

**Friends of Dollar Park**  
**Annual General Meeting 26th July 2016**  
**Chairman's Report**

I reported in my report last year that we had considerable success on a number of fronts, therefore it is pleasing to report that, that success has continued over the last year.

- The refurbishment of the tennis courts is now underway, with tree felling and pruning undertaken, electrical connections installed, fencing commenced, excavations for ramps and base course in ready for all weather surfacing to be laid.
- Towards the end of last year the Council sought the views of the Friends with regards to creating a possible memorial dedicated to the small number of local cases of pregnancy loss where the ashes had been disposed of without their parents knowledge, it was emphasized that this would be a memorial for quiet reflection, there would be no interments or scattering of ashes.
- It was agreed to create the new garden in the semicircular bed next to the main drive north of the lodge and I am pleased to report this has now been completed and enhancing the entrance to the park.
- The walled garden was officially opened to the public on 28<sup>th</sup> August by the Provost Pat Reid, Falkirk Criminal Justice took the lead on this event with the Cyrenians being a helping hand, the Justice Minister and various stakeholders were also present.
- Two events were planned later on in the year, the first being Halloween, which attracted a footfall of approx 150 people, the second event was to be a Winter Wonderland but unfortunately Storm Douglas hit the District and the event had to be cancelled.
- The Council published its Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan for consultation, on behalf of the friends I expressed our concern that under the area strategies Dollar Park had been omitted with regards to developing a master plan for future development and funding. In general the report was commendable but I have grave concerns with regards funding the considerable work

required to bring our open space and parks up to a acceptable standard.

- The recent budget cuts has reflected in a reduction tin maintenance levels within the park, regular meeting with Council officers are taking place and we are looking at using the Conservation Volunteers organization to work on projects within the park.
- The Steering Group set up by the provost, to ensure all stakeholders were singing of the same hymen sheet, meet on two occasions the vice chair attending. The Cyrenians have put on the table a report on development plans for Arnotdale House, the vision being to help Falkirk Council make Dollar Park alive for the community and bring the community into the park and Arnotdale House.
- Our quest to have proper toilet facilities within the park continues, and there is hope on the horizon. With the refurbishment of the tennis courts, the next phase is changing facilities and if the Cyrenians get the funding for Arnotdale we could end up with a abundance of toilets!!
- Unfortunately no Capital funding has been allocated to the park and this has restricted our ability to carry out further improvements, we will continue to try and seek other sources of funding.
- During the winter I held a pruning session re the community orchard within the park. Although well advertised there was a low public attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their support and time given over the year.

Leslie Pryde

Chairman Friends of Dollar Park