

## Other areas highlighted in the members survey

Below are some general points that came out of the members survey and some explanations alongside them:

### **There were some suggestions for:**

**Volunteer gardeners to care for more areas** BUT this has the problem of capacity (people and finances). Also whether we should be taking over council responsibilities - the more we do, will they do less? Has to be balance.

**Fundraising for more work/maintenance** - there are many options to explore for fundraising but it's more 'people' to do the work that we lack. We are confident we could raise funds in the short term,, but more problematic ongoing as grants rarely cover ongoing projects, just new ones and people won't continue to fund the cause through continued donations. If we could get good finances then we could pay people - but then this is a risk of ongoing maintenance and also is it taking on too much from the council?

### **Other comments linked to:**

#### **Resistant borders**

#### **Drought resistance borders**

We weren't sure if these were linked to flooding or generally the area of the long borders that FRP garden. ASs it stands our gardening lead has been planning to move toward flood resilient and drought resilient planting and considering and surveying what survives each year. We are propagating some of our own plants and hope to increase this. We are using more perennials and less annuals to make things cost effective. We are basically trying to plan for a park that floods in the areas we care for. Strangely there isn't much history of this in the council records with regard to planting of flowers, plants and trees in years gone by. Fashion seems to have outweighed practically at times

### **Expanded detail on a previous question:**

**If the FRP got more volunteers and people to lead on new areas - what sorts of things would you like to see happening in Rowntree Park that the FRP could help facilitate?**

There is the main information the the survey summary but below a few of the points are expanded on:

#### **Bowling Greens**

These will not be reinstated by the council. The council stated the cost of maintenance was too high and regular floods make maintenance too costly. Other options for these areas can be explored but need to be low maintenance.

### Outdoor shelters

We have been told that it is unlikely the council would not maintain permanent structures as too costly. The last band stand was removed in the mid 1990s due to rot and becoming dangerous. Other parks and open spaces that have no staff have flagged covered areas as attracting ASB and have undergone damage so this would also need to be considered.

### Renovate disused buildings in the park

We are trying with regard to the **Park Keepers** lodge but currently don't have enough people involved to make this happen! We need a team and then to raise over £300,000. It could be done, but we need people to get involved!

**The Tennis Pavilion** - there has been an agreement between CYC and the tennis club and canoe club for a number of years that the clubs can use this area for storage BUT the space cannot be used for other purposes as not in a fit state. A few years back the clubs started to investigate whether they could take over the space and 'renovate' and acquired some funding. The FRP were not aware at this time that CYC would consider such proposals and were not consulted by the clubs in the early stages, only when the council involved us. As it stands the clubs are hoping to get use of this building and renovate. This is all still dependent of a number of factors including a section 123 notice that advertises the 'disposal of public buildings'.

### Other suggestions given:

#### Have shelters or create events spaces

A few people mentioned it would be great to have an indoor space or shelter for FRP activities. Indeed, this has been on our minds for a number of years but the solutions are not simple.

**Cafe** - The cafe is run by York Explore Libraries. They rent the space from the council at a 'peppercorn rate' (which means nominal) and they are a business. They are themselves a charity and as they run the library service. This is primarily a cafe and not an event space. The FRP therefore cannot use the cafe for events regularly, though we have been able to for very occasional events.

**Old Tennis Pavillion** - see above

**The Park Keepers Lodge** - see above

### **Outdoor Shelters**

We have investigated outdoor shelters but have generally been told that CYC would not agree to maintain and flood issues make such things problematic. What we are doing is getting posts for the Forest School/Story circle area. This will mean we charge tarps up easily so we can continue to run events colder/wetter months. It's still outside, but it's something!

Similarly, covered shelters need the sort of maintenance we cannot provide and the council states they cannot provide this either.

**Summary** - if we can get the lodge sort we would have some spaces to run small sessions in doors, useful in months!

## Fundraising

It was commented on in the survey that people are impressed on what we do and suggested ways to fundraise. These ideas are valuable BUT our main issue at present isn't getting funds - it's actually getting the volunteers! We need the people to make the difference!

For example, since 2019-21 we have had grant funding for projects in the gardens but at times these don't progress as we'd like as we don't have enough people to make things happen! Also we lack people to 'lead' projects - we could do more and fundraise for these projects if there were people to lead and organise them. Therefore at this stage, we don't generally 'fund raise' unless there is a purpose and we have the capacity to make something happen.

Also we lack the volunteers for fundraising events and activities! When we host events such as the Scarecrow Trail it's hard to find people to look after the stall, same with musical events and other 'larger' events for fundraising.

Our biggest fundraising will need to be for the lodge project if this progresses (to turn the old park keepers lodge into a community space) - this needs around £330,000 at present. We \*could\* also go down the line of fundraising to pay for staff hours for the charity. For example, if we want more done in our areas of the gardens then we pay gardeners to help if we cannot get the volunteers needed to assist.

Suggestions included by survey respondents:

*For fundraising maybe a QR code at key points in the park for donations.*

*Sponsorship, fund-raising, merch, events, cake sales, boating events etc*