



*Mina  
Road  
Park  
Group*

MINA ROAD PARK GROUP

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 12th April 2011,  
Parkway Methodist Church

Present: Hugh Holden, Roland Bruce, Mary Montgomery, Liz Osborn, Suzanna van Moyland  
Apologies: Ivy Bolt, Iris Bolster, Rod Collier, Anne Devereaux, Carolyn Picton

Matters Arising:

The group finalised the Opportunities for Tree Planting Map and List.

- Hugh will contact Tree Bristol. He will also suggest a walk with them on a Saturday morning to point out and discuss the possible sites for planting.

The letter to Wild About St Werburghs was agreed.

Main Business:

St Werburghs Park:

Paul James, Contract Manager with English Landscapes Maintenance Ltd, looked over the park on 5<sup>th</sup> April and offered to get his crew to remove the rubbish if Miles Harris of Bristol City Council organised payment for the disposal. The group feels that English Landscape is being proactive and doing a good job generally.

The re-seeding has been poor.

Ashley Street Park:

The soft-surface mats in the play area are coming up.

- Hugh will get in touch with John Knowlson, Play Department at Bristol City Council about this.

The laurels aren't going to be removed, but other tatty plants between the play area and grass will be taken out and grassed over.

Mina Road Park:

A number of horticultural improvement suggestions have been made by Paul James and Teija Ahjokoski, following a meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March. In the park area: re-turfing the rosebed, improving the bed by the urinals, flowers between the plane trees near Mina Road. On the island: Japanese Knotweed removal with ground cover planting next Spring, reduce the size of the shrub bed, paint & plant the breezeblock back wall. The group supports these suggestions, with a couple of proposed changes: (i) plant 2 or 3 Hydrangea Petiolaris instead of espaliered apples, as apples would be too slow-growing and high-maintenance to screen the wall effectively and children might be tempted to climb on the framework; and (ii) swap the flower-planting suggestions around, so that geraniums are planted between the plane trees and wild flowers seeded on the island - as this fits better with the formal/informal elements of the park.

- Hugh to email Paul James and Teija Ahjokoski about the proposed changes.

The stream is fine and the reeds are coming back.

An important additional improvement would be to treat and weed the grass.

New Park Keeper

- Hugh will invite the new Park Keeper, Sally, to the next meeting.

The group also discussed the draft Park Keepers' questionnaire.

AOB

According to Neighbourhood Forum Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> February an Action/Issue Raised was "fear of crime in Mina Road, poor lighting in evening added to history of sexual assaults makes this a dangerous/feared area after dark. Is a main thoroughfare through neighbourhood." And Follow Up Required "Could lights be erected in Mina Road Park?". The group were not aware of recent incidents of sexual assaults in the Park. The group remains strongly opposed to lighting and not simply on environmental grounds - it is not a main thoroughfare after dark, as people easily and simply walk down the very brightly lit Cowmead Walk alongside the Park between Mina Road and Rosebery Avenue. Moreover, it would be impossible to safely illuminate the entire park, and lighting could actually encourage people into the Park and foster an unsafe environment.

Next Meeting Tuesday 10th May 2011, 7.30pm, Parkway Methodist Church. All welcome.