

Friends of Beechwood Park (FoBP) (a sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council): **action report of meeting of 15th April, 2008.**

(PLEASE NOTE : date of *next* meeting is Wednesday 21st May, 2008 at 7.30pm; and is scheduled to take place in the Learning Resource Room of Stirling High School.)

Present. Margaret Duff; Wilson Jamieson; Hirek Kwiatkowski (Convener); Mary Kwiatkowski; Ian Robertson; Evelyn Sim; Bill Sim;

Apologies received. Brendan Docherty; Hugh Gillies; Valerie Milligan; Katherine Kirsop.

(NB. Although SHS had been confirmed as booked for this meeting, no-one was present at the school, and the meeting had to be re-located. As a result, K. Kirsop, who had signalled possibility of attending – depending on time of close of another meeting she was attending - arrived later, but was unable to find re-located meeting; for which Convener has subsequently apologised.)

1. Report of meeting held on 13th March 2008 was accepted as an accurate record.
2. Matters arising from Report of 13th February.
 - a. **Funding for FoBP.** (i) Hirek Kwiatkowski reported that due an illness issue, he had not yet been able to get the donations recently received to Murray Dickie to be given to C/Council treasurer, but would do so ASAP; and also seek advice regarding issue of receipts.
 - (ii) Mary Kwiatkowski gave an update on developments from the Funding Group: indicating that a number of letters had been sent out (copy example attached) to some of the agencies identified at the March Funding Fair, other bodies such as appropriate Rotary Clubs and also the Guildry of Stirling, as well as to selected companies. Bill Sim would be following up some of these leads following issue of the letters. Mary had also been in touch by e-mail and phone with *Sons of the Rock*; and they had suggested that *FoBP* contact them again at the start of their new financial year in August – which was felt by members present to be appropriate, since this will give time for further strategic discussions and advice regarding how any attracted funds should be spent.

ACTION. Bill Sim to follow up written communications, as appropriate.

- b. **Links/communications with key personnel/agencies.** Hirek Kwiatkowski reported that he had either already e-mailed or was preparing to e-mail the following people, with a view to setting up brief introductory meetings:
Janice Hewitt (Head of Community Services, and understood to have overall strategic responsibility for Parks) – who had replied, referring Hirek to someone else who had responsibility for the football pitches in the Park. It was agreed that Hirek should contact Janice Hewitt again.
Sandy McLean (of Streetscape) – who has arranged to meet Hirek and Wilson Jamieson very soon.
Richard Smith (Council Biodiversity Officer) – who, unfortunately, has just got a new job elsewhere.
Pat Scullion (new Headteacher of SHS) – who will be contacted later in the first week of new school term with a view to an introductory meeting at the school.

ACTION. Hirek to contact Janice Hewitt again; and to arrange meeting with Pat Scullion.

3. With regard to the recent Consultation regarding the proposals for Beechwood Park from Children's Services, Hirek Kwiatkowski provided a brief *oral interim* report from the data from 50 questionnaires returned so far. Hirek stressed the *interim* nature of this report, since further data from additional questionnaires that Murray Dickie was intending to circulate in two schools in order to balance the age profile of returns was still pending. He also indicated that this interim analysis had been done separately by himself, Wilson Jamieson, and Mary Kwiatkowski with the data provided by Murray; and after these three individual analyses, they had met to identify any clear and evidenced main themes/issues that could be derived from the data so far. Hirek indicated that such *interim* analysis had validity, could help save time in the short period of time available for analysis of the full data by 29th April; and could also highlight key issues and or questions, depending upon the correlation with the data from the younger age group when that is available. **It was stressed that final analysis and review related to decision-making can only be derived from the final full data available by end of April.** In the context of the above, a summary *interim* overview of key points emerging from the questionnaires would indicate:

- a genuine interest in/valuing of Beechwood Park for its –
space and environment
attractiveness (with potential for further improvement)
facilities: especially for bikes and childrens' play
- strong concerns over –
lack of maintenance
dog-fouling and lack of dog bins
litter/litter bins problems
vandalism/rowdyism (current and future potential)
safety : lighting and security round children's play areas
- a wish to raise quality of Park environment through –
addressing litter and dog bins problems
more seating/relaxing areas
wider range of shrubs/plants.

Finally, Hirek Kwiatkowski summarised the process for analysis and identification of issues from the full final data at the Community Council workshop on 29th May – as outlined by Murray Dickie. Members were happy to proceed this way; but also asked Hirek to contact Murray regarding how there might be “joint” dialogue and decision-making prior to implementation of a final proposal from Children's Services – particularly in light of the report in “Latest News” from Stirling Council (10th March) that “communities will now be consulted on the provision of play areas before a programme of redevelopment is brought back before the [Executive] committee.”

ACTION. Hirek to contact Murray Dickie re analysis/review/decision-making process.

4. There was some further 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 and its development. A range of matters were briefly discussed, particularly:
- procedures were agreed to establish a register of members – indicating the degree of involvement proposed; a letter would be sent to members (copy example attached); and it was proposed that a six-monthly update on developments in the Park would be sent to members

- initial discussion of how to develop an “agenda” for supporting development of the Park : particularly using data emerging from the recent Consultation; and in a dialogue with key personnel and agencies
- the need to prioritise : ideas/strategy for development of the area of the Park behind the Scouting Centre; a strategy for tree and shrub replacement; a strategy for providing additional seating in the Park.

Once again, Hirek proposed that such issues should be prioritised for more detailed discussion over the next few meetings.

ACTION . Hirek to prepare a outline structure to enable group to “brainstorm” key issues in a strategy to support development of the Park for next meeting.

5. Under **AOB**, the following points were raised:-

Brendan Docherty has agreed to chair the June meeting of FoBP in Hirek’s absence.

Bill Sim suggested that there should be some attempt to *cost* an initial programme of shrubs/plants/trees replacement and enhancement.

The group again expressed concern at the need to find ways to increase recruitment and widen the demographic involvement and representation of *FoBP*.

Provisional agenda for meeting of 21st May :

Funding for FoBP : update

Meetings with key personnel/agencies : update

Recruitment to FoBP

Outcome of final review and analysis of data following Consultation along with Children’s Services: implications for Park proposed developments.

Strategic issues: “brainstorm” exercise to elicit and prioritise issues to support Park development.

Meeting dates for 2008 :

**Wed. 21st May
Thurs. 19th June
Tues. 22nd July**

**Tues. 21st Aug.
Wed. 17th Sept.
Tues. 21st Oct.
Thurs. 20th Nov.**