



Public Park Improvement Group  
385 Social Club, Lochgelly  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Present

Stevie Murray (SM), George Kinnell (GK) Jimmy Mann (JM), David Hemseed (DH), Stephen Duffy (SD), Alex Lamond (AL) and Jean McDonald (JMc)

Also present – Eileen Charity & Wendy Miller (Growing in Lochgelly)

Apologies – Colin Davidson (Fife Council), Karen More, Carol Mackie & Cllr Mark Hood (MH)

**Special Topic – Community Garden**

SM welcomed Eileen Charity and Wendy Miller from Growing in Lochgelly, community group. SM explained that GK had raised at the previous community council meeting that the group were looking to establish a community garden within Brucefield plots and that they were looking for support for this project. He had asked that they be allowed to attend a future meeting of the council, however in the interim they had asked to attend this evening Public Park Improvement group meeting.

WM advised that they hadn't allocated any particular land for the garden as yet and were looking at various areas across the town including the plots, fire station and land behind houses in South Street. The purpose of the garden would be to create an area where members of the community could participate in activities or simply gather and socialise. Their initial thoughts were about planting raised flower beds, trees and possibly vegetables although at this stage no real ideas had been developed in their group.

JMc complimented the work undertaken by the group within the town centre and hoped that they would be able to continue with their magnificent work. SM echoed this and expressed his sadness that there appeared to a couple of individuals who attempted to suggest a divide between the groups. Particularly when the focus from both groups was to enhance and improve the town.

SM suggested that the group possibly look at the land next to the Jenny Grey home, this was largely unused and would allow the residents of the sheltered housing complex to participate in the work.

WM explained that the group were looking for support from groups and individuals to help with the projects and the Community Council were one of the groups whom they would liaise with. SM advised that the Community Council had had some discussion at the last meeting although they had agreed to ask representatives along to a future meeting to discuss further. Our initial reaction was mainly positive although there were concerns about the



	<p>location stated. There had been problems highlighted about previous problems in the area and there were concerns about parking, lighting and the suggestion about drug paraphernalia left in the area.</p> <p>SM highlighted that he would be more than happy to help out with the groups' activities and he had spoken previously to GK about getting involved. JM also highlighted that he would be happy to get involved.</p> <p>EC asked about the structure of the group and how we communicated? SM explained that we are a sub-group of the Community Council and that we provide regular reports to the Community Council, had held public meetings, run articles in the local newspaper and online through the Community Councils website and face book pages.</p> <p>SM suggested that WM and EC consider joining the park group which would help create the linkage between the objectives of both. WM said that they would need to consider this and feedback to us.</p>
1	<p><b>Minutes from previous meeting &amp; Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Minutes approved – DH, seconded JM</p> <p>Matters Arising –</p> <p>GK said that we were too late to access the bulbs this year. SD advised that there was a company that the Council could engage to help with large volume planting. The group agreed that it wasn't practical to look at this project this year and to revisit it next year.</p> <p>JMc asked about the footpath maintenance. SD advised that Transportation would be patching the worst areas over the winter. JMc asked about the repairs to the wall at the South entrance, SD responded that this would be done over the winter as well.</p>
2	<p><b>Sensory Garden Development</b></p> <p>SD advised that a quote had been received from Mathew Brothers, however this was delayed as a result of the Council's procurement system. They were also in discussion with Transportation services about the work on the pathways.</p> <p>WM asked about the raised flower beds and explained that she had been involved in developing a sensory garden previously. SM advised that the plans for the garden were online and that we would be developing areas which were accessible to all abilities and ages.</p> <p>SD advised that we were still looking at the work being carried out over the summer. SM advised that we had contacted the local primary schools and sought their participation in the planting, the only response had come from St. Patricks.</p>



	<p>WM and EC left the meeting at this point.</p> <p><b>Lower Level Tennis Courts</b> SD advised that we should look at grassing the area over in the first instance which would cost £10k.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> – SD to liaise with Andrew about diagrams and costs.</p>
3	<p><b>Finance</b> JM advised that we currently have £123,095.90 in the account. No outstanding invoices.</p>
4	<p><b>Park Update</b> SM advised that Karen More had had to take the decision to stand down from the group due to personal commitments. She had advised Avril Scott (NFV residents association secretary) who would appoint another rep. The group wished to express their thanks to Karen for her participation and valued contribution.</p> <p>SD advised that the work had commenced on the Red Ash area and the grass seed would be sown over the next few days. The soil depth is 6” and a further 1” on top of this of treated soil to support growth. The area had been rotavated to help with drainage and a sump hole would be dug at the north side to help drainage.</p> <p>SD confirmed that unless there is torrential rain over the week prior to the Gala day there shouldn’t be any difficulty with heavy vehicles accessing the area. There were other areas in the locality where similar work had been carried out which had no effect on their gala and fun days. If there was any damage then the Council would need to look at how this happened and manage it accordingly but for the Improvement Groups interest the area would be reinstated.</p> <p>SM explained that we will look at taking on board positive suggestions from the public however asked members to think of suggestions which would enhance the area, for example a Gym area like the one Beveridge Park, pathways, flower beds and so on. We also need to use the next meeting to focus on what else is needed in the park and plan for activities for next year.</p>
4	<p><b>AOCB</b> - There was none</p>
6	<p><b>Date of next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 6.00 in the 385 Social Club</b></p>