



Present: Hugh Holden, Roland Bruce, Iris Bolster, Mary Montgomery, Suzanna van Moyland.

Apologies: Ivy Bolt, Anne Devereaux, Jerome Edwards, Liz Osborn, Rod Collier, Sally Seddon, Carolyn Picton.

Matters Arising: 'Picnic in the Park'

We really enjoyed the 'Picnic in the Park' event in Mina Road Park on 4th September. It was both very well attended and very well organised. Particular credit is due to Goska Ong, Centre Manager of the St Werburghs Community Centre, and Jenna Graves for their motivating and organisational skills. And we'd like to thank all the volunteers and people who gave their time. Thanks also to Miles Harris of BCC for responding to our requests in preparation for the event.

Main Business:

Ashley Street Park:

A rowan tree behind the Botany came down the night before last. The tree roots were rotten and it may be honey fungus. Hugh has emailed Russell Horsey about this.

The bind weed has been weeded by Sally our Park Keeper. The rails still haven't been painted.

Mina Road Park:

Our thanks to Parks for repairing the bridge, which was highly efficient, swift (in time for 'Picnic in the Park') and good-quality workmanship.

AGSP Questionnaire:

MRPG completed the following parts of the AGSP Questionnaire re: Mina Road Park, Ashley Street Park & St Werburghs Park (MRPG's responses are in italics). Our comments will be emailed to Rob McGovern at BCC.

Strategic Priority question 2: Upgrade play equipment across the Neighbourhood Partnership.

Yes.

Strategic Priority question 3: Create a number of dog free sites across the Neighbourhood Partnership, including St Werburghs Park.

No. There is no public demand. Dog-owning families have gates from their houses straight onto St Werburghs Park. Since the AGSP, the play area has doubled in size and is now securely fenced. It is the only completely contained park in the area making it safe for dogs to be walked in.

Strategic Priority question 5: Remove Play, including in Ashley Street Park.

No. There is a need for the play area in Ashley Street Park because of the future development of the Brooks Dyeworks site, which will have a minimum of 200 units and there is no guarantee that Mina Road Park can be extended. Therefore there should be continuing refurbishment of the existing play area in Ashley Street Park until the future demand for play in St Werburghs is ascertained.

Priorities for Consultation re: Mina Road Park: (1) Upgrade & enhance children's play area, linked to an informal kickabout area; (2) Introduce Ladies toilets, designed to match the Victorian urinals; (3) Create a better physical link between Mina Road Park and Ashley Street Park – potentially though the development of the Brooks Dye Works site; and (4) Upgrade footpaths.

Re (1) Yes, but it depends entirely on extending the park boundaries into the Brooks Dyeworks site (as there is currently no more space); Re (2) Only if it's possible to staff the ladies lavatory continuously; Re (3) No. There is strong local opposition to this proposal; and Re (4) No. The footpaths have been done in the past 10 years. It is the benches that need replacing.

Priorities for Consultation re: St Werburghs Park: (1) Upgrade & enhance play equipment; (2) Provide seating area; (3) Make the park dog free.

Re (1) Yes; Re (2) Yes; Re (3) No (as answered in Strategic Priority No.3 above)

Are there any sites that you think should be a priority?

Mina Road Park is a small park. It will need extending to cope with the increased demand for recreational & amenity space due to the potential high-density development of Brooks Dyeworks site.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th October 2011, 7.30pm, Parkway Methodist Church. All welcome.