

AGENDA ITEM 11(a)

Chair's report for October BCR NP from the Friends of St Andrews Park

Green Flag

As in previous years we were successful this year in maintaining our Green Flag Status and were awarded a certificate at a ceremony at Blaise estate buttery, presented by the Mayor and deputy Mayor. The Green Flag award is given in recognition of achieving the national standard for parks and green spaces.

ASB

We have been fortunate this year in having the support of P.C. Kevin Ellis in tackling the problem of ASB during warm weather. He has initiated the successful arrest and conviction of 5 individuals for urinating in a public place, principally in the area of Leopold Rd. Kevin has also suggested the idea of laying out wild flower meadows, two of which have flourished this summer, in the area alongside Leopold Road where most ASB takes place. We have applied for a grant of £5,000 from the Police & Crime Commissioner's fund to create and maintain more such meadows. The initiative has the support of the Parks dept, the police, local residents and FoSAP.

Mural on the toilets

For some years the original mural on the wall of the toilet block remained untagged but following two "attacks", we decided to fund from our own resources a new mural which was painted in mid-September by Greg Minto. With the great help of Liz Kew, anti-graffiti coating was applied so that in future graffiti should be easily washed off.

Netball hoop

We have been made aware of the growing popularity of netball, particularly among young girls locally although there are also leagues for grown-ups. We have submitted a Wellbeing Fund grant application to the NP for £863.77 to provide a netball hoop and markings in the Play Area along from the concrete ping pong table. A netball hoop is distinguished from a basketball hoop by the fact that there is no backboard, with the consequent absence in noise of the ball striking the board.

Paddling pool

The paddling pool continues to be one of the most popular attractions of the park during the summer. At the beginning of the season however, attempts are made by the park-keeper every year to repairs cracks on the bottom of the pool. As the pool is used, the surface deteriorates with the resulting need for repair at the start of the next season. What is needed really is for the surface to be refurbished with resin compounds and paint. We hope to start investigations into the cost of this work, which we hope will become a major priority for improvements in the park.