

West Craven Committee – Meeting held 7th November 2024 at Kelbrook Village Hall to
discuss the future maintenance of Sough Park

Attendees

Cllr David Whipp
Phil Riley (PBC Greenspaces Manager)
David and Julie Birnie (Earby Bowling Club)
Tony, Richard and Heidi (Kelbrook Phoenix Football Club)
Liz Katiff (Kelbrook and Sough PC)

Apologies

Earby Town Council (ETC)
David Walker
Amanda Inman
David Hartley

Cllr D. Whipp (DW) commenced the meeting and confirmed that West Craven Committee had allocated £2309.52 towards the routine maintenance of Sough Park.

P. Riley (PR) went through the 3 options of potential maintenance options for the park that had been previously shared based on bare minimum, acceptable and ideal alternatives and the costs associated with each.

Tony raised the issue that none of this affects the football club as they already cut the rear field.

Liz explained that she is keen to see the park looking good and is it worth exploring other contractors and options?

The meeting considered that the proper name of the park, Earby Memorial Park, should be used, rather than Sough Park.

Julie met with members of ETC and explained that the bowling club was previously behind the Station Hotel in Earby. And the current club should still be thought of as an 'Earby' club.

Tony suggested if ETC do not wish to contribute to the park then the playground should be removed. DW replied to say that would be extremely sad for the local residents. Angela said that there was originally a real community spirit in the playground/skate park, especially when it was constructed.

It was acknowledged that there may be no flowers around the war memorial which could cause some upset in the community.

Richard queried why ETC paid 75% of the cost previously vs Kelbrook 25%. It was explained this was due to precept numbers. The meeting was also reminded about the Town and Parish transfer programme.

Liz asked if all the 'Earby' element of the WC committee budget could be allocated. DW explained that in theory it could, but this would remove available funds for other community projects.

Liz suggested having more long grass on parts of the park.

Richard raised issues of dog fouling on the football pitch, mirrored by David about the bowling green. Concerns were raised that dog fouling in long grass is more difficult for owners to collect.

Tony suggested a total ban on dogs, similar to some Burnley parks, but this was rejected by the group. PR and DW explained about the current PSPO in place and its renewal.

Julie raised issue of bikes on the bowling green and said the group has applied for funding to erect a small fence around the green, clarified to PR that it would not block pathways and only be a max 3ft high.

Richard raised the issue with dog fouling on pitches at other sites such as Victory Park and queried enforcement. DW is keen to promote civic pride rather than enforcement.

Liz was keen to set up a pressure group within Earby to make a point to ETC, possibly signage in park?

Richard suggested that Cameron Firth may be interested in volunteering in the park carrying out routine works. Concern was raised that if this commenced but then he suddenly stopped there would be an issue.

It was suggested that ETC be asked to consider matching the funding amount from Kelbrook & Sough PC towards maintenance, which together would fund the medium works schedule. £6k was suggested by K&SPC. If matched by WCAC and ETC, this would provide enough funding to carry out a reasonable level of maintenance.

DW requested that Kelbrook Phoenix FC and Earby Bowling club submit approximate costings for the works they carry out on site such as volunteer time, machinery and fuel costs to use as evidence of financial input by others.

There was a discussion on whether there could be a public 'Gazebo' consultation event held in the park for people's views at the end of November? Liz asked if the Council would pay to print publicity leaflets - DW to look into this.

Phil agreed to meet with the Bowling Club in the near future to look at renewing the current lease and terms within.