

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS

MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP - COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 4TH JULY 2024 AT 11.15AM - VOLUNTEERS' CABIN

The meeting commenced at 11.15am

PRESENT

Chris Groom, Keith Barnard, Malcolm Penny, Denise Reid, Susan Toms, Christine Lake, Paul Lake, Tony Swan, Sue Smales, Joan Butfield

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sue Place, Jo Oliver, Catherine Dann

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved unanimously

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income from Books and Crafts this year is shown under SALES heading below.

Tools insurance premium the same as last year, £235.32 after negotiating, paid by Debit card.

In this financial year Archive and Publication sales are £432.46.

The balance of the General Account now stands at £16,041.74 (not £20,172.36 as previously stated in error at the meeting).

CG said that we are definitely making more on recent events and an item for discussion at the next meeting should be for ideas on spending the money.

Ellis and Co. Estate Agents, have paid all monies due from the Summer Picnic sponsorship deal £225.00.

MONUMENT TO LESLEY EVENT - FEEDBACK

CL said that the event was well attended and organised and the seeds were very well received.

SS mentioned that she had been asked who LC was and CG suggested that a biography could be put in one of the frames on the outer wall of Walled Garden which would have an empty display cabinet in September.

SUMMER FETE AND PICNIC FEEDBACK

PL said it was amazing and TS mentioned how well it was attended. CL thought it was busier for longer.

Tea Stall - the ladies who ran the stall were brilliant; we took around £850. not sure exactly as there were a number of deductions for purchases made. Cora did an excellent job. We ran out of milk and cups; it was so successful; there was hardly any cake left. We need to restock for Heritage Day and buy more utensils, e.g. cake slicers.

JO previously suggested to CG that next time there should not be any plants. SS said there were 5 other stalls selling plants. More banners and signs required to indicate the location of the Gardeners compound.

We should have more banners within the gardens also for the back gate in St. Lawrence Drive.

CL said that Dale – The Woodman - said the Pimms and Prosecco stall had a marvellous time.

JB said there was not enough for small children. She had been asked several times for the Lucky Cards game. Noted for action next year.

CL said that the clicks on the website were hugely up.

Unfortunately, some drivers become abusive when informed that they cannot enter to park even though they are told it is full.

Date of next picnic will be Saturday 7th June 2025.

BENCHES

LC had previously approved 2 new sponsored benches in the old orchard. Sponsors had chosen the site and paid the money to the Council. FEHG were not happy with chosen locations. It has

now been agreed with the sponsors that the sites will change. One of the benches will replace the rickety bench in the park near the house whilst the other will be sited between the white mulberry tree and the rockery in the old orchard.

CG said that it had been agreed between FEHG and the Council that there would be no more new benches. Also no more new trees, only replacement trees.

HERITAGE DAY ARRANGEMENTS

The Mayor, ice cream van, first aider were booked. British Legion, Eastcote Horticultural Society and Dave and Sally Peters have been invited to come.

The Community Shield will be awarded to Margaret and Keith Archer for their work at Eastcote Station. JB to organise collection and engraving of the Community Shield.

Simply Gray will play for 2 sessions at a charge of £300.

KB will organise waste bins nearer the time.

KB is arranging a meeting with the motor club who will be responsible for stewarding of the cars at the gate and collecting money. MP volunteered to steward the car park which will have notices LIMITED BLUE BADGE PARKING ONLY displayed. KB will steward the classic cars into their lanes. Stewards are also required for directing cars to dovecote field.

EVENT ADVERTISING - ESTATE AGENTS BOARDS

It was decided not to find a sponsor for Heritage Day. MP will obtain a quote for the printing of 3 banners for this event.

CG said trouble with AP in collecting monies and Ellis boards were not as requested.

To be discussed again at next meeting.

SALES OF BOOKS/PLANTS/CRAFTS/DOVECOTE OPENING SS/JO

Income from Books and Crafts this year is as follows:

Books: £100.50 in April, £101.20 in May and £105. in June - total £306.70

Craft £160.32 in April, £118 in May and £157 in June - total £435.32

making a grand total of £742.02 after 3 months.

We still have monthly sales in July, August and October with Heritage Day in September so by the end of the year we predict a profit of around £1,500.

We currently have space on shelves so SS happy to accept book donations.

It was disappointing to note that sales of books and craft at the Summer Fete were on a par with our monthly sales; we expect profits to be higher on that day. Books were busy all day but no more so than usual. Possible reasons:

- People weren't straying from the 'main drag' especially. It is felt that there was insufficient signage (see above). Banner direction signs required.
- The band and Morris Dancers were big crowd pullers and announcements had to be made between sets.
- There were five other stalls selling plants.

Plant Sale - JO emailed that over £300 was taken at the picnic which was ok sales/footfall could have been better if more people knew where we were. For next year we need larger and more signage for plants and books, with large directional arrows to the gardeners' yard.

GARDENING

Despite the cold wet weather we carried on; jobs such as pruning the new orchard did not take place. We need to ensure that an autumn/winter prune is carried out, even if Jerry is not available. CG to contact Gerry.

Jubilee Bed - has been part replanted with more suitable plants for the position. We need to ensure that this is well watered through the summer, minimum of once a week. Positive comments have been made by visitors about the replanting of the roses in the gardeners' yard beds.

Cafe Beds- most of the winter box has been removed from around the cafe as this area is too dry and sunny. These have been replaced with more suitable flowering shrubs and hardy fuchsias.

Summer Bed - a few additional shrubs have been planted we need to make sure that this area doesn't get too over grown with weeds.

Fernery - Richard has done an excellent job upgrading this area, hopefully we will get information signage. Mark Lemon has agreed to make the sign.

Courtyard - if watering is going to be irregular by the Council we should make sure these are watered on our gardening days. Extra watering maybe required until plants are established as compost is not retaining moisture.

Box - Need to ask Council to spray again. Unsure of their policy on whether to replace. TS queried whether we could spray the box ourselves.

EASTCOTE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EVENTS

SP by email said that Jane Neave led the team in both picking and exhibiting. They submitted 33 entries and were awarded 4 x 1st, 9 x 2nd, 9 x 3rd and 1 x highly commended. A very successful outcome for FEHG. A report is on the FEHG website.

LONDON IN BLOOM

CG thanked everyone for their hard work. The day was very successful; all the extra gardening work paid off as the judges appeared very impressed.

HAZEL BED

SS said that whilst LG had a broken arm we should find someone to take over her area until she is fit. JO sending flowers from the club.

TREE DRESSING

PL will contact schools in September. Mayor booked.

A discussion followed concerning the Hinman Shield which is normally awarded at this event. Not many organisations have been involved this year. MP will speak to the Scout Leader and CL and PL said that when they invite the schools to the Tree Dressing they also ask for their contribution to community services. Maybe one of these schools would be worthy of being awarded the Hinman Shield.

Becky Morris has provided approximately one third of the prizes donated for the raffle and it was decided to award her the Volunteer's Shield for her special efforts. CL to arrange.

VOLUNTEERS' LUNCH

Date 20th September. CG to book Stables with FS - BOOKED

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

See Forest Schools Information provided by CL and PL. It was unanimously agreed that we should go ahead with this project and provide lunch for the participants. CL and PL will find out which schools would be interested.

BANK CARD READER

No update. Still unavailable for Community groups. Bank suggest Sum up or Zettle.

FIRST AID

FS said that two places were available, and CG and CL were happy to go but had not heard back from FS. Need to know length of time and day. CG will ring FS

FIRE SAFETY IN VOLUNTEERS' CABIN

FS said we don't need second exit but do need a sign and extinguisher. All in hand by the Council. CG to chase. - Chased

DOVECOTE/PATHS/STABLES

No progress on outstanding repairs. Only the cracks in the walls have been dealt with.

AOB

TS mentioned that when we have Corporate visits we need at least 2-3 extra helpers at least.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.