

DRAFT Notes from meeting held on Sunday 22 July at 1 pm, Nightingale Garden

Chair: Bob (& Justin)

Notes: Rebecca

1. **Present:** Becky P, Bob B, Charles M, Justin C, Julian H, Keith B, Lois, Peter D, Rebecca J,
2. **Apologies:** Kate C; Jenny I; Colin J, Angelo
3. **Minutes from the last meeting:** agreed. **Rebecca to replace current version on the website.**
4. **Updates from the first meeting:**
 - a. **Bank account and things:** the new Lloyds online bank account is up and running and even has a debit card; as of 26 July, we have £111.49 in it (from the kitty tin and a recent donation). Two cheques have been paid from the old QECF bank account to the City Council for the new shed base and new shed, which will leave £663.40 in the QECF bank account for any garden expenses including insurance. Some of this we will need to fit out and finish off the shed, including guttering and water butts.
 - b. **Insurance:** **Rebecca still needs to get estimate:** we will need it when the shed is installed in September; she thinks it will about £200 and that we should apply to the City Council Area Committee grants in about Jan to March 2019 to see if they will contribute next year.¹
 - c. **Draft constitution:** no comments, so we will approve it. **Rebecca to replace current version on the website.**
5. **Membership:** we have 26 members, and about 20 of them have wielded a gardening tool at some point. There are a few 'regulars' we would still like to invite, they just haven't been around when we have had membership forms available for signing. There are also two members for whom we don't have a working e-mail address. **Rebecca** has transferred the hard copy membership file to Keith and **will pass new forms across after she has entered the contact details into her laptop.**
6. **Fundraising and donations:** we didn't talk much about fundraising (we should have adequate funds for a while) but if we have events (like workshops) it would be good to have a kitty tin out and we could do joint fundraising with Maggie's and others. There will be grants we can apply to too.
 - a. Second-hand **wooden bench** from a garden fan – we will **clean it down, paint it Cossack red with decorations and secure it near to Rosie the horse.**
 - b. **Garden hose on reel – 50m:** a promotional donation from Flymo - by e-mail to the garden website contact on 19/7/18; our current hose is a donation from Julian and Rebecca and has a hole;
 - c. **Mill Rd Fair** was suggested as a place to raise awareness of the garden. We could maybe have a community gardening stall with others – to ask Sandie Cain (Botanical Garden) for advice. [Applications for stalls open on 1 Sept and close on 1 October and allocations are made by 30 October; there is a fee for stalls and they get far more applications from groups and businesses than they can accommodate]. **To discuss within sessions before closing date.**
7. **Recent events:**
 - a. **Bring and share lunch** (24 June) – a success.
 - b. **Cubs in the garden – with RHS** (9 & 10 July). They might come back in the Autumn or on an Autumn weekend daytime.
8. **Things/activities recently (almost) completed:**
 - a. **Horse (Rosie):** which was varnished on 22 July – everyone loves it!
 - b. **Dome:** just needs painting (which was done on 23 July), and **re-arrangement of some of the poles to make an entrance.** We should put it up on some Sundays over the Summer for fun and to try out the suffragette swags.

¹ <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/area-committee-funding>

DRAFT Notes from meeting held on Sunday 22 July at 1 pm, Nightingale Garden

- c. **Kim** the MSc student: several of us were surveyed and Rebecca was interviewed in July;

9. **Things coming up:**

- a. **Bike racks:** outside the garden to the right of the double gate; 'any time now';
- b. **Green-roofed veranda:** expected Spring 2019; – see notes of meeting on 16/7/18; Guy says 'leave it with me';
- c. **Noticeboard:** chased again 16/7/18;
- d. **Shed:** ordered 16/7/18; expected Sept 2018; there is a draft plan for it (ask Rebecca); when we know the installation date, we could organise some extra working parties to kit it out. Guy confirmed we can have wheelie bin water butts collecting from over all of the roof as long as the overflow goes into the ground.
- e. **Signs** (most interested: Julian, Izabela, Becky, Bob, Rebecca): we would love a proper sign on the gate and maybe others. **We need a plan.** Rebecca and Julian have thought about it a bit and have looked at the cost of exterior ply (can buy ½ sheets from Ridgeons and they can cut it) and also Dibond (cut to order and buy online). We also have some waney pallet wood which might make some nice informal signs (sanded down on 23 July) but is harder to paint crisp letters on. Need to think more about what paint to use on what surfaces and where. We might want to buy some signwriters' enamel too for very flat good surfaces.
- f. **Wood store:** wood purchased 14/7/18; started to make it on 22 July (and acquired some old featherboard fencing for the roof on 25 July).

10. **Suggestions for future:**

- a. **Pole lathe** (Kate) – postpone to later meeting;
- b. **Compost toilet** (Jane) – reserving space in the new shed, just in case! Will need a plan.
- c. **Workshops** (Becky, Lois, Rebecca): we have lots of enthusiasm for the idea of offering gardening and making things; we thought we could do some activities for families including in October half-term – maybe with an RHA Wild in the Garden worm theme; there was also enthusiasm for a paper-making workshop. Rebecca and others are also working up ideas around dyeing with plants. **To think about more in garden session or between.**
- d. **Cob oven etc:** build some time after the veranda; **will need a proper plan with resources** – Julian has made one before – it will need a wooden raincover and a masonry base and will probably be best if it has some prep areas nearby and maybe a BBQ area. Postpone decision to 2019.
- e. **More fruit bushes** (Caroline idea) maybe dig out some deeper beds in the Autumn (a way to get some more clinker for the green roof too)? **Review in September.**
- f. **More social media** (Becky and Rebecca): this could be good for promoting the garden but we are a bit nervous about it taking too much time (especially Rebecca's). We have a good website and have set up an Instagram account (Rebecca's e-mail and phone) #nightingalegarden @nightingalegardeners and Becky will try to get Rebecca skilled in using it; people can also borrow Rebecca's phone during sessions and post photos direct (we did this on 22 July). Think again about twitter (Rebecca has a personal account). Rebecca puts some garden things on the QECF Facebook page (there is an old unused NG page).

11. **Potential partnerships and enquiries coming in to garden e-mail/Secretary:**

- a. **Maggie's:** via Andrea; we agreed it was a good local charity to support (also Cambridge Cancer Centre in Shelford and Arthur Rank House do similar things). They have a strong connection to gardens for health and before their centre is built (they are waiting for a site to be approved and for funding to be raised) their people could use Nightingale garden easily, especially when the veranda is completed. We have talked with Andrea about

DRAFT Notes from meeting held on Sunday 22 July at 1 pm, Nightingale Garden

collaborating on teas for the 2 September Brass band in the park and could do other fundraising/awareness events, including Share Fair on 8 September; **Rebecca to contact Andrea.**

- b. **Botanic Garden:** Sandie Cain, Outreach officer is coming to the garden on 30 July; potential for BG to help community gardens, act as a hub etc;
- c. **Sancton Wood school kids:** year 1 teacher got in contact – they wanted to come during gardening sessions but Rebecca has suggested other times would be better. They can help themselves and, if they let us know, we can see if a volunteer is available to show them around;
- d. **'David': work experience:** Rebecca replied but we haven't heard back;
- e. **'Memorial rose':** Rebecca replied to City Council (we need to make sure any donated plants suit the garden and would thrive) but we haven't heard back;
- f. **Wulfstan Way gardens:** acute issues over water supply for raingardens (when no rain); potential to use the NG Group to apply to the Cambridge Water Pebble Fund for water supply, butts and more planting areas. Rebecca e-mailed people at the Council but hasn't heard back, so it is now too late for this year.

12. Forthcoming events:

- a. Sunday 19 August: **Abundance in the garden** – spare produce and preserves. Easy to do. Can have collection for the Group. **Think more about it the week before.**
- b. **Cancelled:** Friday 31 August: **Bat walk in the evening** (and overnight moth trap).
- c. **Cancelled:** Friday Saturday 1 September: **Moths in the garden.**
- d. Monday 27 August (bank holiday) – we will **not** have a 'bring and share' cake session, we decided to just have a usual gardening session because of the Brass Band the following weekend.
- e. Sunday 2 September: **Brass band in the park;** this is at the same time as the garden session so we could do teas again, including in collaboration with Maggie's. **Rebecca to contact Andrea and work a plan out.** [Barbara is keen] We can discuss at Sunday/Monday sessions.
- f. Saturday 8 September: **Queen Edith's Share Fair and Skip Day** at Wulfstan Way shops – looking for lots of volunteers to come along and help. Contact Rebecca.
- g. Sunday 21, Monday 22 or Sunday 28 October: **some kind of workshop for school half term.** Maybe worm theme? **To discuss at Sept meeting.**
- h. Weekend of 1/2 December: **Tree Dressing Day at Wulfstan Way:** solar lights, yarn-bombing or anything else. To be organised by Queen Edith's Community Forum. Lois pointed out it is the same weekend as Mill Rd Fair (Saturday). **Rebecca to work out a plan** (as of 26 July, we think probably do on Sunday morning 2 December in collaboration with at least St James' Church – and maybe the pub).

13. Any other business:

- a. **Watering.** Thanks to everyone who has been doing this. People are happy to carry on as before: watering when it is convenient for them rather than having a rota. [We will try to hose the main beds at least once a week too.]

14. Date of next meeting: Sunday 16 September, 1pm.