



*Mina  
Road  
Park  
Group*

## MINA ROAD PARK GROUP

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
Parkway Methodist Church

- Present:** Hugh Holden, Roland Bruce, Jerome Edwards, Iris Bolster, Ann Devereaux, Mary Montgomery, Suzanna van Moyland.
- Apologies:** Ivy Bolt, Liz Osborn, John Stone.

### **Mina Road Park**

The new replacement wildlife board by the stream was tagged. MRPG noted that Adrian Murdock of the Landscape Group went straight out and cleaned it off the board, though unfortunately the new wood is stained. Hugh emailed to thank English Landscape for doing this and the James Street hedge (see below). The weather's been too damp for Hugh and Roland to oil the other wildlife board.

There's been a clean-up in the Brooks site, including of the buddleia and border area, which is good news as it affects neighbouring Mina Road Park.

Opening the new noticeboard requires a different tool and it's been difficult for anyone to use. (So the two noticeboards in the same park now use different tools, as the other one uses an allen key). When the noticeboards were installed/moved, nothing was supplied. These noticeboards must be accessible for community use, and so that people stop putting untidy notices on the railing.

- ◆ Hugh will contact Parks about this.

### **St Werburghs Park**

After the last meeting Liz said that there was still rubbish in the undergrowth behind the houses, which she reported to the council.

### **Other Green Spaces**

English Landscape trimmed the shrub growth by the bus stop in York Street and did it very well.

MRPG supports The Lynmouth Road Allotment Group, which is at risk following Scout Enterprises going into administration. For further information go to: <http://www.lynmouthrdallotments.org>

### **Any Other Business**

MRPG agrees that the new parks and green spaces monitoring form, developed by BCC and the Bristol Park Forum, is much better, and will use it along with additional notes. The form isn't for specific problems (which should still be reported directly to BCC Parks: 0117 922 3719 or [bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk)), but helps with monitoring of long-term contract performance.

Parks and green spaces maintenance budgets will be cut this coming financial year. This is the first real budget cut in years. Bristol Park Forum (BPF) was consulted on where the cuts can be found and BPF focussed on maintaining the important basics, such as grass cutting, litter bins, keeping things tidy and play features safe.

MRPG recommends, as fundamentals are being re-evaluated at BCC Parks, that the terrible design of the standard issue park benches be changed. The current standard design of wooden slats break all the time and the wood needs a lot of treating, plus they are very uncomfortable and don't keep clean. The metal designs (such as in St Werburghs and Ashley Street Parks) are comfortable and maintenance-free.

- ◆ Hugh to pass on this recommendation about changing the park bench standard issue design.

Suzanna noted that the idea of planters often comes up in street design discussions. MRPG holds that planters are a mistake, as they aren't environmentally friendly, and are difficult and expensive to maintain, therefore usually ending up full of rubbish and dead plants. Planting, especially in these times of tight budgets, should be in the ground and of robust well-chosen shrubs and trees that will prosper naturally with minimal maintenance.

- ◆ Hugh will write up a more detailed explanation about the horticultural problems of planters.

Jackson Moulding of the Ashton Vale Action Group was on BBC Radio 4's 'Costing the Earth' last week.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 7.30pm, Parkway Methodist Church.

(We usually meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Parkway Methodist Church, Conduit Place — and welcome anyone who wants to become involved, either for one-off issues and events, or the longer-term.)