

Minutes of the Fairfield Association meeting held on Wednesday October 14th at Lyndene, Sunnyside Close

Present: Andrew Brennand, Jo Clark, Sam Edge, Oliver Fulton, Simon Gershon, Ruth Haigh, Jude Naish, Michael Sheppard, Hilary Short, Mick Short.

Matters Arising:

- i) Melanie Forrest is pursuing signs pointing to the Orchard.
- ii) The Trustees have agreed to meet on Tuesday 3rd November to discuss the contract, sent by Lancashire County Council, relating to the footpath through the Orchard. Mick and Oliver will meet those with objections to the footpath, before that date.
- iii) We are still looking for a reasonable quotation to put the plaques in place in the Playground.

Friends of Dallas Rd Gardens were represented by Lindsay Robertson who described their intention to improve and care for the playground at end of Blade Street, the piece of ground at end of Regent Street and the park on Dallas Road.

It was agreed that:

- I) The Fairfield Association could help with bids that did not conflict with our bids by giving advice and by offering to send in bids that required charitable status via the Fairfield Associations since our remit is to protect green spaces in Lancaster. Any bids affiliated to us should be sent to the Secretary, Hilary Short, before submission.
- II) that we would exchange minutes.
- III) we could not allow the Friends of Dallas Road Gardens to use our insurance to cover their work in Dallas Road Gardens as this would be improper
- IV) the Friends of Dallas Road were advised to apply for their own charitable status as quickly as possible, since the process takes time and charitable status helps in fundraising.

FAUNA

The meeting with Heather McManus had gone well. She was supportive even though Property Services were more sceptical. Lucia Marquart, from Lancashire County Council, argued that the City Council should be prepared to put more into the FAUNA project and that, in particular, the Fairfield Association should not have to fund revenue costs in the form of an annual rent and pay compensation to Robin Loxham. It was agreed that we should put together a new case and take it to Cabinet early in November. Jon Barry agreed that this was the right way to go, even though changing the terms of the Cabinet agreement, we had previously secured, mean we now have to go back to Cabinet.

We also have to get Urban Nature Reserves into Lancaster Strategic Partnerships (LSP). Jon Barry is working to get this done fast and effectively. We need to fit the City Council's strategic targets to access

available funding. It was reported that Fairfield Allotments have been given a peppercorn rent and will receive £80,000 over a number of years.

Heather McManus insisted that Graham Cox and Ann Wood should approach Robin informally about a possible agreement on relinquishing his tenancy.

Lucia Marquart can provide £15,000 of funding from the County council to enable a cooperative FAUNA project involving the City Council, the County Council and the Fairfield Association. The Fairfield Association has earmarked £5000 as a contribution towards the project.

We are looking to hold a public consultation before Christmas. Georgina will need to revise the plans which may also need to be resubmitted for planning permission. Lucia will pay for the revised plans. There is a meeting next week on site with Georgina, a representative from the Wildlife Trust, a representative from the RSPB and Graeme Skelcher. We intend to submit our first bid early in February.

Treasurer's Report:

We currently have £10,148.83 in the Coop Account.

Income:

- i) Fundraising events : £232.54 (£85.20 from Kwik Cricket + £232.54 from Apple Day)
- ii) Membership and donations: £340. This includes a £100 donation to the Orchard.

Outgoings:

- i) From the Breathing Places Grant:
 - £230 to the Wildlife Trust
 - £250 for a survey of the Orchard
 - £14.67 for groundsheets
- ii) Expenditure on the Playground:
 - £692.71 for repairing and servicing the roundabout.

Contingency Fund

It was agreed that we should work out approximately how much we need to keep in our account to pay for running costs to the play area and the Orchard, bearing in mind that as the play equipment gets older it will become more costly to repair and that the ash tree in the Orchard is prone to shed branches over the public footpath. Mick pointed out that, at some point, the safety surface around the roundabout and under the swings will need to be replaced rather than patched.

Membership Report :

- i) There have been 22 renewals (from 38 letters). There is also a membership link and membership form on the website.
- ii) Membership commitment – getting people involved.

It was agreed that:

- a) a list of contact numbers and email addresses should be formally handed over to event organisers.
- b) We should get business cards printed to hand out at events
- c) We should have two public meetings at The Friends' Meeting House each year

It was suggested that the Public Consultation for FAUNA might include short talks about the Fairfield Association.

Andrew announced a Mulled Wine Party in December.

Playground Report:

Henry was absent, hence no Playground Report. Repairs have been made to the roundabout and the safety surface around it. The plastic needs replacing on the small swings.

Graffiti will be removed by a group of volunteer parents during November

Orchard Update

- i) The ash tree at the entrance to the Orchard has shed another branch and required work by Andy Lee. More work is required.
- ii) Breathing Places

The money is being spent and we are currently asking to vire money, from other headings, to the signs, where we have a shortfall.

Bug hotels are planned and Andy Lee has volunteered to replace some of the 'half circle' logs free of charge.

Tony is about to do another themed school visit

- iii) Volunteer day had a good turn out with around 10 volunteers
- iv) Events

Apple Day was excellent – thanks to Simon. It was decided not to charge because it is a community event and donations were collected in a bucket at the Sunnyside Close entrance

It was agreed that in future it would be useful to have a bucket at the far entrance as well. Oliver is collating suggestions for improvements.

Wassailing will take place on January 16th and will follow the same general pattern. We are hoping to get the John of Gaunt Morris Men.

Bonfire Night at the Castle

It is not clear whether or not we will have a stall at the Castle. We may be allocated a stall on the Giant Axe in which case we may simply cancel. The Newsletter will include a decision on the matter.

AOB

Our stall at the Green Party Fair on the 21st November will sell cakes and provide information on the Fairfield Association.

Next meetings:

Weds Nov 18th, Thorneycroft, Fairfield Road

Weds Dec 16th, 51 Ashfield Ave