**AGENDA**

**MEETING AND AGM FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**5th Oct 8.30pm**

Venue: ZOOM MEETING

1. **Attendees**

Simon Goldthorpe (Treasurer)

Bridget Hanley (Chair)

Jo Outterside (Secretary)

Keith Holloway

Katherine Chow

Alan Dupre

Vanessa McManus

Andrea Grimshaw

Tracey Payton

Graham Greenhalgh

1. **Actions from last meeting**
   1. Poor condition of the path on the entrance to the park from the path at the side of Gatley primary. KH&SG to raise with the Council – Update Richard Brooker from Stockport Council has confirmed path to be resurfaced approx. Oct 20. GG confirmed that the area to be resurfaced is from the gate at the playground entrance, to the car park, and all the way to the Gatley Primary entrance. A plan is in place to deal with the tree routes.
   2. Application made to Shires Community Fund (through Cheadle Area Committee), value increased to full cost of information sign JO. Complete. Still awaiting outcome of application. **GG and JO to follow up with David McGlee** **who is responsible for the fund. JO to also contact David McGlee to make an application for funds towards new play equipment from the Ward flexibility fund.**
   3. JO to set up a meeting with the Council and all interested parties including Gatley Primary, Kingsway, Lum Head, Gatley Runners etc to have an open discussion about how to fund the refurbishment of the running track and how to ensure there is access for all and to check any implications of the ownership of the area and future development. Face to face meeting cancelled during lockdown. JO in regular contact with council trying to rearrange. Richard Booker email 29/09/20 said he would come back to us soon! TP confirmed that the Education Learning Trust offer to fund the work is still in place. **GG & KH to follow up with the council also.**
   4. TP to contact Gatley Allotments to see if they have any volunteers who would be willing to prune/thin the trees overhanging the tack. Ongoing pending council decision of the track redevelopment. AD suggested asking local tree surgeons to help for e.g. on Gatley facebook. We will keep this as an option. We will need to work with the council on issues like public liability insurance.
2. **Accounts**
   1. £758 funds from last year plus a recent kind donation from Gatley URC Elm Road £500
   2. **SG to complete annual accounts when they are due in November.**
3. **Work Planned in Play Area**
   1. Manchester Airport Community Funded for Seesaw in play area was successful. Council undertaking installation along with a roundabout to replace removed swing, and separate gate entrance to park Oct 20.
4. **Gatley Hill House**
   1. The planned refurb by the council was discussed. Plans are for Adult and Social Care staff to move into offices upstairs. **KH is finding out whether this will impact the rooms available for use by the public.**
5. **Ideas for Park Improvements – Including Ideas from Facebook Poll and Comments. Confirm which ideas to take forward. Need costed plan for funding applications.** 
   1. New Play Equipment\*. Swing ,Wooden fort, obstacle course/timber fitness trial. Feedback from Richard Booker on email 01/10/20. Would recommend a timber fitness trial. Similar to one installed by Friends of Manchester Road. Included Intertwine, Twin Beam, Tyre Traverse, Wobble board, Rocking Log, Rubber steppers. Cost £10,000. This is our next big project.
   2. Walk/Cycle Path around edge of area. Accessible paths\*
   3. Nature trail into woods (log bridges, stepping stones, tunnels)\*
   4. Walking/ Orienteering Trial\* (GMOA Orienteering. Markers on smart tag SG looking into)
   5. Info sign (could go for cheaper design)
   6. Park Café/ mobile coffee van. **BH to contact council on possibility of café in GHH.**
   7. Picnic Benches
   8. Community orchard. Suggested by AD. Members of the public can donate/pay for a fruit tree. Good way to mark lockdown 2020. Location, long grass area by railway embankment. **JO to take this forward and ask permission from the council.** AG stated that there was a historically an orchard in the park. **AG to provide information.**
   9. Fitness trial
   10. Outdoor gym
   11. Chain saw carvings (£350 each)
6. **Funding Applications**
   1. New funding applications sources discussed. To be used for the obstacle course.
      1. Combined crowd funding and bids **BH to lead**
      2. Gatley and Cheadle Ward Fund **JO to make application**
      3. Big scale. National Lottery Heritage Bib **BH to lead**
      4. Tesco Community fund £3000 **BH to make application**
      5. John Lewis Community Support fund (café tokens) **JO to make application**
7. **Archaeology Society Plans – on hold but hoping to continue next year.** 
   1. We have provided them with a quote for a history trial (6 information posts and leaflets with trail map) which they are including in bid
   2. Update provided by AG from SMART (South Manchester Archaeological Research Team). 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.** Concern that development of the car park would impact the significant archaeological remains underneath. A construction project may be required to investigate it, but they would use their own professional team. The National Lottery have suspended funding for the rest of the year. SMART are waiting to see what happens in the new year. They may consider alternative locations. GG suggested High Grove Farm House on the Lakes Estate, off Silverdale Road. This is in a wooded area on the Lum Head school site. **GG to provide the details to AG**
8. **Planned activities in the park**
   1. Planting up community planters. Ongoing with small, separate children’s groups.
   2. Children identifying trees activity. Measuring around trees to ascertain the age, leaf identification chart.
   3. Installation of storytelling circle (Tree Station Offer £50) and actor giving story telling sessions. Plan to do this in the spring. **JO to ask for quote for just wood chippings for now. As could spread this on muddy areas.**
   4. Task day to cut back hedges for better visibility of the play area. On hold due to Covid restrictions
   5. Task day for bulb planting. On hold for adults due to Covid restrictions (bulbs not being provided by Council this year). Agreed to hold a session with Gatley Primary to do this. **JO to ask for bulb donations on FOSP & Gatley Facebook.**
9. **Website** Previous volunteer has not been back in touch. Currently looking for new volunteer. **SG agreed to take this on. JO to ask for volunteer from Kingsway School to help with this.**
10. **New Council Contacts.** Reorganisation at the council means that Greenspace Officers are now called Neighbourhood Project Officers. Our area was covered by Paul Clarke but has recently left. So contact is Jane Bardsley the Project Officers Manager. Richard Booker as the Play and Infrastructure Officer. Simon Fennel contact for Gatley Hill House.
11. **Any Other Business**
    1. Next FOSP meeting. Date set as 30th Nov 8.30pm on zoom. This will be the AGM with the election of committee members.