**AGENDA**

**MEETING FRIENDS OF SCHOLES PARK**

**16th Sept 2021 8.30pm**

Venue: Piccolos Gatley

1. Introductions

Simon Goldthorpe –FOSP Treasurer/Chair of this meeting

Pam and James – Local residents/neighbours to Scholes fields (also members of Gatley runners and Gatley Allotment Association)

Keith Holloway - Councillor

Victoria Harris – FOSP Communications Officer

Alison Jones – Kingsway School

Tracey Payton – Gatley Primary School and Kingsway School

Venessa McManus– Gatley Primary

Apologies

Bridget Hanley- FOSP Chair

Rachel Knight- FOSP Heritage Officer

Gary Wade – Local resident

Actions from last meeting covered in relevant sections in the agenda. Actions from this meeting in bold

1. Mid-year accounts provided by Simon
2. Recent events
   1. Family litter picking event 3rd August. A big success. We will hold another pick in October half term which we can combine with bulb planting. Ask the council and/or local residents for bulb donations. Let Iain Roberts know and will put on Councillors email the Sunday before. We can also advertise at Gatley Primary and Lum Head Schools. **Action VH & JO**
   2. We now have litter pickers which we can use for further events.
   3. Replanting/tidying the planters complete 25th July with general volunteers and Elm Road Sunday school. Thank you to Jefferies nursery for donating the plants. Plan to more planting with schools in the Spring.
3. Concern over cyclists on refurbished park path
   1. The council said they would install larger signs but yet to be done. FOSP to raise with the council on email and copy in Keith (potential to use ward funds to fund the sign). Mostly adults rather than school children. A lady has been hit by a cyclist and had to be taken to hospital. Richard Booker sent proposal about replacement/ additional signs, but this hasn’t been actioned yet. **JO & KH**
4. Park Information Sign Update
   1. Requested update from Richard Booker and he has contacted Shelly signs. Agreed location of sign.
5. Trim trail play equipment funding update
   1. Total now stands at £9654 (£1,115 existing funds, £590 just giving donations, £700 SPRING group, £250 time capsules, £500 Dudley fund, £1000 Arnold Clark Community fund, £1000 Forever Manchester Autotrader Community Fund, £2000 which Stockport Council have said they will contribute, £2500 Brookfield Park Shires Family Trust)
   2. Jo to chaise up £2500 funds promised by the Brookfield Trust through the Cheadle Area Committee.Email sent but no response. Keith will chaise this up again with David Clegg. **KH**
   3. This leaves £1,596 to raise
6. Funding to apply for, for trim trail and urban art project. **JO & BH**
   1. Forever Manchester CDL Fund and Zuto make a difference fund. £1000 each
   2. List available Sector 3 – Stockport in Synergy
   3. Morrison’s and Waitrose funding applications
7. Fundraising calendar
8. **VH, BH and JO to progress**. Plan to ask people to submit photos for each month and do an online vote. To include photos by Josie local photographer with her permission. To do jointly with Gatley Carrs. Victoria has spoken to Emma and she is keen. Plan to ask local businesses to sponsor a month each. Ask Sign and Display/Gatley signs for printing. All sales split between us and the Carrs. We can sell at school fairs.
9. Christmas lantern parade
   1. £200 from Stockport Hydro for materials
   2. Community garden in Preston will donate us the willow if we go and cut it ourselves and we can give them a small donation. Jo can go in November **JO**
   3. Additional LED lights, masking tape, PVA glue and tracing paper required
   4. Can make Willow wands and more complex lanterns. Any skilled people who could help? Rachel is asking some people. **RK**
   5. Ask Colin Owen about light switch on to see if we can hold at the same time **VH**
   6. Ask A&I for materials **SG**
   7. Plan for schools to make the lanterns. FOSP can go into schools to hold workshops or we can do packs for the schools. Tracey offered to help on behalf of GP. **JO & BH &TP**
   8. Other community groups can also make them e.g. Sunday Schools, Guide and Scout Groups. **JO**
   9. Set up separate session to arrange **JO**
10. Christmas family trail
    1. Cancelled last year due to covid but we have the robins, posters, risk assessment ready to use. Go ahead. Get some maps printed and leave in shops in Gatley. Email Iain Roberts and he can advertise in Counsellor newsletter. **JO**
11. Urban art project
    1. Wall Mural Idea. Could we have a wall mural under one of the two railway bridges at entrances to the park (Foxland road bridge or Borrowdale Ave Bridge) to cover the graffiti e.g. Lee Hartley – Urban Dirt Wall Murals. This could include ideas on nature, Gatley and community. Idea supported and we would like the Kingsway art department to be involved. We would speak to the neighbours of this area before anything was done. Alison is keen for Kingsway to be involved. Need approval from network rail which is the first step **JO & AJ** to email them, stating we have support from our Councillors.
12. Task/activities with school groups
    1. Bat identification. Victoria knows an expert that would do a session. Needs to be in the summer **VH**
    2. Spring, tree identification trail **JO**
13. Community task day
    1. Tidy entrance to play park, improve wildflower area and plant fruit bushes. Gatley Flower Rangers could provide us with advice and ideas. Victoria suggests contacting blooming local (part of Jefferies nursey). He could provide us with some advice. **BH & VH**
14. Running track refurbishment
    1. The Council provided feedback to FOSP after the last meeting. Richard Booker said the council were carrying out a survey with a specialist sports surface company to access refurbishment cost (which they will compare with the quote TP & JO got from local contractors now two years old), and ongoing maintenance cost. This is part of a number of surveys they are undertaking for sports area. Results expected within 6 weeks. Unfortunately, we haven’t had any feedback on this from the council after Tracey emailed Richard in July and August.
    2. Tracey has an updated quote from contractors Bancroft.
    3. Funding from the trust has been ring fenced in trust for 3 years but can be held no longer.
    4. Request to Keith to work on the council on this issue **KH**
15. Income is over £5000 per year we need to apply for charitable status. Charity commissioning were only accepting applications from Covid related Charites. **Simon will report back at next meeting. SG**
16. Condition of the park
    1. Complaints about maintenance of the path (weeds growing high)
    2. Council said they were going to cut back the foliage and seed some grass in places but they haven’t yet done this.
    3. Tracey to complain on behalf of Gatley Primary **TP**
    4. The Councillors have chased and we have had feedback from Daryl that they plan to do this work next week. If this doesn’t happen, we could organise a task day and include Stockport Good gym volunteers. Pam offered to donate poppy seeds. **JO & VH.**
    5. Report path condition of path and weeds. The council had previously stated they were planning to cut back the weeds and lay grass seeds Keith will chase the council and Tracey will also complain on behalf of Gatley Primary **KH & VM**.
17. Dog show (for the future)
18. Any Other Business
    1. Keith had an email from chairperson of local spiritual assembly. Nov 21 commemorating centenary and wish to plant a tree. FOSP can speak to council for them. Council Arboriculturalist is Peter Pollard. **JO**
    2. Request fromGW to ask the council to empty the bins more frequently. **JO**
    3. Muddy condition of the paths. GW asked if we could invite people to donate flag stones and bricks which FOSP could lay. We ruled this out due to liability for accidents e.g. slips, trips falls and council unlikely to support. We can ask the council for more wood chipping. Pam will ask Tina her contact at the allotment to help source more woodchip also. **JO & P**
    4. Golf club funding. We won’t promote the scheme directly but would like to benefit from any community funding. Final funding comes through the council and 106 funding
    5. Update from Flower rangers. Plan to weed the verge from Hawthorne road and plant some wild flower seed October 3rd. We will warn them of the Councils plans **JO**
    6. Next meeting 30th November. AGM and including Christmas drinks/celebration.