

Friends of Crookesmoor Parks - Crookes Valley, Ponderosa and Weston meeting, 23rd September 2015 - BBEST consultation

4 members of the Friends met the Secretary of BBEST (KO) - 23 September 2015 - brief note of discussion from email dated 26.9.15

KO spoke briefly about the BBEST process and the current situation. Our next major meeting is the Workshop and AGM on 7th November, 2015. KO tabled notes about the Vision, Objectives and associated Project for the Environment and green and open spaces theme of the Plan. The project is the BBEST gardener/ecologist. This project is scalable depending on the available resource, but we hope that the project will take forward the existing interest in gardening in the BBEST area, motivating volunteers and offering advice on planting, guardianship of trees, guerilla gardening etc.

Points raised were:

The themes reflect contemporary views about urban environments, such as concern about traffic and green spaces and as such are probably not contentious. Consultation has shown that these are the areas of concern in the BBEST area.

The Friends have running routes for the parks which were sent to BBEST.

BBEST could look for assistants from student projects in the University, and has already benefited from this to some extent. Duke of Edinburgh students also look for projects and BBEST might also be able to tap into this effort.

Discussion of running and walking guides centred on the fact that running on main roads may not be healthy for running. The guides will hopefully take runners on alternative routes, even if they are doing 'running commutes'. Ginnels/gennels may not be popular for running as they can be slippery and uncomfortable underfoot.

The group would like to see BBEST guarantee the boundaries of parks as 'inviolable' to protect them.

Each group should link to the other's website.