

**Minutes of “Friends of Dollar Park” Meeting
23rd March 2010
Falkirk Bowling Club**

Present: Ian Gourlay, Les Pryde, Chris Morris (Chair), Susan Myles, Hazel Muirhead, Keith Matheson, Robert Menzies, Jean Armstrong, Ronnie Cresswell, Ian Scott, Jessica Paterson, Maureen Smith, Alastair Smith, Ian Crozier, Joyce Grant, Roberto Pacitti, Linda Pacitti, Briony Nimmo, Catherine Dunn, Sheena Short.

Invited speakers: Michelle McCallum, Green Dog Walking Scheme, Litter Strategy Team, Falkirk Council

Apologies: Corrie Cuthbertson, Pat Reid, Morris Robb

Item	Heading	Subject	Decision	Action	Timescale
1	Welcome & Introductions	LP extended introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting.			
2	Apologies	Noted above.			
3	Minutes of Last Meeting & Update on Actions	Minutes of the previous meeting (190110) were accepted as an accurate record. CM updated members of key actions undertaken since the last meeting (as summarised at the end of the meeting agenda). Issues discussed are noted under appropriate agenda items below.			
4	Play area update	AS reported back to the group on a letter he had received from Steve Penn. He noted that he was disappointed in the wording of the letter which seemed to indicate that, at a meeting attended by FoDP committee members in January, FoDP had accepted the decision to allocate 75K to the play park upgrade.			

		<p>LP responded that considerable efforts had been made to try to reverse this decision.</p> <p>SM reported that the office bearers had written to Maureen Campbell to express their disappointment in the decision to progress with the play park upgrade despite the strong objections to this by the FoDP group.</p> <p>Chris Morris noted that he had also registered his concern over the wording of the letter with Council officers.</p> <p>CM reported that the Council expected the new play area works to be completed by mid April (weather permitting). Potential dates for the new play park launch were discussed. Agreed that Sunday May 2nd was a good date as it coincided with a holiday weekend.</p>		Officers to liaise with Council officers over play park launch date and planned event.	
5	Funding sources & applications	<p>Chris Morris reported that FoDP had been successful in securing a small 300 pounds start-up grant from Falkirk Council. He also reported that Provost Reid had now clarified that it is possible for the FoDP group to make an application to the Common Good Fund for monies.</p> <p>CM reported that he and others had attended a Third Sector Funding event in Falkirk College. Funders indicated that it would not be possible to secure discrete funding for a toilet facility. Instead, they advised that the group develop broader plans</p>		Officers to follow-up with Provost pursuing an application to the CGF.	

		<p>within which they could include toilet facilities.</p> <p>IG noted that the focus of the group should now be on investigating low cost options to provide toilet facilities in the park.</p> <p>LP noted that we are currently awaiting access to the Council’s Development Plan in order that we can consider developing funding applications that account for and complement Council efforts.</p> <p>JP suggested that one way forward was to write to local elected officers to raise the issue of the public’s desire to see toilet facilities in the park.</p> <p>IC supported this and suggested that members highlight in their letters the apparent contradiction between investing in a new play area to encourage increased use of the park but not providing toilet facilities for the families and children likely to be using the new play area.</p> <p>IS suggested the group could send a letter to the ‘Falkirk Herald’ highlighting the anomaly. However, it was also suggested that this might antagonize and thus it was agreed to put this on hold for the moment.</p>		<p>All committee members to write to their local councilor to raise the issue of lack of toilet facilities.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Voluntary Subscriptions</p>	<p>This was discussed under funding.</p> <p>CM noted that he felt it would be advantageous for the group to consider voluntary subscriptions to</p>			

		<p>give us some money to support our routine activities. He suggested a token 10 pounds. CM requested views from members.</p> <p>IS noted that he pays a small subscription to be part of the Kinneil group and also indicated that members are also generous in gifting small amounts of money to support the ongoing work and activities. Suggested we also give people this option in our application form to join FoDP.</p>		Office bearers to consider introducing a voluntary subscription & include this in application materials to join the group.	
7	Suggested ideas for the park	<p>CM reported that office bearers had met with John Banks to discuss the Council's draft Development Plan for the park. He noted that it is basically a maintenance plan with no major spends/investments outlined. The plan has still to be considered by appropriate Council committees (expected in April) and should be available publicly thereafter.</p> <p>CM also noted that discussion with Ian White over Arnotdale House indicated that the current plan was only to cover basic care and maintenance, with the Council considering commissioning another report to consider future options for use of the property.</p> <p>RM noted that as far as funding issues were concerned he sees three distinct areas of effort: (1) funding for minor maintenance type issues; (2) joint funding of projects between the Council & FoDP group; and (3) strategic funding to cover more major redevelopment of the park.</p>			

		<p>LP agreed and noted that once the Development Strategy is available the group will be in a better position to consider targeting appropriate and varied funding applications.</p> <p>CM raised the issue of requirement for the group to have public liability insurance in order to run events. He noted that the cheapest quote for an annual insurance policy had come in at around 190 pounds. He asked members if they were happy to support spending the majority of the start-up monies on an insurance policy.</p> <p>IC noted that he felt the group should give the Chair latitude to purchase insurance. There appeared to be general support for this.</p> <p>MMcC reported back on her experience with other voluntary groups and suggested that some funders are willing to pay for insurance. She suggested we contact A Berg at the Falkirk Environmental Trust (FET) to discuss (based in Abbotsford House).</p> <p>AS noted that he felt redevelopment of the Dovecot was a small project that could generate interest and become an attraction in the park. Generally supported by group as a good idea.</p>		<p>CM to arrange public liability insurance for the group.</p> <p>CM investigate this further before using the limited FoDP funds to buy a policy. CM contact AB at FET.</p>	
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		<p>IC indicated that he would explore sourcing birds for the Dovecot.</p> <p>CM drew attention to the list of proposed ideas for the park listed at the end of the agenda and invited members to volunteer to explore ideas of particular interest to them further.</p> <p>JA noted that there is an event to be held at Falkirk Town Hall on 30th June at which FoDP have been offered a stall. She indicated that it is a good opportunity to raise the profile of the group and canvass more feedback on the park.</p> <p>CM reported that links had been made with the Friends of Kinneil group. Ongoing contact will be maintained to share ideas and learn from their experience.</p> <p>IG noted that Kinneil group have registered as a charity. He indicated that this can be beneficial and something the FoDP may wish to consider.</p> <p>IS gave some feedback on his involvement with the Friends of Kinneil group. He noted that, although there were some differences between their and our interest, they offered a good model and had been</p>		<p>Officers to consider funding sources/application to support redevelopment of the Dovecot. IC to investigate sourcing birds for the Dovecot.</p> <p>All members to consider volunteering to progress particular ideas for the park of interest to them.</p> <p>JA to progress with Braveheart organization.</p> <p>CM & IG to continue liaison with the Friends of Kinneil group.</p> <p>Office bearers to consider application for charity status for FoDP.</p>	
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		<p>particularly successful at engaging their local community.</p> <p>JA suggested we look at materials and contact the Friends of Boston (?) group. CM agreed a good idea and to follow up.</p>		<p>CM to contact Friends of Boston (?) group. JA to provide CM with correct contact details.</p>	
8	Green Dog Walkers Scheme	<p>Michelle McCallum gave a short overview of the GDW scheme. She outlined that it is a non confrontational way to get the message re dog fouling discussed and addressed. She outlined the pledge and armband system. 500 local people have signed-up to the GDW scheme in the last 18 months. She noted that the GDW scheme had won awards recently from the Kennel Club and Crufts. The scheme is now being licensed by the Council and adopted in other LAs across the UK. Michelle noted that there are currently 11 GDW groups in the area and invited FoDP to consider becoming a GDW group also. All materials are provided free and the Council will support groups to run GDW events.</p> <p>CM asked the members to vote on becoming a GDW group. The motion was passed unanimously.</p>		<p>FoDP to become a GDW group & support related events.</p> <p>SM to contact MMcC for further details & materials (available from April) and consider a GDW event at</p>	

				the forthcoming play park launch.	
9	AOCB	<p>JP outlined the FoDP logo competition. She will be contacting a couple of local art clubs to stimulate entries to the competition & has contacted the Falkirk Herald also.</p> <p>IS suggested that JP may also wish to consider approaching the art departments at the local secondary schools to involve them in the logo competition.</p> <p>MMcC highlighted the ‘Communities along the Carron’ initiative & their inaugural meeting next week. She invited those interested to contact her. Michelle.Mccallum@falkirk.gov.uk</p> <p>MMcC invited the FoDP to write a piece on their activities for the June edition of the ‘NewLeafNews’ publication. Deadline for a piece 15 May. Noted NLN publication available online at: www.cgiscotland.org</p> <p>Brionny Nimmo from the newly formed Falkirk Central Community Council (FCCC) offered support to the FoDP group. Dollar Park is within the FCCC area and they are keen to engage with local groups and community projects. For example she offered to circulate FoDP information to other community group.</p>		<p>JP to contact local art clubs re logo competition.</p> <p>JP to consider.</p> <p>SM to contact MMcC re NLN piece.</p> <p>SM to liaise with BN.</p>	

		<p>IS asked for an update on the development of the FoDP website.</p> <p>IC noted that Keith Matheson had kindly offered to develop a website for the groups and joined the meeting tonight.</p> <p>KM & SM gave a quick update of progress to date. KM to search for a suitable domain name for the site (hopefully, friendsofdollarpark.org.uk) and to begin designing the site with materials provided by SM & JP.</p> <p>IS to provide materials on historical background to the park.</p> <p>LP noted that he also had slides of the park in its glory days that he could share.</p> <p>KM noted that he could have a site up and running within a few weeks.</p> <p>JG queried if it would be possible to track the number of hits to the website? KM indicated yes and to identify geographical location of those accessing the site.</p> <p>JA asked if we would have a Chairman's newsletter on the site. Agreed we could include a summary of key activities. Also agreed to include all meeting</p>		<p>SM, JP, IS & LP to provide materials for inclusion on the website to KM.</p> <p>All members to forward any materials of interest re the website to KM.</p> <p>SM to liaise with KM re website development.</p>	
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		agendas and minutes on the website for information and transparency.			
10	DONM	Tuesday 22 nd June, 1900-2030, Lintriggs, Masonic Hall (venue TBC)		IC to confirm venue.	