

Friends of Beechwood Park (FoBP) (a sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council): Action Report of meeting of 12th November, 2009.

(Please note that the next meeting of FoBP is due to take place in Stirling High School on Thursday 25th February, 2010.)

Present. Margaret Duff; Wilson Jamieson; Mary Kwiatkowski; Hirek Kwiatkowski (Convener); Valerie Milligan; Ian Robertson.

Apologies received. Murray Dickie; Hugh Gillies; Evelyn Sim; Bill Sim

1. Report of meeting held on 17th September was accepted as an accurate record.
2. Matters arising from Report
 - a) Mary Kwiatkowski and Wilson Jamieson gave a report from the “Give it a Go” event on 26th September, and indicated that they had had some interest in the work of FoBP, and had made useful contacts, including :
 - Ferne Milne – who is interested in activities for teenagers – and would be keen to hear of other activities of FoBP outside school hours;
 - John Risk – who has a keen interest and considerable knowledge and experience of trees and tree planting.
 - b) With regard to the matter of the litter clearing contract for the Park, Hirek reported that he had requested information on this from David Crichton – but had, as yet, not received such information. Hirek had also, yet again, made a plea that some additional litter bins be placed in suitable locations in the Park (as advised to Streetscape many months ago) ASAP. David Crichton had indicated an intention to try to provide some additional bins quickly.
 - c) Regarding the matter of illegal parking near the Park at the entrance to Beechwood Gardens, Hirek reported that the interest shown and action taken by our Community police (via the Community Council) was having a positive impact – with fewer people parking illegally on the pavements or double yellow lines.
3. Wilson and Hirek gave a summary report from the latest meeting of the Masterplan Steering Group (held on 3rd November – Hirek will again circulate the minutes of this meeting when they are available). The main points arising from what had been a positive meeting were:
 - the Masterplan is now complete, and is ready to be put before an appropriate Council committee or forum for *endorsement* by Stirling Council;
 - David Crichton indicated his intention to contact The Big Lottery ASAP to put a revised rationale for spending the awarded £10K on plantings – with a view to the necessary preliminary surveys and the actual planting being completed and reported upon in time for the reporting deadline of 23rd December **
 - an initial schedule/timetable for some of the planned developments in the Park (within the Masterplan context) will be drawn up – to include, as well as the initial plantings, the revised “play” developments for children/young people (which were “held”, pending the preparation of the Masterplan) – along with any necessary infrastructure improvement

which may be required in preparation for the new young peoples' facilities. (As part of this discussion, concern was expressed regarding recently observed negative impact on the current play facilities by large number of SHS pupils – and it was agreed that this will have to be addressed before expensive new facilities are invested.)

- the possibility of an “orchard” project being taken forward soon – with the support of the forestry authority – though possibly initially aimed at SHS, in order to introduce pupils to the responsibilities of supporting and protecting such a development.

**** David Crichton contacted The Big Lottery the next day with a revised rationale for the plantings, and the Lottery office agreed to this at once – allowing planning and work towards the plantings to proceed.**

4. Hirek tabled a *draft* “Update” letter to *FoBP* supporters for approval – outlining the work and achievements of *FoBP* over 2009. This draft was approved. There was then some discussion of item 5 of the Agenda, “Financial Contributions to *FoBP*”, and it was agreed that it might be more appropriate to seek additional contributions towards specific projects (within the Masterplan context) in the future when these were identified. Hirek was asked to reflect this decision in the Update – so that supporters of *FoBP* who have already indicated a willingness to offer contributions could be made aware of this.
5. Meetings for year 2010, have been agreed, and are listed at the end of this report.*
6. Convener of *FoBP* for 2010. Hirek confirmed that, after two years as Convener of *FoBP*, he will stand down from 31st December 2009. It was not possible to identify another convener at the meeting; Hirek will contact the Convener of Torbrex Community Council.
7. Under AOB, the following was raised:
 - Murray provided a further update on the polytunnel venture with SHS – which is now ready for first plantings to start. There was some discussion of the possibility of using winter vegetables for a focus for these first developments in the polytunnel.

***Meeting dates for 2010 :**

Thursday 25th February : Stirling High School (SHS)
Monday 24th May : SHS
Wednesday 25th August : Mayfield Centre
Tuesday 23rd November : SHS