

AGM Tues 13th February 7 - 8 pm
Courland Grove Baptist Church Hall

Agenda

Chairman's report

Finance report

Nominations and voting for the executive committee

- Chair
- Vice Chair & Membership secretary
- Finance officer
- Secretary

Nominations and voting for eight committee members.

Increase of membership fees from £3 to £5 per person per year - to be voted on

Appointment of a new representative of the FOLP on the LPPB board
(to replace Julia Barfield, one of our two representatives who have a vote.)

AGM closed, to be followed by:

Ordinary meeting: 8 - 9 pm

Agenda:

Review of previous minutes (attached)

Pitches

Café

One O'Clock Club

Action Plan

AOB

Let me know if there is anything you would like to add to either agenda.

I have asked Alex D for a park update, but have not yet received it.

Friends of Larkhall Park Chairman's report, February 2024.

A very warm welcome to the 2024 Friends of Larkhall Park annual general meeting.

Since taking over as Chair in December 2022, I've tried to make progress on several legacy issues, as well as putting in place a number of work streams to drive our future activity. I'm very grateful to all committee members for their work in doing this, not least Nickie, Gareth, and Carl.

I inherited quite a number of outstanding or emerging items on taking up the Chair. Asbestos, repairs or maintenance, the cafe and One O'clock Club, Stockwell Festival, antisocial behaviour and major banking issues were at the top of my to do list. I was also aware of community relations issues in the recent past, as well as an urgent need for more volunteers on the committee. Since then, we have made inroads and progress in all these areas:

- with substantive progress, seen or resolution fully achieved, asbestos remains a reality. But several remedial measures have been implemented to lessen the impact and deal with future effects of it.
- we have designed, populated and agreed a new work tracker to coordinate repairs tasks with the park liaison and operations supervisor.
- we have lobbied the council to find a better solution for both the club and the cafe, in recognition of the need of the community for both of these sites. We have also worked with many community members and groups to gather feedback and wishes on services they wish to see at both the cafe and club, as well as speaking on this at a Children's Services Subcommittee.
- we have successfully resolved the legacy banking issues and transferred across our banking arrangements to a new better provider.
- we have engaged event managers to kick-start progress on Stockwell Festival 2024.

Throughout all of this work, we have continued to engage fully with the Larkhall Park Partnership Board, attending multiple meetings across 2023 and raising many points as part of this.

My sincere thanks to departing committee members, Carl Kowsky and Linda Mills. As one of the cofounders of the friend's, Carl deserves huge credit for playing such a fundamental role in our group's establishment and running over many years. We all know Carl is a font of knowledge regarding the park and his energy and drive have been a true asset. Linda has likewise brought passion and great knowledge to her role. We wish both of them the very best as they direct their formidable energy to other initiatives. I want to also give a very warm welcome to new committee members coming onboard at this AGM, Gina Douglas and Brendan Bouffler.

Two further initiatives begun this year will be even more decisive for the park than the business as usual work mentioned.

The first is the master plan which has started to take shape and which will continue in 2024 and beyond. The plan is critical as it brings in community voices and enables us to reach the many local community members and groups who have a stake in the park. And, not least of all, the plan will enable us to access critical future investment to improve the park's facilities, something I know we all wish to see.

The second initiative is the paid role Nickie has been doing, to build FoLP's capacity. The work Nickie has done on this will enable us to build stronger relationships with funders and other voluntary organisations and to scale-up our work to do more to benefit our communities. While her current term is

due to complete this month, I hope we can find a way to extend the work, which I think is really critical for us.

I've so enjoyed working with you all and getting to know you all of the last 14 months. There is a huge amount more to do but your passion for, and dedication to, the park is clear to see, and I'm so excited to move ahead with all the various projects and themes mentioned above in the next year.

With very best wishes

Ben Rymer

Chair, Friends of Larkhall Park