

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

(PLEASE NOTE : this is our last meeting for 2008 – and will take place in Stirling High School. Dates of meetings for 2009 will be provided in the Agenda for our November 2008 meeting.)

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

Apologies received. Brendan Docherty; Bill Sim; Evelyn Sim..

1. Report of meeting held on 21st August 2008 was accepted as an accurate record.
2. Matters arising from Report
 - a. Hirek reported that a 6 months extension had been successfully obtained for the deadline for the Breathing Spaces Lottery Award. The new deadline is in December, 2009.
 - b. The confirmed 3rd draft of our “brainstorm” exercise had now been amended to become “Version 1” of our *FoBP*; and this was now being circulated to all active members. This will now provide an initial point of reference for discussions/action on developments. However, it is not seen as a “static” document; and will be subject to change/addition/amendment – so an active file of further thinking will be held. In this context, some photographs of park features brought from Canada by Wilson Jamieson were welcomed, and will be filed for future discussion and action.
(See also item 3, below.)
3. Hirek gave a report of a meeting which took place on 9th October (attended by himself, Murray and Brendan) with 8 Council Officials from Environment Services, Community Services, Children’s Services and Active Stirling, and Bob Connon of Connon Design Associates. This meeting had followed from the earlier commitment by Les Goodfellow to undertake a more “holistic” approach to developments in Beechwood Park. In summary, key points emerging from the meeting were:
 - Agreement as to the area under discussion : to include, Beechwood Park, the open spaces in front of 16-34 and 29-41 Newhouse, and access from Torbrex Lane off Torbrex Farm Road
 - Agreement to take a “Masterplan “ approach to a development horizon of 5 – 20 years
 - The need to consult with a wide range of stakeholders, reflecting the wide range of the immediate and wider community who use the Park in different ways
 - Exploration of a wide range of ideas to be explored; and the need for a range of funding sources.

After what was seen to have been a positive exploratory meeting, it was decided that the way forward is for Connon Design Associates to engage with the identified stakeholders regarding their ideas and aspirations – with a view, hopefully, to an initial and very preliminary report before Christmas, if possible.

Members of *FoBP* welcomed this significant development, and in the following discussion, the following points/decisions were made:

- a. Version 1 of our strategic agenda will be very useful in presenting our thinking to Connon Design Associates when they consult us as stakeholders; and it will also be important to realise that development of the proposed Beechwood Park Masterplan will impact upon our own ideas I Version 1.
- b. The Masterplan initiative will also affect our thinking and initial plans with regard to funding and requests for resources. In the discussion about this, it was agreed that the

inevitable delay now over final decisions on development of the Park should be “bridged”, in relation to potential funders/donors. It was proposed that our funding group contact potential donors to explain the situation, and with a view to suggesting how they might still contribute towards coming substantial Park development (e.g. contributions towards SHS polytunnel to prepare socks for planting).

- c. The matter of our recent requests for additional bins (litter/dogs) was also raised – given the implications of the Masterplan process. Hugh Gillies reported that he had, as requested, followed up on our requests, and had been to that Streetscape were awaiting delivery of a specific type of bin – which will then be considered for use in the locations under discussion.

ACTION. Mary Kwiatkowski and Bill Sim to discuss and implement a plan for contacting potential donors again soon – to explain the very positive developments, delays in decisions, and possible interim/“seed” contributions.

4. Trudi Togneri from Stirling High School joined the meeting to discuss aspects of links with the School:

- a. Litter picks – following agreement in principle that members of *FoBP* will join Trudi and students in regular litter picks, it was agreed to provide Trudi with a list of names and times for her planned weekly (Thursdays) and monthly (Fridays) picks.
- b. With regard to the planned polytunnel at the school, it was agreed that *FoBP* and the St. Ninian’s Community Development Trust will work towards identifying and providing funding for relevant equipment/resources for this venture.

ACTION. Hirek to organise a schedule for the Thursday and Friday litter picks. Mary Kwiatkowski and Bill Sim to progress financial/resources support for the polytunnel venture.

5. Recruitment to *FoBP*. There was some further discussion of ways to widen membership, and it was agreed that a useful way forward will be to try to engage members of the public in the activities in which *FoBP* are now becoming involved: e.g. the litter picks; the polytunnel venture.
6. Under AOB, Hirek raised the matter of recent damage to the grass in the Park by a van driving into the Park via the footpath. It was agreed that he should try to identify this vehicle, and follow the matter up.

Provisional agenda for meeting of 20th November :

A Final Agenda for our November meeting is being sent out with this Action Report.

Meeting dates for 2009 : a list of the confirmed bi-monthly meetings for 2009 are provided on the Final Agenda for our November 2008 meeting.