

**Friends of Beechwood Park (FoBP)** (a sub-committee of Torbrex Community Council): **action report of meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2008.**

**( IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE : date of *next* meeting is now Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008 at 7.30pm; and will this time be in the Mayfield Centre.** The June meeting has been cancelled; and it has been necessary to change the venue for the July meeting. **Please also note that we still have a planned August meeting scheduled; and that this should be for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August , and will also probably take place in the Mayfield Centre)**

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

**Apologies received.** Katherine Kirsop.

1. Report of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008 was accepted as an accurate record.
2. Matters arising from Report of 15<sup>th</sup> April.
  - a. **Links/communications with key personnel/agencies.** Hirek Kwiatkowski reported on a number of developments:  
Following upon further correspondence with Janice Hewitt, he has received a communication from Les Goodfellow, who is leading the Open Spaces strategy; and who has indicated his willingness to meet with Hirek and Wilson Jamieson. Hirek and Wilson Jamieson have had a very positive meeting with Sandy McLean (of Streetscape) – who has been alerted to the urgent matter of the need for more litter bins; and who has indicated his willingness to come to meet with FoBP as soon as appropriate.  
Hugh Gillies and Wilson have also been in communication with Jim Fisher over the matter of bins for dog waste; and a proposal for additional dog waste and litter bins has now been sent to Mr. Fisher.  
Hirek and Wilson have also had an introductory meeting with Pat Scullion (new Headteacher of SHS) which was also very positive with a clear sense of potential co-operation emerging. Mrs. Scullion has also put Trudi Togneri (of schools Eco Club) in touch with Hirek, and a visit to see the school and have initial discussions regarding co-operation is to be arranged soon. A large number of those present indicated their wish to be involved in this visit. It was also proposed that this opportunity should be made available to members of the Community Council, and Hirek agreed to circulate information about the visit when a date is identified.  
Finally, Hirek indicated that it is still his wish to make formal contact with our local Councillors, and it was agreed that he and Bill Sim will arrange to meet with the Councillors as soon as this can be arranged.  
*ACTION. Hirek to: progress meeting with Les Goodfellow ASAP; arrange visit to SHS for meeting with Trudi Togneri over the summer; invite Sandy McLean to meet FoBP at first appropriate meeting.*
  - b. **Funding for FoBP** : no further information at this time, since it is agreed that further pursuit of funding will require a clear sense of the purposes to which

funds will be applied. This will derive from the strategic and prioritised plan to be developed – see item 6, below.

- c. **Recruitment to FoBP**: Hirek expressed some concern over the numbers so far recruited to FoBP (though it was noted that *Friends of Kings Park* have similar membership numbers) and also breadth of representation. In view of pressure on the agenda of the meeting, it was agreed to remit further discussion of this to the next meeting, but also that there would be wider distribution of the excellent information/recruitment leaflets.

*ACTION*: Wilson to provide leaflets to identified locations, e.g. appropriate libraries; post office etc.

3. On the matter of frequency of meetings, Hirek explained that he had now had an apology from School Lets over the matter of no accommodation at the April meeting; and it had also been indicated that there would be no accommodation availability in SHS over the summer holiday period. It was therefore agreed to seek alternative accommodation – probably at the Mayfield Centre. In view of the concern expressed at the meeting regarding the lack of community access to the school over the summer, Hirek agreed to contact FES about this.

After some discussion, it was also agreed that, after the scheduled June and July meetings this year, FoB will move to meetings every *two* months after then.

*ACTION*. Hirek to contact School Lets; and FES.

4. Following the discovery by Brendan Docherty of substantial damage (by paint) to trees in the Park (to which Brendan had alerted Katherine Kirsop, Community Police Officer), it was agreed that the police should be formally notified.

*ACTION*. Hirek to contact police.

5. There was discussion of the analysis/review of data arising from the Spring Consultation exercise; and the overview summary provided by Murray Dickie as well as the earlier interim analysis by FoBP were considered. It was agreed that a number of key themes could be identified from the information/comments in the questionnaires, and both the very positive points and a number of identified strong concerns were further clarified at the meeting.

It was then decided that Hirek should draft a summary\*\* of the key points and concerns from the Consultation to be sent to the Community Council for its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May – with a view to this being forwarded (along with Murray’s overview) by the Council to Children’s Services, indicating the need to address the concerns *before any final proposals are implemented*.

\*\* **NB**. A copy of the summary for the Community Council **is provided here as an attachment** to this Action Report.

6. In order to progress the matter of the strategic agenda and priorities for FoBP, Hirek provided a draft proforma to help us “brainstorm” and then develop a process for thinking through and then implementing support to developments in the Park over the next few years. It was agreed that this is becoming an increasingly urgent matter, and that the format issued by Hirek would be helpful in preparing for this. **A copy of this proforma is also provided as an attachment to this Action Report.**

*ACTION*. All members of FoBP are asked to use the proforma which has been provided, and to come to the next meeting of FoBP ready to contribute to our thinking.

**If possible, members are invited to prepare some thoughts in advance, and to pass these to Hirek by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – and it may be possible to have a more advanced draft of the proforma to work with at our July meeting.**

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

In view of difficulties over attendance at planned June meeting, it was agreed to cancel this meeting; and so next meeting will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – location to be decided.

Bill Sim raised the matter of uncompleted works in the Park by the developer of the new school : lack of shrubs between the two fences; the rubble beside new footpaths; inoperative lampposts. Hirek agreed to look into this. \*\*

(\*\* Since then, the Community Council agreed at its May meeting that it should be the C/Council that takes up the matter of unfinished works with the developer.)

***Provisional agenda for meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> July :***

*Strategic issues: “brainstorm” exercise to elicit and prioritise issues to support Park development. It is hoped that this can be the principal topic for July’s meeting.*

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

*Recruitment to FoBP*

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**Meeting dates for 2008 (dates below likely to be adjusted soon to bi-monthly meetings soon) :**

**Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> Aug.  
Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept.  
Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.  
Thurs. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.**