



Public Park Improvement Group
385 Social Club, Lochgelly
7th November 2016

Present

Stevie Murray (SM), George Kinnell (GK), Jimmy Mann (JM), Stephen Duffy (SD), Colin Davidson (Fife Council), Jean McDonald (JMc) Tam Durham (TD), Carol Mackie (CM) & Cllr Mark Hood (MH)

Apologies – Margaret King (MK) David Hemseed & Alex Lamond

1	<p>Minutes from previous meeting & Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes approved – GK, seconded JM</p> <p>Matters Arising – SM advised that he had contacted Avril Scott (NFVRA) about a replacement for KM. To date they were unable to appoint anyone, however Avril would continue to pursue a nominee and pass out the information.</p>
2	<p>Sensory Garden Development</p> <p>SD advised that they are still awaiting a quote from Transportation services, who would undertake both the development of the paths through the garden area and repair the foot paths through the park. It was anticipated that this work would be completed by February/ March 2017.</p> <p>SM advised that the Community Council meeting had expressed concerns that the delay in starting this work would impact on the timescales for developing the gardens. SM asked that assurances be sought that the work would be completed by the end of February, given that this is likely to be seen as a low priority project for the service in comparison to other major work which they have. JM agreed that and added that if the Service were unable to commit to the timescales then we should engage with alternative sources. WM and EC left the meeting at this point.</p>



	<p>Lower Level Tennis Courts</p> <p>SD advised that by removing the red blae from the top level and the lower level this can be used to support the development of the slope between the two levels. The initial works would be done at the same time as the upper level, additionally they would look at lowering the wall to make it safer.</p> <p>MH advised that the Council are currently reviewing all play parks in the area. This would allow a focused development of the facilities across the towns. The suggestion being considered is to create central hubs in specific areas supported by 'Satellite' facilities. For example, Lochore Meadows would become the 'Destination' facility and given the development of the Public Park this would naturally be a location for the satellite. This would attract considerable investment.</p> <p>SM added that it is probably a topic that we need to focus more detail on, given that the timescales for the development could be running from later in 2017 into 2018 for completion.</p> <p>SD suggested that we ask someone from the Parks Development section to attend a future meeting to provide some more detail on the possible options for the area.</p> <p>Agreed – SD to chase up Transportation Services for timescales SD to request someone from Parks Development to participate in the group</p>
3	<p>Finance</p> <p>JM advised that we currently have £123,095.90 in the account. No outstanding invoices.</p> <p>SD advised that they are awaiting the invoice for the refurbishment of the surface at the North side of the park. Estimated costs were £40k -£45k, however Housing Services had committed £30k to this project. The Park Improvement group would meet the costs of the remainder.</p> <p>JM asked that the group consider how we will support ongoing maintenance of the Park. SM advised that he had previously raised the possibility of setting aside a sum of money for ongoing project maintenance work for the park. This would be used in addition to the money allocated by Fife Council for maintenance. Agreed to discuss this in more detail at a future meeting.</p>



4 **Park Update**

SM asked about the Council's proposals for the Football Hub and sought confirmation about its location. MH explained that the facility would be on the existing Muir Park and would include new changing rooms, toilets and café for public use. There is a lot of discussions to be held with the local football teams about the proposals and the intention is to support development from young ages through to junior level.

JM asked about the café and toilet facilities and whether these would be accessible to members of the public and who would operate them? MH answered that at this stage they are still developing the proposals, however the intention would be that when they would be accessible, particularly when there are large events on.

The group commended the development of the old red ash surface which is now looking far better than it ever has done. The transformation would allow the area to be used for a wider range of events and activities. The suggestions for outdoor gym equipment, walking and picnic areas and any other ideas could be taken into consideration.

MH advised that discussions had commenced with local 'Skaters Group' who had helped design the Benarty and Cowdenbeath facilities. They have already provided some good feedback on the designs for the Public Park Skate Park. GK asked about timescales for the development? MH advised that this is likely to be later next year by the time final plans are completed and submitted, funding secured and so on. SM proposed that the group commit £20k to the project, GK seconded agreed.

CD advised that they would be repairing the wall at the South entrance over the winter period. The group also discussed planting for 2017 and agreed that they would continue with the wild flower areas and hanging baskets. GK asked that the group look at planting for the spring so that there can be colour all year around. Agreed.



4	<p>AOCB –</p> <p>GK raised concerns about the amount of dogs dirt in the Park and wanted the group to raise this particular subject publicly. Agreed JM asked about the possibility of following the example of Cowdenbeath and putting lights on the trees, possibly at the Hall Street entrance area.</p> <p>MH asked that the group consider the possibility of a cycle proficiency area being designed. CD advised that they had done this at Blairadam park in Kelty at minimum costs using existing hard standing areas.</p>
6	<p>Date of next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 5th December 2016 at 6.00 in the 385 Social Club</p>