

**Gorgeous Gorse Hill Minutes 13th May 2015**

**In attendance:** Mike Cordingley, Marje Kelly, Paula Pierrson, Mickey Ryan, Nic Ward (Chair & Minutes)

**Apologies:** Mary Burroughs, Maggie Haggas, Ruth Hannan, Lisa Mcauley, Mary Patel, Nigel Woodcock

The group was not quorate.

**Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

**1f. Sunflower planting weekend**

The Sunflower planting weekend was reasonably successful, with 20 children and their adults attending, many of whom had not taken part in a GGH event previously. It was agreed that advertising beyond social media would be essential for subsequent events, and due to the unforeseen absence of one of the organisers, we did not have the promised goodie bags, so we will ensure a contingency in future.

**2. Marathon**

As a last minute plan, the Marathon was hugely successful, and the publicity led to a greater turnout of supporters than in previous years. Lots of positive feedback, and appreciation from runners, particularly of Bhangracise, Gorse Hill Studios and the entertainment at Stretford Public Hall. There is far more that can be arranged for 2016 however, particularly along the stretch between the Public Hall and the Gorse Pub. There will be a planning meeting between the involved groups in the autumn. The winner of the Best Entertainment and Most Supportive Community has yet to be announced.

1. **Project Update**
   1. **Toilet Block**

Completed but for one wall, and weather depending, should be finished in the next few days – feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Caroline eventually chose a combination of all three initial designs.

* 1. **Bollards and Council permissions**

We are still waiting on the council to grant permissions, a year after the request was originally made, and we are potentially facing the loss of our funding. Now the election is over RH will ask MC to step in. Bollard decorating will go ahead. There are still spaces for the mosaicking sessions on the 16th and 30th.

**ACTION: RH to contact MC.**

* 1. **Shutters**

Phase 1 is now complete, except Premier Foods, which will be done once their refurbishment is complete.

* 1. **BT boxes**

Caroline Daly is going to add art to the two replaced BT boxes.

* 1. **Bird Boxes**

Groundworks are carrying out risk assessments, prior to installing the boxes for us. 100 boxes have been ordered; Phil ‘the bird man of Burleigh’ will help identify installation locations.

* 1. **Trafford Housing Trust Volunteers**

THT Volunteer Day is on Friday 15th May, 11am – 4pm, meeting at GH Studios. 11 volunteers are going to do tree pits and weed Burleigh Court. If anyone wants to come along meet at GH Studios.

1. **Survey**

Many funding applications require us to capture evidence of impact. Some discussion over an online survey of Gorse Hill residents, and it was agreed to run one.

**ACTION: Set up an online impact survey.**

1. **Next Planting Day**

Scheduled for 24 May. Propose a tidy up, weed and add more planting to Ravenswood Rest Space.

1. **Notice Boards**

We keep forgetting to update them with events, activities, other events etc., so a request was made for one person to take responsibility to do this each week. Paula Piersson volunteered.

1. **Gorse Hill Funday**

We have a stall on the 14th June, at the Funday. Discussion over what to do at the stall. Suggestions included making seed balls, a display of the many things achieved by the project, collect contact details of interested people, and primarily network and promote the group.

1. **Party in the Park**

11 July – GGH will be on the information stall. RH and PP have volunteered to be on the stall, promoting the group. Any other volunteers would be appreciated!

1. **Funding**

Thrive – will be public voting event again as per last year. The deadline for application form is the 29th May, so there was some discussion over what to apply for. Ideas include benches and art for the rest space, a big autumn bulb plant – thousands of bulbs added all over the area, art work on the electricity substation at the junction of Chester Rd and Longford Rd, phase 2 of the roller shutter painting. There was a general preference for artwork above planting. MC mentioned that the overall monies available are less this year, so competition will be higher.

1. **Volunteers**

Discussion surrounding the recruitment of more active volunteers. Ideas include: Recruitment drives at the Funday and Party in the Park; Publicity via newspapers, Trafford Community News, local radio, more posters around; More selling of what we’ve achieved; Annual newsletter, perhaps in conjunction with other GH groups, such as the school and allotments to encourage more people to open it; a photobook; calendar; sandwich boards branded GGH for planting days and events; GGH banner; recruitment from the allotments;

Main consensus related to publicising the artwork on the shutters and toilet block.

1. **AOB**
   1. **Trafford Council**

MC is organising a tour of GH by Trafford Council senior management, to help promote the project and improvements to them.

**Next meeting: Thurs 25th June, 7.00pm**

**Community Room, Talbot Rd Site of Stretford Leisure Centre/Stretford High School**

**Next planting days: Sun 24th May,** 11am-3pm at the Ravenswood Rest Space, opposite Tesco

**Sun 14th June,** 11am-3pm, location TBC.