building. Subsequent to that meeting the Heritage Lottery Fund Monitor confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Fund had agreed to release all of the remaining contingency, as previously requested.

Further information was also provided on the project costs and the sources of funding.

Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager, reported on work on the preparation of an interpretive leaflet and other marketing information for use in the New Year. This was being done in conjunction with the Museum where appropriate. The interpretive monoliths have also now been delivered and installed and the Welcome signs would be ordered when the design had been confirmed. Progress had also been made in confirming locations for new finger posts around the park.

The gardening team have also been supplemented by a further operative who had been transferred from the Countryside Team because of health reasons. The Park Manager was progressing towards completion of the revised draft of the park's ten year management and maintenance plan. This was needed as part of the proposed application for Green Flag award in 2011, as well as being a requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The park management team continued to engage with the Police and SNT to share intelligence about crime and anti-social behaviour and had agreed joint strategies to deal with it.

As reported at the previous Board meeting, the development of improved Adventure Golf facilities by Wheatleys had necessitated the removal of a number of trees that were assessed as having limited prospects and unsuitable for such a location. This work had now started.

Phil Gill reported that the Victoria Cross memorial was completed shortly before Remembrance Day. It was proposed that a formal ceremony was to be held in 2011 to mark the installation of the memorial. Efforts were being made to contact relatives of the three recipients of the Victoria Cross commemorated by the memorial. Further information would attempt to be sought from other sources.

The Green Spaces Manager has contacted the office of the Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire to enquire about the possibility of a member of the Royal Family attending a formal park opening ceremony. No date has been fixed for this, although May, 2011 had been suggested, but this would be followed through to see if a firm date could be fixed.

A discussion and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified:-

- Employment of apprentices to supplement the grounds maintenance team.
- Use of grounds maintenance staff to clear pathways during inclement

weather.

- Close liaison with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to prevent and deal with any anti-social behaviour in the park.
- The French Garden and the promotion of links with St. Quentin.

It was agreed:- That progress to date be noted and any further developments be brought to the attention of the Project Board.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed:- That a further meeting of the Project Board take place in late March, 2011.