**MINUTES**

**MEETING FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**4th February 2021 8.30pm**

Venue: ZOOM MEETING

1. **Attendees**

Jo Outterside (FOSP Secretary)

Graham Greenhalgh (Councillor)

Keith Holloway (Councillor)

Simon Goldthorpe (FOSP Treasurer)

Bridget Hanley (FOSP Chair)

Ruth Bradshaw (Flower Rangers)

Gary Wade (Gatley URC Elder)

Tracey Payton (Gatley Primary and Kingsway Governor)

Matthew Carlisle (Vicar of St James)

Kath Chow (Gatley Primary)

Rachel Knight (FOSP Heritage Officer)

**Apologies**

Vanessa McManus (Gatley Primary)

Victoria Harris (FOSP Communications Officer)

1. **Actions from last meeting covered in relevant sections in the agenda**
2. **City of Trees** 
   1. Review of email and plans sent by City of Trees
   2. Planting due to start in March
   3. FOSP have requested to include improved access/paths, nature trail, and community and school groups to be involved in planting and maintaining the trees.
   4. Lum Head have been in contact to say they would love to be involved in tree planting or any related activities. Gatley primary stated at the meeting they were very keen to be involved as soon as Covid restrictions could allow. We plan to make sure all the local schools and pre-schools and adult community groups are involved wherever possible
   5. We have discussed the future plans for a large orchard and lines of fruit trees with Stockport councils Arboriculture and Habitat Officer Anthony Crook. We discussed a row of fruit trees adjacent to the play park near the existing planters and then the large orchard on the long grass/wildflower area adjacent to railway track extending back to near the Barrowdale Ave park entrance. We will push for heritage variety fruits as a link to the orchard which was located historically close to Scholes Park. We will ask AC for an update on time scales.
   6. It was suggested at the meeting that nettles could be cut back at the area adjacent to the play park to encourage the fruit bushes already in this location. More fruit bushes could be planted their which would compliment the planned orchard. **JO to include this in next task days and can receive advice from RB on how to prepare ground and what best to plant.**
3. **Proposed Gatley Golf Club development** 
   1. Leaflet delivered to local residents discussed.
   2. The councillors advised that this is a pre-consultation exercise and so the developers are not yet near to submitting a formal planning application and we are at least a year away from this stage.
   3. Developers plans include improvements to Rosa Vale Park and we are the same distance from the golf course. We need to encourage Section 106 funding to go to Gatley parks (as golf club and development primarily in Gatley). **SG to respond to request for feedback from developers on behalf of FOSP**
4. **Requirement for all weather paths for access into and around the park**
   1. Raised by GW, how well used the park is both pre-covid and during and how the increasingly wet winters are creating ‘no go’ areas in the park. Investment around Parrs Wood an example of what could be done, there are all weather paths round there that have encouraged various exercise initiatives and even a mobile coffee shop is servicing the paths.
   2. Councillors advised that we need to put a proposal forward on what paths need improving where. We can add this to a park plan already produced. Existing paths only so will not impinge on sports playing areas. **SG and GW to put path improvement detail onto park plan and SG to submit proposal to council.**
5. **Protecting green spaces in light if the spatial framework changes**
   1. How we can protect the park in the long term was discussed.
   2. Using a field in trust application was discussed. A submission has been made for this by Gatley Carrs. There is no cost to Council for this, but disappointingly the council refused Gatley Carrs application. KH is working with Gatley Carrs on this and encourages FOSP to also make an application. **BH and RK to progress fields in trust application.**
   3. General discussion on actual ownership of Scholes park. It is widely known that the fields were gifted to community in the Will of William Scholes. We have a copy of the Will but do not have the details of how the Will was administered or arrangements with the Council. **KH and GG to raise with the Council Legal Officer on behalf of FOSP.**
   4. In the longer term it would be useful to get legal advice on the ownership of Scholes Park. Some law firms to work for charities for free.
6. **Fly tipping campaign**
   1. Poster and Facebook campaign. “We go to pre-school here, please don’t fly tip” etc. Brookside pre-school have provided the first photos. **JO and VH to work on campaign**
   2. Councillors let us know that the council are due to have a meeting on the fly tipping issue and it has been suggested they work more closely with the police.
7. **Path improvements.**
   1. Feedback from last meeting sent to the council. To go ahead during Feb half term. Council have been informed about the homeless people camping near the path and the welfare department are involved in offering them support.
   2. Gatley primary have some concerns about the removal of the fence and open access to the field.
   3. The councillors did request lighting, but it was not possible as too expensive and too close to residents’ gardens.
8. **Update on SMART planned archaeological dig application.** Update from Andrea. No further news since last meeting. Plan to push ahead when social distancing rules lift, and the lottery funding opens again.
9. **Funding** 
   1. Activity Trail £11,500 –Simons funding mind map presented.Funding already raised
      1. Donations on the just giving page £495
      2. £700 gifted from SPRING group
      3. Goldthrope family time capsules £120. **Gatley Primary interested in buying some. SG to send info over. JO and BH to advertise at Lum Head Primary**
      4. Dudley fund £500
      5. Application made to the ward flexibility fund for £1000. This is being referred to the Brookfield Park Shiers Family Trust for consideration. David Clee has requested further information on the anticipated usage by children in different age groups. **JO to reply back with who the equipment is aimed at.**
      6. Calendar idea. **VH to progress**
      7. Further planning applications to be made as per funding mind map and actions from the last meeting (**BH Tesco community fund, JO to make application to John Lewis Community Support fund, VM to review the opportunity to invest with the Gatley Primary School Trust. KG confirmed Lum Head plan to do charity bag packing days when Covid restrictions allow**)
      8. Another application to the airport fund suggested. **Action BH**
      9. Liz Bradbury suggested Police Community Fund. KH sent information over on how to apply. **JO to apply**
      10. Richard Booker has stated that the council may be able to pay for the install. **BH to follow up with Richard**
   2. Stockport Hydro Environmental Challenge – Applied for £200 for Christmas lantern event
   3. **Information Sign Adjacent to the Children’s Play Area.** Brookfield Park Shiers Family Trust have awarded funding of £1,470. We are waiting for the funds to be transferred. Install of the sign to be progressed when funding is received
10. **Planned events. On hold currently due to Covid.**
    1. Christmas robin trail planned in the park. Robin ornaments and signs purchased/produced. The council rejected our risk assessment due to Covid concerns. Postponed until next Christmas
    2. Further events will be considered in the spring including maintaining the planters with schools, storytelling event, family picnic, mile run event.
    3. Christmas lantern event planned.
11. **Proposed changes to constitution**
    1. Brief review of suggested changes made. **To be sent out with minutes and if no objections changes to be made. Action JO**
12. **Any Other Business**
    1. Link with Stockport Greenspace forum. FOSP to get back in touch with them. **Action RK**
    2. Suggestion made for FOSP to have collection boxes in local business for fund raising. **SG to consider**
    3. RB offered help from her and her husband on planting in the park. Ruth’s husband is involved in the Gatley Carrs Community meadow. Some really big bulb areas withing Scholes Park would be possible. **JO to get advice from RB and husband when we can push ahead with the community task days**
    4. Running track. **TP to continue to push with the council and will get a revised quote**
    5. Next FOSP meeting set to be 15th April 8.30pm on zoom.