**Gorgeous Gorse Hill Project Update 24 April 2014**

**Present:** Ruth Hannan, Marje Kelly, Jennie Wadsworth, Laurence Walsh, Mary Patel, Lucinda Peart, Leanne Jafrate, Yasmin Green, Nigel Woodcock, Sandra Aguilera, Mike Cordingley

1. RH welcomed everyone and for new members gave an overview of what the GGH project is:

* Painting the roller shutters in the area with locally developed art.
* Decorating street furniture in the area including exchange boxes, bollards, safety railings.
* Planting up all the neglected pieces of ground in Gorse Hill

The group discussed what the area was that we were talking about in relation to GGH, RH described it as:

North boundary – Matt Busby Way/Warwick Rd

East boundary – tramline from OT tram stop to the canal

South boundary – the canal line between Stretford tram stop to the railway line

West boundary – the railway line from the canal to Old Trafford football ground

**Action: A boundary map to be developed that also marks up the planting areas.**

1. RH provided an update on the Project Now.

BT Boxes – the designs have been completed and sent to TMBC & BT. the designs are still with BT awaiting approval. RH has chased this a number of times but will follow up again next week.

Once BT work has been completed RH to approach Virgin and NTL to see if they will allow their boxes to be decorated.

Roller Shutters – there has been a delay with the design development due to staff changes at the school. RH and Unity Arts are giving the school until the end of 1 May to confirm whether they can take part after this alternatives will be considered.

RH suggested hosting a workshop which local residents (young and old) could apply to attend, Unity would host this enabling designs to be developed.

**Action: If school says yes then the May half-term is the deadline for producing the designs.**

**Action: If a workshop goes ahead this will be held in half term – it will be promoted via the school and the local community.**

Notice Boards – Two community notice boards have been purchased and these will be installed near the Coop. RH to liaise with a contact at TMBC to do the work.

1. Funding from Better Together – RH is meeting with Groundworks who have been contracted to manage the work and the funding. RH will know more about how this will work after she meets them on 28 April. The group discussed how the money could be spent and agreed it should be used to decorate more shutters and street furniture as we have costings for these. The group noted that the money would be spent on work that fits within the parameters of the original GGH idea focussing on neglected areas of ground rather than existing formal areas with an emphasis on sustainable planting.

The remainder should be used to achieve as much impact planting as possible including bird boxes, planters, bee boxes and possibly “interesting” bike racks.

More details and a more detailed project plan will hopefully have been developed for the next meeting.

The group discussed securing more volunteers. LJ works for Bruntwood and would be happy to promote the project for staff to use their “care days” to get involved. The group discussed approaching other large scale employers in the area to see if they would be able to do the same.

**Action: Draft letter to Tesco, Centrica, and RAC etc.**

**Action: RH speak to LJ to see if more information is required for Bruntwood to get involved.**

1. Marketing – The group discussed marketing GGH to ensure as many residents know as possible. Social media is helping with this and the community noticeboards will also be useful.

There will be a large scale leaflet drop to cover the whole area, a leaflet will be drafted outlining the project, how people can get involved and include all the meeting dates and two forthcoming planting days, the dates for the planting days were agreed on as:

* **Sunday 29 June**
* **Wednesday 13 August**

**Action: Draft leaflet & print 2000 copies**

**Action: RH to produce list of streets and recruit additional volunteers to ensure every address gets a leaflet**.

1. MC informed the group of some additional funding opportunities: Community Fund and Thrive Trafford.

**Action: RH to obtain application forms.**

**Date of Next Mtg: 4 June 2014 at 7pm, Community Room, Stretford Leisure Centre**