

Friends of Beechwood Park (FoBP) (a sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council): Action Report of meeting of 17th September, 2009.

(Please note that our next meeting will take place in Stirling High School on Thursday 12th November, 2009.)

Present. Murray Dickie; Margaret Duff; Hugh Gillies; Wilson Jamieson; Hirek Kwiatkowski (Convener); Valerie Milligan; Bill Sim; Ian Robertson.

Apologies received. Mary Kwiatkowski; Evelyn Sim.

1. Report of meetings held on 14th July was accepted as an accurate record.
2. Matters arising from Report

- a) Hirek confirmed that he had arranged and issued an agreed litter pick schedule for litter picks with Stirling High School pupils up to end of 2009. There was also some discussion around monitoring of litter in the Park over the summer (when there had been very litter), and now after the start of the new school term (when there was a significant increase in litter again – especially associated with the “lunch trail” from shops supplying food, through the Park and to the school). A query was also raised regarding what was the “basic litter-picking contract” in the Park as resourced by Stirling Council – since there had again been some recent evidence of this being erratic. It was agreed that it was important to establish this baseline information ASAP; and also that the latter of the long-requested additional litter bins should be raised yet again with Stirling Council. Murray also suggested that, at an appropriate time, it might be a positive move to seek to arrange a special litter pick – in agreement with the school – on e.g. a Wednesday, that might then be analysed to identify the source of the litter in the Park.

ACTION. Hirek to contact David Crichton of Stirling Council ASP to seek information regarding the Park litter contract; and also to request additional litter bins ASAP.

- b) Murray gave a brief report from the meeting of Community Council with a representative of Stirling Council’s *Going Carbon Neutral* initiative, and it was agreed that members of *FoBP* core group would sign up to the “My Torbrex Carbon Cutter Plan” – with a view to returning the “report” proforma (circulated) at the Torbrex C/Council AGM in May, 2010.

ACTION. FoBP members to undertake and monitor the October 2009-to-April 2010 actions on “Torbrex Carbon Cutter Plan.

3. With regard to Beechwood Park “Masterplan” process, Hirek reported that that he, Wilson Jamieson and Jim Docherty had attended a meeting of the “Steering Group” for the Masterplan project on 27th August. The purpose of this meeting had been to allow the Steering Group to see what is to be presented as the full confirmed Masterplan, which is then to be “signed off” by Stirling Council in early September. There had been discussion over a number of issues – from presentational matters to continuing matters of substance, and continuing concerns - e.g. implications of, and need for a “plan B” regarding any removal of fencing. (A copy of the minutes of this meeting which had only just been received – will be circulated to *FoBP* members by Hirek.) Hirek re-iterated that the Masterplan is a strategic statement and documentation of a 5-10 year vision of how Beechwood Park is intended to develop. This represents a significant step forward; as does the intention that the Steering Group consisting of representatives of Stirling Council, *Friends of Beechwood Park*, and Torbrex Community Council (and consultants, as and when

appropriate) will continue to meet, and to be the principal forum in which on-going individual development proposals in the Park will be discussed and agreed – within the Masterplan context. As a result of discussion at this *FoBP* meeting, it was agreed that Hirek should continue to seek further clarification and assurances regarding: the date/manner of “sign off” of the Masterplan; the Lottery award “plantings” deadline.

ACTION. Hirek to circulate latest Masterplan Steering Group minute Hirek also to contact David Crichton regarding: Masterplan “sign-off”; and preparation and discussions prior to Lottery award “plantings” being undertaken in time to meet 23rd December 2009 report deadline to Big Lottery.

4. Murray gave background information and distributed an associated flier on the coming “Give it a Go” open event to take place in Stirling High School on the afternoon of Saturday 26th September. Arrangements were made for a number of *FoBP* representatives to have a “stall” providing information about *FoBP* and the Masterplan – with a view, hopefully, to attracting further interest, and members.
5. Regarding meetings for year 2010, it was agreed that the suggestion put forward at the last meeting – that meetings should now be quarterly – should be taken forward.

ACTION. Hirek to arrange dates for 2010 (quarterly) meetings.

6. Convenership of *FoBP* for 2010. Hirek intimated again that, after two years as Convener of *FoBP*, he intends to stand down from 31st December 2009; and he asked the group to consider the convenership for 2010.
7. Under AOB, the following matters were raised:
 - Hirek reported briefly on the situation regarding parking near the Park for football matches; and indicated that, in line with advice at a C/Council meeting from Community Police Officer, illegal and inappropriate parking was being reported to the Police.
 - It was reported that some people interested in (but not active core members of) *FoBP* had raised the possibility of further financial contribution. After brief discussion, it was agreed to discuss this more fully at the next meeting.
 - Murray reported briefly on the very substantial and positive developments underway with regard to the Stirling High School polytunnel venture – in which some members of *FoBP* have been involved. More information on this can be found in the Torbrex C/Council Autumn 2009 *Newsletter*.

Provisional agenda for meeting of 12th November 2009 :

Litter picks for 2010 – up to summer
Beechwood Park “Masterplan” : update and initial actions
Membership and possibility of membership “fee” or other form of contribution
Dates of meetings for 2010
Convenership of FoBP for 2010

Remaining meeting date for 2009 : Thursday 12th November: SHS