

**Gorgeous Gorse Hill Meeting Notes 29th October 2015**

**Attendees:** Kevin Green Streets (Red Rose Forest), Waqar Hashmi, Marje Kelly, Beth Kelsall (Red Rose Forest) Mary Patel (Chair), Paula Pearson, Lawrence Walsh, Nicola Ward

1. **Actions from Previous Meeting**

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

**Update:** TBC

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

**Update:** LW confirmed he was unaware of any planned removals.

**Action:** Send out a request for name suggestions for the mosaic bollards.

**Update:** Progressed, as not a priority. Anybody with suggestions is welcome to pick this up.

**Action:** Send out a press release after next set of bollards completed.

**Update:** MP to produce.

**Update:** Men's Sheds Bird Boxes are producing bird boxes for us and will have them ready by January. We need to set up a workshop in January to do a load of arty things - paint the bird boxes, paint the tyres for planters etc. someone could pick this up.

**Action:** Is anybody willing and able to organise the workshop?

**Update:** Artists for Ravenswood – RH has contacted Venessa Scott about a design for the ground at the Rest Space - she's coming up with an idea working on a timetable of workshop next Spring, install from April onwards etc.

**Action:** RH to contact the Chainsaw artist.

**Action:** Signs for Ravenswood, Burleigh and Avondale- Laserlea will produce, but need contacting.. Would also be good to have a stencil of our logo so we can spray our logo on planters etc. NW and DT to do.

**Action:** December Mtg Room Booking at Hotel Football. NW chasing booking.

1. **Updates**

**Planters for bus stops** - these should be delivered soon. Blue Sky are installing them. We need to source three trees, Red Bricks suggested Sweet Chestnut or Cherries. If someone wants to pick up identifying where we can get them from and cost that would be great.

Concern raised by KGS and BK regarding confining trees in pots, particularly large trees, such as Sweet Chestnuts. They also warned against planting anything else in the pots, and of heavy watering requirements. . RRF lost a tree in April because it didn't rain for two weeks.

**Action**: KGS to send suggestions for tree species, but reiterated concerns over pots and not putting name to.

**Bulb planting** - these are supposed to be delivered this week. We really need all hands on deck for these planting days so spread the word as widely as possible.

**AGM Planning** - we should invite as widely as possible to "show off" - funders, local councillors etc etc. Agreed should be at Hotel Football, should be have a presentation etc.

**Action**: NW to book

**2016 planting days** - We need to start planning planting days for 2016, it would also be good if people could be more active in their responsibility for this, as it’s usually RH organizing and bringing the tools etc. Could we take turns on the responsibility for different planting sessions etc. Unfortunately run out of time to discuss, so carry forward to the next meeting.

**Premier Foods shutter** - Can somebody contact Premier foods re when their new shutter will be up and ready for painting?

**Action**: LW to ask.

**Honda & Lookers** - Can anybody contact Honda and Lookers to ask whether we can plant bulbs in the green spaces in front of sites. There are some already there.

**Action**: LW to ask.

1. **Red Rose Forest - New for Old project**

Beth Kelsall and Kevin Green Streets

A brief history of Red Rose Forest:

Greater Manchester community forest 20 yrs in partnership with councils.

Lots of street tree planting, esp in Gorse Hill

TD Green Streets is this year’s project

Proposed project:

6-10 trees dedicated to the oldest residents of GH, young people will work alongside older residents to plant the trees, poss with artwork alongside the trees. Didn't get TD funding in 2015, but RRF really liked, so continuing working. Missed latest THT funding due to heavy workloads with RRF and GGH, but there's another coming up in Dec.

Stumbling on detail esp re artwork, so some discussion generating ideas (see notes below)

Originally identified PC World site wasn't suitable, as compaction of soil and old roots, and trees wouldn't be able to grow adequately. Prob wouldn't have been enough awareness of the project in that area.

New proposed site is Nansen St park, THT corners of Nansen Close, Gorse Lane Park AKA Marje’s Park. All locations provisional.

Nansen St verge need to be 7-10 metres max high

Marje’s Park trees will be up to 20 metres, alongside the tramline, less likely to be vandalised. V little by way of shade there, but far enough away from the play area, to not impact.

Nansen St trees on playground side as field used, told RRF bottom end gets water logged.

8-10 trees in all for funding bid. The bigger the tree harder it is to vandalise.

LW mentioned probe of vandalism in NSP. RRF have experience of dealing with, and although not entirely vandal proof, systems in place can help. Two stakes and a 6ft guard.

Suggesting press releases, posters, Facebook to identify the oldest local residents.

HLF have asked RRF to run Heritage trees in Stretford. There will be 76 events over 2015.

RRF launching new movement called city of trees part of Brentwood and oglsby trust and patron is keen on tree, RRF are lead organisation. Plan to plant over 3 million trees in GM over next 20 years. Already done 3.5 million since 1990. Want permission and contacts.

RRF can help run the event when planting, making stuff, family fun day

Artwork: originally thought benches and a small wooden carving, but prob needs to change now. BK suggested an interpretation board, WH suggested information aimed at kids. BK thinks if get younger children involved, older siblings less likely to vandal it. Gave example of tree planting project in Gorton.

Can get kids out to bulb plant in the spring from local kids.

Poss only be able to afford a couple of wooden artworks, suggested like the boat, train and castle in Victoria Park. But makes a big difference if installing on grass not hard surface.

**Action**: KGS emailing Shelley Quinton-Hulme re artist for wooden equipment in Vicky park under 5s play area.

Tree species

RRF prefer non-native species so get genetic diversity. Probs with elms, oaks, horse chestnuts, ash. Can't contain disease now, genetic diversity will help stop extent of damage. Saying ornamental trees will look better than many natives, as more colour.

RRF only use Barchams nursery as “best in country” at ensuring quality non-diseased trees.

Nansen Street: small trees suggesting Amilankia as white flower and amazing orange colour in Autumn, great for bees.

Pride of India gets little lanterns. Clusters of yellow flowers in spring. Favoured by bees.

Mediterranean crab apple, get white blossom and red leaves, only fruits in v hot weather, narrow canopy and small root system.

LW asked about leaf litter and consultation. Leaf litter shouldn't be a problem as leaves are small and trees are small, so no canopy. Will also ask people if happy to have trees near their house, but canopy shouldn't block views or light.

NSP suggested two medium and one large: Paper birch, white bark but NW said best elsewhere as lots of birches in NSP.

Davidia: leaves look like hankies.

Persian ironwoods very hard woods, triangular shape and orange and red in Autumn.

LW asked whether there's anything with Gorse in the name. KGS said poss Latin, but not aware of anything

Action: KGS to look into Latin ‘gorse’ names.

Marje’s Park: large trees:

Black Walnut

Purple beech, fine in parkland, deep purple leaves all year round;

Tulip Tree, v bees friendly, bright yellow autumn colour.

Antarctic Beech tiny leaves and black and white flecks on the bark. From chile!

Hungarian Oak

**Action**: RRF confirming availability and price of some of these with supplier.

LW raised Issue of trees in tree pits lifting slabs, when assured at the time they wouldn't. Often tree pits are too small, hence problems. Now advocating more space 3m and more underground to stop ground getting compacted.

**Action**: KGS and LW to meet to assess problems.

WH suggested putting a sign on the guard for RRF, GGH and THT

**Action**: MP to speak to Caroline Daly re sprucing up tree guard ideas. Guard will be there minimum five years. Won't be able to do on street, but shouldn't be ok in the parks. BK suggested QR codes on signs containing info on heritage trees website re species, who planted etc.

1. **RH nominated for award**

RH has been nominated and shortlisted for a Halifax Building Society community award. <http://community.halifax.co.uk/2015/nominees/north-west-and-scotland/ruth-hannan>

**Date of Next Planting Day: 11am – 3pm on Sun 1st November 2015, from Ravenswood Rest Space**

**Date of Next Project Meeting: 7pm on Tues 8th December 2015 at Hotel Football**