**AGENDA**

**MEETING AND AGM FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**30th Nov 8.30pm**

Venue: ZOOM MEETING

1. **Introduction of Attendees**
2. **Actions from last meeting covered in relevant sections in the agenda**
3. **Annual Accounts-SG**
4. **Archaeology Society Plans Update – AG from SMART**

Previously Simon Fennel from the council said he could not support the dig project due to the refurb of Gately Hill House. KH&GG to ask for a further explanation on this as unclear why this should have such an impact.It is now confirmed the council do support the project.

The National Lottery have suspended funding for the rest of the year. SMART are waiting to see what happens in the new year.

1. **Council Proposed Footpath Resurfacing Works (email from Richard Booker)**

The council would like to consult with us on the proposed footpath resurfacing works for the public right of way between Beech Av and Hawthorn Road. Once he has our feedback he will finalise the design. Works include;

* Fell the trees causing the damage to the path, will also allow more light onto the path
* Remove the poor quality vertical bar fencing on the park side of the path. This fencing is not be replaced allowing access onto he field from all along the path (meaning dogs water do not have to use the play park gate).
* Overlay the existing footpath with a new surface course with timber edging.
* Secure the footpath with bollards at each entrance (small section of fencing on Beech Av side)
* See plan for the number of trees shown for felling. This is the maximum. Currently reviewing that with Anthony Crook.
* Looking to deliver the works in the February half term to reduce the impact on the those that use it as a route to school.

1. **New Play Park Installations**

The new seesaw (Manchester Airport), new roundabout (Stockport Council) and replacement gate (Stockport Council) have been installed. The play park is now looking great.

1. **Park information Sign**

Application made to Shires Community Fund (through Cheadle Area Committee), for information sign. Now confirmed that application for £1470 has been confirmed as successful. Gone back to Shelley Signs (Councils preferred supplier) for an updated quote of what they can provide and install for that price. Maybe an A1 colour printed panel with park map and information. Or alternatively we could use surplus funds to put towards the original design which includes a notice board section. GRP sign on aluminium posts. Very hardwearing.

1. **Plans for New Play Equipment – Obstacle Couse**

Total cost is £11,250

Go fund me page set up. Some donations from kind members of the public made but small amount

Made application to Ward flexibility fund and/or Shires Community Fund for funding towards.BH to make application from Tesco community fund. JO to make application to John Lewis Community Support fund. Plan to also make higher value funding applications.

1. **Community orchard**

JO has contacted Antony Crook, Arboriculture Officer at Stockport Council. He is supportive and has said he would prefer the council to provide the trees rather than the public due to the risk of vandalism. Plan to meet in the park to discuss location and other details arranged for the 9th December. AG has provided information on historic orchard in the park and heritage varieties of apple. See these case studies <http://visitnewmills.co.uk/things-to-do/new-mills-community-orchard/> . <http://www.marple-uk.com/rollinswood/index.htm> It would be great to have an orchard we could hold events in.

1. **New Website.**

Now set up [www.friendsofscholespark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofscholespark.org.uk) and being kept up to date by the committee. Should we ask a Kingsway student to volunteer to update for us?

1. **Activities in the park**
   1. Bulb planting session carried out with Good Gym volunteers. Bulbs kindly donated by Gatley Flower Rangers, Blooming Local (Jeffries Nursery) and from some individuals in the community.
   2. Planting up community planters. Two planters complete (Brookside Pre-school and Elm Road Church Sunday School)
   3. Kingsway activity planned with group planting up last planter and bulb planting
   4. Gatley Primary bulb planting session planned and JO to chaise up Lum Head Primary School as well.
   5. Installation of storytelling circle and actor giving story telling sessions. Plan to do this in the spring. Stockport Hydrohas invited funding applications. Suggestion to apply to them to cover the cost of this activity. Tree Station £50 to buy logs and woodchip. The actor costs £70 per hour plus £30 travel. For two hours total cost £220 and we could use some additional funds for a longer session (e.g. 3 hours for 3 separate school groups). We could ask GoodGym to do the installation.
2. **Running Track.** Plans for Gatley Primary to fund track improvements. Update from Richard Booker. He wants to discuss in more detail with Gatley Primary. Could TP or Andy give Richard a ring. JO to forward number. GG & KH to follow up with the council also.
3. **Gatley Hill House Refurbishment.** Colin Owen has spoken to Councillor Mellor on this. He stated that the council have invested in the fabric of the house with the view for it to continue to be used by the community. Mixed messages as also understood a council department to be moved into the building. KH to find out whether this will impact rooms available for use by the public.
4. **Café in the Park**. Possibility of café in GHH or coffee cart in the park/car park. BH to contact council. No response from them. SG had a meeting with Piccolos.
5. **Idea for Virtual Trial in the Park.** <https://loveexploring.co.uk>
6. **Possible Changes on Constitution for Election of Committee Members**
7. **AGM Election of Committee Members**

* Volunteers for Chair (incumbent Bridget Hanley) , Treasurer (incumbent Simon Goldthorpe), Secretary (incumbent Jo Outterside), Communications Officer (nomination Victoria Harris), Heritage officer (nomination Rachel Knight).
* Voting in of Committee members

1. **Any Other Business**
   1. Next FOSP meeting.