



Barleyfields Children's Centre Parent Forum

7 November 2011

Woolmer Green Village Hall

Notes of Meeting

Item	Notes	To Do
1	<p>Sue welcomed parents to the Parent Forum and expressed her gratitude to parents for their input to the Children's Centre.</p>	
2	<p>Notes of the last meeting</p> <p>The notes of the last meeting on 21 June were discussed.</p> <p>The catalogue for the mobile toy library is now available and is ready to be rolled out.</p> <p>Parents discussed affordability of activities at the Children's Centre and of Toddler Groups. Playaways is £2.50 per family and is popular and busy.</p> <p>Barleyfields have carried out a hot drinks consultation which concluded that parents and carers value being offered hot drinks and feel that these can be managed safely. Toddler Groups also have hot drinks and remind parents to keep these out of the children's reach.</p> <p>Parents reiterated that they would like more activities which include children up to 8 years old. Sue said that she hopes this will be achieved through partnership working with the local schools.</p>	<p>Sue to offer to purchase hot drinks posters from the Child Accident Prevention Trust for Toddler Groups.</p>

2 continued	<p>Parents at the Parent Forum were keen for more people to attend these meetings and felt that the Children's Centre should be more pro-active by promoting it through school parent mail, book bags, toddler groups. They would like to have some input into the flyer and suggested that a coffee morning in Knebworth would be most popular.</p>	<p>Parents to work with Sue to draft flyer for the next parent forum in March 2012 and to help with promotion.</p>
3	<p>Update from Sue</p> <p>Sue explained that Ofsted will inspect the children's centre at some point and that she is working hard to ensure that the team can demonstrate the work of the centre when the time comes. The Barleyfields team are accessing training so that they can be more sustainable in the future should funding decrease.</p>	
4	<p>Open discussion – ideas and feedback from parents</p> <p>Saturday Dads: the question of whether there should be a voluntary contribution or a charge was discussed. Parents felt that it was more difficult when it is a contribution as it is unclear. They felt that there should be a mandatory charge of £2.50 per family. While it is recognised that there is a capacity issue at the current venue for Saturday Dads, Sue said that the wish to increase the number of fathers attending the Children's Centre is across the whole range of services and activities in order to recognise the important influence men have on their children's lives. Mums at the Forum were unsure of the thought process behind providing bacon sandwiches as it is not expected that mums will require these in order to attend groups. They felt that the focus should be on dads spending time with their children.</p> <p>Playgrounds: a parent had put forward the idea of updating the parks in Woolmer Green. Parents at the meeting said that the playground at the Village Hall is good and is generally clean and well-maintained.</p>	<p>Sue to take this proposal to the Advisory Group.</p>

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4 continued	<p>Open discussion – ideas and feedback from parents</p> <p>The one near the Esso petrol station doesn't tend to be clean and there is often a lot of litter. Parents felt that the play area at Lytton Fields needs some attention as there is graffiti and dogs mess which is always worse when the grass is left long.</p> <p>Sue said that this fits in with the idea put forward at the Advisory Group for a children's poster campaign to highlight the anti-social nature of litter and dogs mess.</p> <p>Christmas: Parents felt that families do need somewhere to go when other groups and activities are closed for the Christmas break. Sue explained that Barleyfields opened last year but no one came along. However, parents were of the opinion that stay and play sessions on Thursday 22 and 29 December would be beneficial and welcomed by families looking for a break from the festive pressures.</p>	<p>Sue to consider the possibility of running "Christmas Crafts" stay and play on 22 December and "Winter Woodland Welly Walk" session on 29 December.</p>
5	<p>Photos</p> <p>Sue explained that under the children's centre mobile phone policy we ask parents not to take photographs on their phones. The children's centre are happy to take photos for parents. Concerns have been expressed about photos being emailed as they can be put on Facebook etc.</p> <p>Photos will be printed and offered to parents to buy copies of pictures of their own children for 20p per print. Photos which show only one child (or children from one family) can be emailed.</p>	
6	<p>Volunteering and Governance</p> <p>Sue said that there is a parent place on the Advisory Group vacant. Hazel James put her name forward and will take on this role. Sue expressed her thanks. Karen Wallace-Poultney will also be joining the</p>	

6 continued	<p>Advisory Group in order to bring the views of parents attending toddler groups in the area.</p> <p>7</p> <p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13 March 2012 9.30-11.30 am</p>	
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