

Poole Park Forum

The purpose of the Forum is to share information, learn from each others' experiences and work together to make Poole Park better.

Minutes: Monday 5th July 2021, MS Teams.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** See back page of minutes for those present (in bold) or who gave apologies (A). Martin (MW) welcomed everyone back after such a long time (March 2020!) without a Forum because of the pandemic.
2. Stakeholder intros and updates
 - Nigel Price (Secretary, Poole Bowls Club) – recent Open Day with 21 new members signed up! Lots of matches coming up, including Poole Tournament
 - Peter Lewin (Model Yachts) – still have boat house restrictions, but otherwise happy to be back on the water. Try Out on 17th & 18th July + at Park Celebration Day (see below).
 - Kit Pearce (Healthy Walks) – 3 restarted (20 prior to CoVid). Had 25 walkers last week. Need to recruit more “walk leaders”. Lots of comments on how lovely the park is looking at the moment.
 - Mike Cure (Parkrun) – resuming on 24th July. Course changed! Testing it out this Sat, starting on West Field, need more vols to help support the event. Mike outlined need to restrict vehicles on Saturday mornings 9-9.30 once Parkrun resumes.
 - Graham & Jude Tuffin (Facebook Users Group) – volunteers desperate to get back out there with he railway. Updated question for those wanting to join FB page. 1800 members.
 - Brett Townsend (Tennis Courts) – very well used. Issues w.r.t. car parking. 20-60 children on sat and sun mornings for classes/matches. Brett and Nigel at the Bowls club to discuss options to manage parking in best interests for all.
 - Cllr Baron – commented on how enjoyable the new play areas are
 - Cllr Anderson introduced himself as Portfolio holder for Environment, Cleansing and Waste. Hear to listen and support.
 - Cllr Howell – are we encouraging cyclists enough? Could have more cycle racks. Is overnight parking enforced? Discussion on prevalence and difficulty of enforcement, no current signage.
 - Question on parking enforcement, MW to follow up with parking services manager.
3. **Poole Park Life updates (MW/TP)**
 - (5) Bids now received for railway works. Under evaluation, then will appoint contractor and potentially start work in Sept. [Has gauge been increased so can accommodate wheelchairs? Martin to check.
 - Lots of new planting in gardens, Plant Collectors garden near crazy golf and along drive way.

Contacts:

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- Water fountain being refurbished.
- Options for replacement bins are being considered
- New Volunteer Coordinators for gardening etc are in place and supporting the parks team.
- Kiosk being hired out as a pop-up shop, fully booked through to end of Sept.
- Toni Powell will be leaving the Council for a new opportunity at the end of July, everyone thanked Toni for her fantastic work over the last few years and wished her the best of luck.
- MW outlined how as the Heritage Funded project comes to an end in September there will be a return to more of a 'Business as usual' approach to park management. This will evolve out as MW's role changes and officer support for the park changes.
- 2 red phone boxes refurbished, very popular on social media with the BCP Instagram having the most engagements ever!. The other 2 are being removed and stored for now until time/funds are available to re-purpose or decide to move them on.
- The **End of Project Celebration Day is 10-4 on 29th July** – please get involved if you can in any way – offering an activity, volunteering etc.

4. **AoB – events, happenings and other park information**

- Request for path by cycle track to be top dressed / tarmacked when money available.
- Request for a defibrillator (AED) within the park. Could lease from SWAST or Parkrun may have a spare, Nick at SCC was looking at getting one.
- Request for handrails on steps leading up to war memorial. MW outlined how we did want to do this in planning application but the War Memorial Trust weren't convinced on the visual impact on the setting. Something we'd still like to do.
- Who contact w.r.t. injured wildlife in the park? Probably RSPCA.
- Can Twitter feeds be forwarded to PP FB page please.
- Bird food dispenser would be good to have if using paper cups/small amounts of bird food.

And finally, there is a question of how to maintain the Forum beyond the life of the project. It is a good place for sharing information and ideally this is something that can be self-led by a volunteer from the stakeholders to take this forward. To discuss in person at the next meeting!

Next meeting: 5pm Monday 6th September 2021. The Ark Café.

Thank you!

And a big thanks to Cllr Evans for her meeting notes!

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Organisation	Contact Present in Bold, Apologies (A)
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Anderson
Parkstone Ward:	Cllrs Stribley, Baron
Poole Town Ward:	Cllrs LJ Evans, Howell , Hadley
Poole Park User Group	Andrew Hawkes, Graham Tuffin , Judith Tuffin
Gardening Volunteers	Pete Godding, Ann Edwards (A)
South Coast Caterers	Nick Davis (A)
Rockley Watersports	Pip Woods (A)
Poole Model Yacht club	Pete Wiles Peter Lewin.
Poole Park Bowls club	Nigel
Chestnut Nursery	Andy Verrick (A)
Poole Town cricket club	Nick Williams Jo Pilley
Out and About Dorset Ltd	Jaime Hunt
Parkstone Bay Assoc.	John Challinor (A)
Mini Golf	Tony Unsworth
Wessex orienteering club	Alan Cooper
Poole Wheelers	Ros Spencer
Poole Runners	Mike Towner
B&PCFE	Lloyd Perry (A)
PHP	Gail Percival, Sandra Wilson
parkrun	Sarah Swift, Mike Cure
Transition Poole	Kate Salter
W. Hampshire modellers	Barry Thomas
The Society for Poole	Mike Pearce
Land Train	
Healthy Walks	Kit Pearce , Viv Grier, Maria Parkins
Tennis	Brett Townsend
Recreation development team	Katie Azulay (A)

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