

**Friends of Beechwood Park (FoBP)** (a sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council): **action report of meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.**

**(PLEASE NOTE : date of *next* meeting is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 at 7.30pm; and is scheduled to take place in the Learning Resource Room of Stirling High School.)**

**Present.** Brendan Docherty; Hugh Gillies; Margaret Duff; Genia Graham; Hirek Kwiatkowski (Convener); Mary Kwiatkowski; Valerie Milligan; Ian Robertson; Evelyn Sim; Bill Sim;

**Apologies.** Murray Dickie; Wilson Jamieson; Norman Walker.

1. Report of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 was accepted as an accurate record. (NB. Please note that the confirmation of record of previous meeting referred to in the Action Report of last meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> February – *should* refer to 22<sup>nd</sup> January.)

2. There were no matters arising from Report of 13<sup>th</sup> February, other than those under agenda for 13<sup>th</sup> March.

3. Thanks were recorded to Valerie Milligan for having attended the Funding Fair and gathered initial information in relation to the matter of funding for FoBP. Following discussions, it was agreed that funding opportunities looked potentially positive from a range of sources, including:

- small individual donations already being received in response to the recently distributed recruitment leaflets;
- the capital budgets of Stirling Council for both parks, and play areas;
- the various bodies identified at the Funding Fair.

It was also agreed that a small “Funding” group be established to explore and generate ideas on funding opportunities; and Mary Kwiatkowski and Bill Sim agreed to work in this area, with assistance from Evelyn Sim.

*ACTION. Funding group to review the information recently gathered from the Funding Fair and in relation to Stirling Council, and recommend which leads to follow/prioritise – to include early contact with “Sons of the Rock” group.*

*Community Council to be approached with a view to lodging all received funds with C/Council Treasurer; from whom costs for individual agreed projects will be accessed.*

*Procedures to be established whereby a different named member of FoBP will be identified to lead, monitor and implement each grant-supported projects.*

4. With regard to final preparations for the Consultation along with Children’s Services on 17<sup>th</sup> March, the following was confirmed:

- final arrangements regarding individual attendance at the Consultation from FoBP;
- availability of questionnaires;
- that role of FoBP was to encourage public to give their own views and suggestions for the Park in light of information being displayed (and NOT to promote any specific viewpoint);
- that there should be a process of review and reflection on the data emerging from the Consultation, and some further dialogue BEFORE any final decision and implementation of proposals.

*ACTION. Hirek Kwiatkowski to write to Sue Gutteridge, Colin Mackay and Bill Eadie stressing importance of analysis, review and dialogue prior to implementation of final proposals.*

Hirek also reported that Sue Gutteridge hoped to cover a shortfall of approx. £4K in the cost of the proposed developments for the Park which Sue hoped to cover through a “Landfill Tax Credit” grant. In offering to assist with the application for this, Hirek had discovered from Audrey Morrison of Stirling Council that it would require a community group such as *FoBP* to be aware of and committed to the particular part of the proposal for which this funding was required. In the absence of any details relating to this (despite this having been requested), it was agreed that *FoBP* could not consider supporting this until such detailed information is made available.

5. Following discussion about use of website facility in communications, it was agreed that:
  - ~ agendas and Action Reports will be displayed on website, but will also be distributed by e-mail/direct delivery at this early stage of *FoBP*;
  - ~ as *FoBP* develops and grows as a group, other appropriate key documents will be published on the website.

*ACTION. Brendan Docherty to assist with posting of agendas/minutes/ key papers on website.*

6. There was brief discussion of the need to turn the focus of *FOBP* as soon as possible to some of the strategic matters and issues of principle regarding Beechwood Park, its development and use by the wider community : issues which had been at the heart of early discussions in setting up *FoBP*. Hirek proposed that such issues should be prioritised over the next few meetings in order that *FoBP* would be able to undertake its published overall aim and objectives. It was therefore agreed that issues to be taken forward quickly were-

- Establishing links (through meetings ASAP) with key personnel and agencies. Persons initially identified were: Janet Hewitt (Head of Community Services); Richard Smith (Biodiversity Officer); and person in charge of Streetscape (related to Park maintenance); Councillor Neil Benny, who appears to have a particular interest in a strategic approach to parks management and planning in Stirling.
- Taking forward the intended links with schools: especially now that the Stirling High School move was completed, and the school was hopefully settling in.
- Moving forward as quickly as possible on exploring a strategy for tree replacement/planting in the Park.

It was hoped these initial moves would assist in beginning to understand and develop a “vision” for the Park and community, which *FoBP* would hope to share with those currently responsible for maintenance, management and development of Beechwood Park.

*ACTION. Hirek to work with other members of FoBP to set up initial meetings with key personnel/agencies; and also to move to initiate appropriate meetings with schools after Easter schools break. strategic issues to be prioritised in agendas of next few meetings.*

7. Under AOB, the matter of a possible application to a “Placemaking Seminar” was discussed. However, since this was targeted at professionals involved in parks development, and there was already growing work for those actively involved in *FOBP*, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to follow this up. It was also requested that Streetscape be contacted with a view to seeking an increase in the number of litter bins (especially in light of perceived increased school-related traffic) and also dog bins in the park; and more frequent clearing of these.

*ACTION. Hugh Gillies to e-mail Sandy McLean of Streetscape with this request.*

***Provisional agenda for meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> April :***

*Funding for FoBP..*

*Review and analysis of data following Consultation along with Children’s Services:  
key information/views emerging;  
implications for Park proposed developments.*

*Strategic Issues: progress on contacts with key personnel/agencies  
contacts with schools  
tree replacement/ biodiversity strategy in Park  
towards development of a “vision” for Beechwood Park*

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**Meeting dates for 2008 :**

<b>Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> Aug.</b>
	<b>Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b>
	<b>Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.</b>
		<b>Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.</b>