

**Friends of Denton Gardens
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 1st September, 18.00hrs
Egremont Public House, Brighton Road, Worthing**

1 Welcome and Introductions - Chair, Nadine Barber

- NB thanked everyone for their support over the last 18 months.
- The group has successfully seen off the commercialisation threat to the Gardens - the original catalyst for the creation of the Friends group.
- The decision to then constitute (ie set up a formal committee with elected officers, a constitution, hold AGMs, etc), gives the group more gravitas and the ability to apply for funding.
- We now have a lovely voluntary gardening group running, which is informal and gentle, where anyone can meet, chat and exercise.

2 Treasurer's Report - Acting Treasurer, John-Paul Rowe

See separate report

3 Planting Sub-Committee Report - Secretary, Louise Corcoran

See separate report

4 Events and Link Press Officer Report - Annie Waran

- Reported very positive feedback from centenary picnic, overwhelming support to do it again.
- Minor points learnt: need generator and microphone, need quicker or 2 face painters.
- Ideas going forward: fancy dress, involve local businesses more eg sponsorship of Tug of War, rain contingency. All ideas welcome.

5 What's Ahead?

- The Planting Report outlined most of the planting plans, and Anthony Read, Head Ranger, WBC Parks Dept, confirmed that work to start removal of the Phormiums begins in Nov.
- AR thanked and congratulated the group for all they have achieved in such a short timescale.
- AR suggested an Easter Egg hunt as a potential future fundraiser. Supermarkets would potentially donate.
- AR offered water butts to any residents adjacent to the Gardens who would be willing to connect these to their downpipes where practicable. Nikki Sheeran suggested also approaching the Crabshack and Rowing Club with this suggestion.
- Green Flag Status - AR reported that the application would be submitted in Dec. The judges have already seen the gardens and he is confident about the outcome. Community involvement key, and award affords Gardens greater statutory protection.
- Conservation Area Extension - Sue Belton from the Worthing Society, who staunchly supported FoDGs campaign to protect the Gardens, updated the meeting on progress to extend the Steyne Conservation area to include Denton Gardens, as well as Beach House Grounds and the southern end of Beach House Park. She understands a heritage consultant has been appointed and discussions with the

council will commence soon. SB will write an addendum to her submission as/when Green Flag Status awarded. AR will forward the Green Flag management plan to her.

- Shelter - issues with vandalism raised. Suggested that making it more attractive, eg. with plant troughs, would make it more popular, and greater usage would discourage vandals.
- Funding - suggestions floated included another CIL application, applying elsewhere eg. Heritage Lottery Fund, emphasise educational, environmental and community enhancement; explore business involvement - many local businesses are community minded - sponsor a bed? Speak to other groups - how are they funded eg. Broadfest.

6 Amendments to Constitution

- None.

7 Election of Officers

Chair – Nadine Barber

Nominated by Krish Waran

Seconded by Virginia De Nagy

Endorsed

Treasurer – John-Paul Rowe

Nominated by Tony Barber

Seconded by Simon Ward

Endorsed

Secretary – Louise Corcoran

Nominated by Nikki Sheeran

Seconded by Nadine Barber

Endorsed

8 AOB

- **Re-wilding** - Simon Ward asked about any plans for re-wilding, following areas previously being left unmowed. AR explained that one area was left unmowed for a period due to bulb planting, and the southern bank was left during no-mow May. Future ecological enhancements would come from plans for the woodland border, as well as wildlife-friendly planting choices made elsewhere.
- **Thanks** - NB took the opportunity to extend special thanks on behalf of the Friends to AR and the Parks Team for all their support.
- **New Seafront Protection and Enhancement Group** - Krishna Waran announced he was involved in establishing a new group aiming to enhance the town's biggest asset - the seafront - and invited FoDG as a stakeholder to become involved.
- **Worthing Journal** - AW announced that there was an opportunity to submit a 200 word update to the WJ each month. Nikki Sheeran agreed to take this on if the committee supplied the information.