



Public Park Improvement Group
385 Social Club, Lochgelly
20th June 2016

Present

George Kinnell (GK), Stevie Murray (SM), Jimmy Mann (JM), David Hemsead (DH), Carol Mackie (CM), Colin Davidson (CD), Stephen Duffy (SD), Alex Lamond (AL) and Margaret King (Fife Council)

Apologies –Karen More (KM), Jean McDonald (JMc), Tam Durham (TD) & Cllr Mark Hood (MH)

1	<p>Minutes from previous meeting & Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes approved – DH, seconded JM</p> <p>Matters Arising – SM confirmed that we were still awaiting confirmation of costs associated with CCTV, the information from the Council CCTV Officer was that we would need to look at digging trenches for the cabling, it would need to be connected to a Council Office and would likely be expensive to install. SM added there appeared to have been some misinformation issued about this topic and reaffirmed that a parent had asked the group to investigate this matter and that we hadn't confirmed that we were looking to install the system as suggested.</p> <p>SM advised that JM had been in contact with the bank, we had received the internet banking kit, although it wasn't suitable as we needed separate details for the Treasurer and Secretary. SM and JMc had then gone into get the signatory changed and make the payment to Fife Council which have now been done.</p> <p>JM explained that we will await the details for the internet banking and also use the cheque book system if needed.</p> <p>AL advised that the bench for the North side of the park was in store, however they have been unable to install so far due to other work commitments. Agreed that the suggestion of a bench/ seat beside the tree plantation in the north side be put in place. This was following the discussions with a local resident in that area who suggested that it would be a good idea for older people who walk there.</p>
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2 Sensory Garden Development

SM advised that they he and JM had issued letters to the householders immediately surrounding the area to make them aware of the plans and see if they had any concerns. One tenant had contacted us, but this was to do with the article in the local paper about the possible locality of the skatepark. We had also sent the letters to the 3 primary schools, St.Patricks had responded advising that they would be keen to get involved. SM had advised the HT that the likely timescales for the work commencing is September. The only variation from the plans would be the location of the benches, which would be agreed as the project develops.

SD advised that he had met with the Training section about them undertaking the path work. They are able to do the work and that they would be looking at the same timeframe suggested.

JM explained that the path would be tarmacked to allow full access for users and that the raised flower beds would at a height that people of all abilities and ages could get involved in the planting and maintenance.

MK spoke through the options for funding and explained that Fife Environment Trust (FET) would be able to provide grants, however the timescales for the development would need to be delayed as they don't allow work to start before considering applications. The group could look at the National Lottery who would allow grants of up to £10000 and can be applied for at any time. Before applying we would need to know the costs for the project and how much the group would be willing to put in.

SM advised that the costs for the project, based on Andrew's quotes would be in the region of £25k and asked the group to consider allocating £15k from our budget.

CM asked if we could apply for the lottery funding which we were advised is an easier option. Carol suggested that we apply for £10k and the group add £15k. MK added that if the group were contributing this level the application is likely to be looked upon favourably and would enhance future applications. GK added that we look at the Lottery grant scheme which would allow work to start. GK also discussed the possibility of getting access to spring bulbs which would be planted throughout the park. We could get the schools involved in planting them.

Agreed - We apply for lottery funding and that GK investigate sourcing bulbs, (including Daffodils, crocuses and snow drops). MK to commence with the application and liaise with SM as necessary.



Lower Level Tennis Courts

SD had highlighted problems with the wall between the two courts and had suggested a slope. SM added that the gradient of the slope would potentially remove a large part of the area to make it safe which would reduce the plans for a play area and suggested that we look at a raised bed which could be filled by ground cover shrubs. GK suggested layering the slope from the upper to lower which would allow steps to be built into it.

SM advised that he had been at Pitlochry recently and the area that they had for the new play park was comparable with the area we had. They had covered the ground with sand as opposed to grass, although there was grass areas. The park equipment was useable for all ages including trampolines, climbing frame, swings and so on. SM asked if SD could possibly contact Perth & Kinross Council to see how much this cost.

GK asked about the type of sand, however SD advised that the sand is kiln dried which means that it doesn't 'cement' together when it is wet. GK added that it would be better if we break the projects into smaller ones which would mean that we can apply for separate grants.

Agreed – SD to look into possible costs associated with the Pitlochry scheme and report back. SD to liaise with Andrew about diagrams.

3 Park Update – SD & AL – Previous report updated with comments from attendees

Action	Description	Estimated Costs	Timescale	Comments	Responsibility
1	3 signs to be purchased and sited at the park.	DONE	May-16	All signs in place, the group need to consider which sub-signs should be included, e.g. MUGA COURT, Childrens' Play area.	GROUP/CD
2	Repair of wall at the North Entrance	FIFE COUNCIL	Apr-16	GK reported that there were two breeze blocks in the wall which spoiled the look. He asked that these be removed and the wall be established as the traditional style. AGREED SM to email SD about snagging works in the park	SD/ SM
3	BRACKETS AND BASKETS FOR LAMPOSTS	BRACKET AND BASKETS/TOWER VEHICLE	May-16	Hanging Baskets would be installed over the next few weeks, Parks, Streets and Open Spaces were awaiting delivery of brackets for the poles	CD/AL
4	PLANTING AND WATERING OF BASKETS ON LAMPOSTS	LADY HELEN NURSERY	JUNE -OCT	ROSS HAPPY TO TAKE THESE ON	CD/AL



	5	Additional wildflower area to be installed on north facing slope linked to existing with paths through.	FIFE COUNCIL	May-16	AL advised that the seeds had now been sown in the wild flower areas.	CD/AL
	6	Grass old tennis court		autumn 2016	Linked to Sensory Garden project	AH/GROUP
	7	Liaise with local schools regarding the garden		Oct. 2015	SM has had feedback from St. Patricks. No response from the other 2 schools as yet.	Group
	8	fencing replaced/tennis courts	£3,500.00	2016/17	install bowtop fencing	CD
	9	Lighting through park	TBC	TBC	Potential to link in with MUGA court	Group
	10	Benches	GROUP	May-16	MOVE BENCH DOWN TO PATH AT NEW TREES	AL/CD
	11	woodland walk	LOCHGELLY HIGH SCHOOL	APRIL/MAY 2016	3 LITTER PICKS DONE BY SCHOOL	SD
4	<p>Footpath Maintenance</p> <p>SD advised he costs associated with patching the footpath was £3600, he asked if the group would consider contributing to this. SM proposed that we £1000, GK agreed and added that longer term we should look at the whole path being replaced.</p> <p>Agreed – We would contribute £1000 to the costs and SD could commence procurement.</p> <p>Skate Park Location</p> <p>SM advised that at this stage, the Council were looking at developing a plan and costs for this option. The group had previously considered the option however feedback from MK following discussions with the local schools was that they would prefer the MUGA court. The discussion at the previous meeting was that if the Council could access funds then the land to the north of the MUGA court was the preferred location. AL confirmed that there is no problem with this being on a slope.</p>					



Agreed – The council should continue with the plans and that the area north of the MUGA court is the preferred location.

Red Ash Area

JM highlighted that this area remains to be one of the worst parts of the park and asked that the group treat this as one of the projects for immediate development.

SM advised that there was possible options available for funding from Fife Council Housing Services to grass over the surface this year. We would need to look at contributing £30k - £40k towards this. SM added that any works on the area mustn't interfere with the gala day events and that assurances had been sought in the regard. If the work commenced immediately following this years' gala then it would be useable for next year.

AL added that this would be dependent upon weather conditions over the 12 months, the seeds would still have time this year to germinate and 'take' in time for August 2017, which is the normal date for the gala. SD expressed concern about the use of heavy vehicles on the surface and the damage that this would cause. There is potential for the hard standing area at the North end to be used for heavier vehicles.

CM asked whether there was an option for the gala to move temporarily to the West Park where it has been previously. GK agreed that this had been the venue for a number of years. SM advised that this wasn't an option that we could consider and suggested that GK raise this with the Gala group.

GK said that the tents could go around the perimeter of the park so that wouldn't cause any problems and added that at present the surface is mainly used as a car park when the football is on. SD added that he had had to speak to the teams about this problem as it was causing damage.

DH asked how much it costs at present to maintain, including weed killing and so on. SD would be able to provide the costs associated at present.



	<p>Agreed – That the area would be grassed over and we seek opinion on what options could be done in the area for future development. SM to write to the Gala Committee to provide the reassurances that any work on the area will not interfere with this years' gala and shouldn't interfere with future events. GK would hand this into the Gala Committee and it would be circulated. SM to issue a press release seeking views on the future options once the area is grassed over.</p>
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>JM raised concern about the fact that it appeared that plot holders were still accessing and exiting the park from the public footpath on Auchterderran Road. This needs to be investigated further as it appears that the bollards are too far away from the wall allowing vehicles through.</p> <p>DH complained about the recent articles in the local newspaper which were written by an anonymous source. DH added that they appear to be trying to split the community or indicate that this group and growing in lochgelly group are at loggerheads for some reason. DH stated that the work being carried out by the growing in lochgelly group is a fantastic addition to the town and there is no reason why the two groups couldn't work together. GK added that we are all working toward the same result.</p> <p>SM said that he and GK had discussed the same issue last week, there is an opportunity for additional people to get involved in this group or contribute to the development of the park. MK concluded the discussion by stating that the groups are volunteers and it is important to try and advised that the best thing to do was to ignore them.</p>
6	<p>Date of next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 8th August 2016 at 6.00 in the 385 Social Club</p>