**MINUTES**

**MEETING FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**15th April 2021 8.30pm**

Venue: ZOOM MEETING

1. Introductions

Apologies: Rachel Knight (FOSP Heritage Officer)

Victoria Harris (Communications Officer)

Keith Holloway (Councillor)

Attendees: Bridget Hanley (Chair)

Jo Outterside (Secretary)

Simon Goldthorpe (Treasurer)

Liz Wilson

Tracey Payton (Gatley Primary)

Sue

Gina Gibson

Ruth and Chris

Jonathon Davies

Martyn and Sue

Venessa McManus (Gatley Primary)

Christine McDonnell

Actions from last meeting covered in relevant sections in the agenda

1. Recent Events
   1. Easter Trial – Following a lot of work to get agreement from the council to hold due to covid restrictions and risk assessments signed off, an Easter Trail was set up on the park with a map and cross-word to complete available on the Facebook group and website. A lot of families were seen taking part. Plan to hold similar trails in the future.
2. Information Sign install update
   1. Art in the park competition

Update from Rachel. Content for the sign including map is ready to go to the sign makers. We will add the kid’s artwork and will update everyone on when the sign will be installed soon.

1. Funding
   1. Activity trail funds raised so far – Update from SG
      1. **JO to chaise up £2500 funds promised by the Brookfield Trust through the Cheadle Area Committee**
      2. Plan for charity collection tins in local shops
      3. Calendar idea. **VH to progress**. Plan to use photos by Josie local photographer with her permission. May do jointly with Gatley Carrs. **Chris to speak to Gatley Carrs group.**
      4. Other application and fundraising opportunities. Applications also made to Tesco and auto trader by BH
      5. SG informed us if our income is over £5000 per year we need to apply for charitable status. **Action SG**
      6. BH idea for a virtual balloon race. People pay for a balloon and name it. You then watch where it travels virtually online. Planned for May Bank Holiday. **Action BH.**
   2. Police Community Fund Application Successful. £200 for plants, soil, and fruit bushes. £50 of this already spent.
   3. Stockport Hydro Environmental Challenge Fund Application Successful. £200 for Christmas lantern event. GG agreed that group may be able to use Elm Road Church halls for lantern workshop.
2. Running Track Update from VM and TP. The Education Learning Trust is still willing to refurbish the running track on behalf of the community. In the past the Council have fed back that the school would need to have a rental agreement in space to do the work which the school do not want to do. The council are concerned about the increased maintenance that would result from the refurbishment. VM and TP are meeting with the council (Peter Cook, Neighbourhood Manager and Richard Booker, Play Space Officer) next week to discuss a way forward. **VM and TP to feed back on how the meeting goes.**
3. City of Trees Update. Plan for City of Trees group to plant 3500 trees on Gatley Hill top field. Mixed feedback to these plans which are now being delayed until at least November 2021. Agreed that there was not enough consultation by the Council or City of trees particular with neighbours to this area of the park. Jonathon Davies raised with city of trees the issues of the restrictive covenant which may means trees cannot be planted. This is being reviewed by Stockport and Manchester Councils legal team. It was suggested FOSP could submit a freedom of information request to request the outcome of this review which would be useful for future protection of the park. **Action BH**
4. Manchester black poplars – rare trees in Gatley Hill House grounds identified John Pollard from Gatley Carrs group. Black poplars are native to Manchester only as were one of the only trees to be resistant to pollution in the Industrial Revolution. A disease killed nearly all the trees in the early 2000s and so the trees are now very rare. Rachel has investigated this further in research being carried out at MOSI. We are letting city of trees and the woodland trust know.
5. Community Orchard Update.

JO and BH attended an online workshop by the Orchard Project which gave examples of all the great community activities that can be done with an orchard. A park in Heald Green are undertaking a project. FOSP are in the early stages of talks with the council about an Orchard area in Scholes Park.

* 1. Action from last meeting to consider planting of fruit bushes ahead of planned orchard area BH&JO

1. Requirement for all weather paths for access into and around the park
   1. SG has put together a path improvement plan with phase 1 and 2 mapped out.
   2. It was mentioned a surveyor was seen checking the bridge at the back of the running track area.
   3. BH and SG have arranged to meet the Gatley Golf Course Developers this week. Although early days with this development FOSP want to be considered for any section 105 funding available and improved paths into and around the park could be funded.
2. Protecting green spaces in terms of the spatial framework changes
   1. BH and RK to progress fields in trust application.
   2. After General discussion on actual ownership of Scholes park at last meeting. KH and GG to raise with the Council Legal Officer on behalf of FOSP.
3. Fly tipping campaign
   1. JO and VH have produced posters. Some laminated posters already displayed. SG has also produced some more robust signs which will go out.
   2. A poster for the path approaching Gatley Primary also planned. **VH and JO to produce.**
4. Encouraging responsible dog ownership
   1. Replacement signage to be installed by council for dogs not to enter the play park and enclosed sports area as per existing council rules. Update received from Council Officer Richard Booker on location of signs to be installed soon.
   2. Problem of littering with poo bags in the park discussed. May do some posters on this.
5. Dog agility equipment.
   1. Rachel raised idea to raise funds for dog agility equipment as has been installed at another local park. We could set a crowd funder for this. Suggested Pam Rolly may like to be involved. **Action BH and RK.**
   2. Concern was raised at the meeting that this would be an enclosed area and dogs could be restricted from other areas of the park. FOSP committee members stated that this is not the case. This would definitely not be in an enclosed area as we are aware this increases dog attacks and injury and is against council policy. We also have no intention of restricting dog owners from accessing any part of the field apart from the children's play area and the running track (an enclosed sports area) as per the councils existing rules.
6. Off-road motor bike issue. The council are well aware of the issue and ask us to report any sightings to the police non-emergency number. The Manchester Police division which tackle off-road bike nuisance has been moved to Stockport to tackle this problem.
7. Path improvements – update given from meeting arranged by councillors with council and local residents. VM and TP reported that Richard Booker from the council has asked Gatley Primary for formal feedback. They are going to give this, but they said they didn’t want to feedback on behalf of all of community. We agreed that the council need to work harder to consult with all group.
8. Update on SMART planned archaeological dig application. Update from Rachel. The heritage lottery fund is now open again. SMART are keen to put their bid in later this year to deliver next year. Rachel will follow up with Andrea in a couple of months.
9. Planned events.
   1. Events for summer to be considered including maintaining the planters with schools or further planting along new path, or fruit bushes area, storytelling event, family picnic, mile run event.
   2. Christmas lantern event planned.
   3. Chris mentioned activities done by Gatley Carrs group in the past that we could do including bird watching and bat watching. **JO to Progress**
10. Any Other Business
    1. Some additional young people joined the zoom meeting near the end of the meeting and did not contribute to the meeting. Agreed to only share the meeting invite details with members of the FOSP facebook group on those on the email mailing list in future. **Action committee members.**
    2. Next FOSP meeting Weds 16th June 8.30pm on zoom.