



Making space for community

Havenstoke Park Meeting Minutes

Date: 24.07.24

Time: 3pm

Location: The Pavilion

In Attendance:

- **Chair-** Liz Woodsell CCDT Operations Director (LW)
- Clare de Bathe. CCDT CEO (CdB)
- Sue James CCDT Chair of Trustees (SJ)
- Jonathon Brown. CCDT Trustee (JB)
- Sarah Nute. Youth Programme Manager CCDT.
- Peter Day- Chair of the GPRA Residents Committee
- Kathy Sykes – Vice Chair of the GPRA Residents Committee
- Grange Management
- Residents

Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks

- LW called the meeting to order at 3pm.
- LW thanked residents and representatives for coming along to discuss the issues surrounding Havenstoke Park.

Park Management Update presented by Cdb Key Points:

- The Community Development Trust (CCDT) took responsibility for the park from the developers to prevent it from becoming a burden on residents.
- CCDT receives circa £16,000 per annum from an endowment fund, established to cover the park's maintenance costs.
- This endowment does not fully cover day-to-day maintenance expenses; CCDT covers the remaining costs from fundraising and hire income from the Pavilion.

- The sports pitches are part of an agreement with the developers, who will maintain them until they are match-ready. Once ready, CCDT will assume responsibility.
- The long grass in the park is part of a plan agreed upon with the developers and the CDC to mitigate the impact of the pitches and increase biodiversity
- Long grass at the park's edges is intended to deter Traveler incursions, following advice from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and CCDT

Topic 1: Clarifying Pitches Schedule

- Issue raised by Paul Case- resident of Summersdale.
- Key points included:
 - Harris fencing to be replaced in September by wooden fencing
 - Completed pitches will be unfenced and this will go some way to alleviating issues surrounding the long grass
 - PC asked who will be using the pitches. CdB stated that CCDT are working with other agencies to map usage of pitches in Chichester and develop a schedule for use.

Topic 2: Car Park

- Local resident, Vanessa Lees, introduced the topic of the proposed car park on the park
- Discussion points included:
 - CdB outlined the purpose and description of the car park. It was noted that it will only be used on match days and for a maximum of 8 events per year. The area will be laid with grasscrete.
 - The developers are scheduled to have started work on the car park but this has been delayed. CCDT are in communication with the developers and will update as soon as they have clarification on the schedule.

Topic 3: The Long Grass

- Follow-up on the previous discussion about the long grass, concerns were raised by multiple residents about the appearance of the park, the possible risk of ticks and the lack of space for picnicking and sitting on the park
- SJ explained how the park will look once the pitches are finished and explained how much space there would then be. Shown on map.
- SJ explained that the long grass is scheduled to be cut at the end of August as part of the schedule of maintenance. It will then be left to grow once more.
- VL raised the issue of CCDT hiring the shorter grassed areas for revenue (i.e. football and Park Play). - CdB explained that this is not revenue for CCDT but part of our community outreach.

- VL proposed that the paths could be cut wider to allow more space for sitting on the shorter areas of grass. - LW offered to walk the park with the lawn mowing contractor to see if there are any areas that could be made wider and to check for accessibility.
- It was suggested that wildflower seeding can improve the appearance of the grass. It was noted that CCDT volunteers have done this.
- Local resident, Kathy Sykes, suggested that residents contact the Council and ask for the wild grass to mown grass ratio be looked at.

Topic 4: The long grass on the verges

- Local resident Jo Williams (JW) expressed dissatisfaction with the appearance of the verges. This was echoed by many.
- It was explained that this was an effort to prevent Traveler incursions and was recommended to CCDT by WSCC and CDC.
- Other options that would be more aesthetically pleasing were discussed.
- It was noted that bunds would not be permitted due to the heritage of the site, including the bronze age dyke.
- CdB- Hedging is being trialed on Keepers Green but we are reliant on volunteers and donations. JB noted that CDC have stated that Travelers are less likely to attempt an incursion when they cannot see what is within the grass.

Topic 5: General maintenance of verges

- Issue raised by local resident, Anna Corbett. AC expressed concern about the ongoing management of some of the verges and paths on the outer edges of the park.
- It was noted that some of the verges mentioned fall under Grange management
- The Grange management representative explained the difficulties they have had employing and retaining maintenance staff. It was stated that work has now begun to clear those areas and that good progress has been made.
- It was noted that areas maintained by CCDT are being left as part of the efforts to deter Travelers.

Topic 6: The Wild Space

- Issue raised by local resident, Vanessa Lees. VL expressed concern about the repeated vandalism of The Wild Space and use by young people. It was suggested that CCDT had given permission for young people to use the area for fires etc.
- SN explained that huge efforts had been made to engage with the young people engaging in vandalism of The Wild Space. This included a working party of young people and hosting the CCDT Youth Club in The Wild Space. No permission has been given to young people to use the space. A programme of free after-school activities for young people aged 11-18 has been set up at The Shed on Keepers Green and CCDT is working closely with local schools and social workers to reach those

in need. It has been decided, due to the repeated vandalism and safety risk, that The Wild Space will be closed and left to grow over.

- CCDT to put up a sign preventing entry to The Wild Space until the area has become overgrown

Topic 7: Friends of Havenstoke Park

- Issue raised by Sue James.
- SJ explained that a “Friends of Havenstoke Park” group was established to assist with park enhancements.
- Despite the effort, there has been limited participation from residents.
- SJ emphasized that increased resident involvement is essential for park enhancement activities to succeed.
- SN asked that any residents interested in joining occasional working parties give their name and contact details at the end of the meeting.

Action Items

- LW to walk the park with the mowing contractor
- Residents to approach CDC about the existing park/biodiversity plan
- CCDT to put up signage prohibiting entry to The Wild Space
- CCDT to chase developers for an update on the schedule of works for the pitches and car parking

The meeting closed at 4.40pm by Liz Woodsell.