

**Gorgeous Gorse Hill Meeting Notes 11 August 2015**

**Attendees:** Ruth Hannan, Paula Pearson, Lisa McAuley, Mark Calderbank, Joan Baker, Pauline Gathercole, Ita Kirrane, Marje Kelly, Mike Cordingley, Mary Patel, Mary Burroughs, Jennie Wadsworth

1. **Project Update**

As we had a number of new attendees RH went over the purpose and activities of the group. RH welcomed new members and recommended they join the Gorgeous Gorse Hill Facebook page for regular activity updates.

The group also discussed ongoing profile raising and volunteer recruitment. LM has additional leaflets and will be in touch soon to finish the remaining streets in Gorse Hill.

**Action: Anyone able to help with leaflet drops, contact Lisa McAuley.**

**Action: Look at a date for a stall outside Coop (2.30 – 6), anyone interested in helping let RH know.**

1. **Bollards**

The bollards outside the GP surgery on Taylor’s Rd have been decorated, we’ve had a lot of positive feedback. These were done by a 17 year old local art student, it was agreed they brighten up the corner.

Caroline Daly will be working on other bollards around the area and is gathering design ideas from residents. Anyone interested in doing a design please use the template circulated with the minutes (or on the FB) page and send through to: gorgeousgorsehill@gmail.com by the end of August. Primary focus for the art will be: the end of Railway rd, Ravenswood rest space and the ones outside the Chester rd shops.

RH confirmed that the mosaicking is still planned but the weather has been against us, hopefully we will get a dry few days.

**Action: RH to ascertain with Mike & Laurence whether there are plans to remove street furniture in Gorse Hill as there are in Stretford centre.**

**Action: Residents welcome to submit design ideas for the bollards using the template.**

1. **Dig the City**

The group discussed Dig the City, it was agreed it was a thoroughly positive experience albeit very time consuming. The group agreed to revisit the subject at the end of 2015 to decide whether to submit a show garden idea for next year.

The group discussed some of the challenges and RH will feed these back to the organisers.

The plants in the cans have been added to the Taylor’s rd planters, the small cans are being added to Avondale and some additional plants are being added to Burleigh Court.

1. **Planting Focus**

The group discussed forthcoming plans. It was agreed that Ravenswood needs time and energy to get it to where it needs to be, this should be a focus for the winter.

GGH has secured funding to plant 1000’s of bulbs in the area, these will be added to our already planted areas but we are keen to plant them on grass verges belonging to Trafford Housing Trust, this has been a challenge so far.

The group discussed the tree pits, RH noted that we spend a lot of time on them and need to consider more sustainable planting rather than buying what’s cheap. MP suggested drafting a tree pit planting plan so people know what to buy and add.

**Action: Find out how to get the National Citizen Service involved – anyone with information please let RH know.**

**Action: RH to contact Elaine Johnson to progress THT planting plans.**

**Action: RH draft a tree pit planting guide.**

1. **Love Gorse Hill Pledge**

The group discussed a proposal to engage with local businesses to ensure they take care of the area and support the positive initiatives. There are a number of issues with local businesses from litter from take aways, rubbish not being put in bins, merchandising (balloons) that damage the area to parking on paths.

It was suggested that asking businesses to sign up to a simple “Love Gorse Hill” pledge which they could display in their windows may make them more engaged.

A number of suggestions were made: a meeting, a list of “asks” etc.

Love Gorse Hill will lead on this initiative with GGH support.

**Action: If you’re interested in being involved join the Love Gorse Hill Facebook page or email Paula P or Mary B.**

1. **New Planters & Water Butts**

RH has had permission from TMBC to add three planters along Chester Rd near three bus stops (PC World stop, Milton Court stop and Thomas St stop). These will be large (plant pot like) planters which a tree, bulbs and lavender will be added. These will be installed in the next few weeks.

The new planter at the toilet block will be getting installed shortly, this will have lavender and bulbs added.

The group discussed installing water butts around the area.

**Action: Group members identify useful sites and bring details to next meeting.**

**Date of Next Project Meeting: 7pm on 16th September 2015 at Talbot Road Site, Stretford Leisure Centre**