

Friends of Sandall Park

Annual Report

January 2006 – January 2007

The year from January 2006 to 2007 has been a productive one and we have achieved some lasting improvements to the park. This is a brief summary:

1. New policies adopted:

- i. Amendment to constitution.
- ii. A new Child/Vulnerable person protection policy.
- iii. Equal Opportunity policy.
- iv. Business Plan has evolved with several changes and updates.

2. Events

- i. Quiz night, funds raised.
- ii. On-line and written petition organised for reinstatement of wardens.
- iii. Youth service angling competition organised by Corner Pin Angling Club.
- iv. BBC Radio Sheffield bus in park for 3 days.
- v. Interviews in the park with Radio Sheffield arranged but cancelled by them.
- vi. Stall at Wheatley gala.
- vii. Music in park, funds raised.

3. Projects

- i. Daffodil bulb planting.
- ii. Memorial benches (one installed, one just purchased; another promised).
- iii. Angling Club – plants planted/wooden static pegs erected one large lake – funded by Pioneer Community Chest.
- iv. Picnic benches – 2 purchased -1 with access for a wheelchair (installation in January 07).
- v. Volunteer week: 6 new benches installed; plants planted; 28 bird boxes and an owl box erected; bog garden created; water plants installed in pond; fish put in pond; park tidied.
The week was marred by vandalism/theft which is continuing. Some youngsters have been interviewed by police.
We created some valuable partners through this project: Skyblue; Adwick Community Enterprise and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.
- vi. Fitness trail installed: distances measured and map created; marker posts and slabs in place, warm up rail erected. An event is planned for spring for it to be launched. Awaiting result of funding application for additional benches and notice boards.

- vii. On-line quiz circulated (to advertise our website and ultimately the park and FOSP).
- viii. Word Search sent to local press for publication. Prize of £5 voucher offered for a winning entry. Another project to reinforce our existence.

4. Funds

- i. Total lottery members: was 11, now 14 (chair gave 3 of her relatives lottery membership for Christmas); reaping on average £20 monthly as of November.
- ii. We had hoped for Parks for People funding but it wasn't applied for on our behalf due to Hexthorpe park being favoured ahead of Sandall Park.
- iii. £25 donated to Friends of Grove Gardens race night after receiving a request.
(financial report from Treasurer).

5. Grants applied for

- i. Coalfield regeneration – funding for wardens - rejected
- ii. YTV 'Millions' – for skate/adventure park: unsuccessful
- iii. Awards for All – Sport England (fitness trail) pending
- iv. Community Champions – enquiries ongoing (to fund nature trail leaflets and notice board for children)
- v. Onyx landfill – initial application submitted and approved. Now preparing full bid – for 10 wildlife notice boards to go around the park, plus additional plants and bird boxes.
- vi. £5000 Park It grant applied for, we came in 2nd place and will receive £1000 towards Music in the Park 2007. (We must match this funding).

6. Grants received and spent

- i. Music in the Park – Pioneer Community Chest.
- ii. Volunteer Week £5000 – Pioneer Community Chest (Yorkshire Forward; Objective 1; European Regeneration Fund).
- iii. Additional £1000 – Pioneer Community Chest – picnic benches (£407.10 required to top it up from FOSP funds).

7. Press releases

Included items such as:

Return of wardens
 Music in the park
 Memorial benches
 Volunteer Make a Difference week
 Vandalism
 Wildlife notice boards
 Picnic benches

- i. Interviews on Trax FM
- ii. Interviews on BBC radio Sheffield
- iii. Numerous articles in Free Press

- iv. Numerous articles in Doncaster Advertiser
- v. Numerous articles in Edenthorpe Arrow
- vi. Articles in Wheatley publications

8. Meetings

- i. Active Doncaster (fitness trail).
- ii. Numerous with community first (about all projects).
- iii. Pleveys (re Business Plan).
- iv. Doncaster CVS (funding).
- v. Social enterprise team of Doncaster CVS (feasibility study)
- vi. Sheffield Safe@Last children's charity (joint venture/assist their cause).
- vii. Planning/Landscaping dept. re skate/adventure park and dog obstacle course; feasibility study for BP.
- viii. Numerous with various bodies to progress Business Plan.

We have made an impact on the park and it's all down to this small group of dedicated volunteers, with help from the Corner Pin Angling Club, Community First and our funding partners: Pioneer Community Chest; Objective 1; Yorkshire Forward; European Regeneration Fund.

A special thanks to the Community First Team who have gone the extra mile for us.

Well done everyone! And thank you very much for your input. Whether it has been your attendance at meetings, planting a few bulbs, fishing rubbish out of the lake, or having sleepless nights over a major project – every contribution however small has been important. The group has benefited, the park has benefited, and ultimately its visitors have benefited (though they may not know it!)

Let's continue chipping away and make sure that everyone acknowledges that we have the best park in the Borough. Doncaster is on the up, and so is our boating lake. We should now look to 2007 with an energy and vision that will really put Sandall Park on the map.

Sandra Crabtree
Chairman 2006 - 2007

17.01.07