

**Gorgeous Gorse Hill Minutes 19th February 2015**

**In attendance:** Mike Cordingley, Caroline Daly, Ruth Hannan (Chair), Marje Kelly, Mary Patel, Paula Pierrson, Bill Sumner, Jennie Wadsworth, Nic Ward

**Apologies:** Sandra Aguilera, Mary Burroughs, Lisa Mcauley

1. **Minutes from previous meeting**

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

**ACTION**: NW to contact Laurence Walsh re action from previous meeting.

1. **Project Update**
   1. **Roller Shutters**

The next roller shutter to be painted will be Planet Spice. Fancy a Nibble was due to be started, but work has now commenced on the property, and the shutter has been removed, therefore:

ACTION: anybody who spots people working at Fancy a Nibble to ask about painting the replacement shutter.

The remaining shutters are Captain Cook, Peter Pan, Local Choice and Premier, all of whom have longer opening hours. Therefore, it’s likely the artist will wait until the lighter mornings, and start work at dawn.

Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

* 1. **Bollards**

Dates for Amanda and Denise to start work are being finalised, but due to other commitments and the uncertainty surrounding the future of Gorse Hill studios , this has been delayed until late March.

The metal bollards will be painted by Caroline Daly and Molly O’Brien. MO will be using a specific pot of funding via Unity arts.

Following a change in staffing at Trafford Council, GGH has been informed we now need to liaise with the head of street furniture, rather than having free rein.

RH has sent a table of all the projects GGH requires some Council input into, with a brief summary of what they need to do.

1. **Planting**

Planters are installed on the corner of Avondale.

Ravenswood Rest Space has been cleared.

At Burleigh Court, a gravel maintenance path is being installed.

1. **Toilet Block Designs**

CD presented her designs for the toilet block outside the Bishop’s Blaize pub. The response amongst those present was extremely positive.

After much discussion it was agreed to use two designs (snails and ants) on bollards, and to consult with the wider GGH FB and email groups, plus residents in the immediately vicinity in order to chose the most popular design.

A planter containing lavender will be installed on the corner outside the toilet block.

Thanks we extended to CD for attending the meeting, and for providing her superb 3D models and photoshopped images.

**ACTION**: MP to set up a FB poll on the designs.

**ACTION**: NW to print copies of the designs.

**ACTION**: NW/MP/RH to organise canvasing on local streets for completion by 8th March.

**ACTION**: Consult with passer-by’s during the 1st March planting day – borrow an A-frame?

1. **1st March planting day at Ravenswood Rest Space**

Thousands of plants, bulbs and seeds, chosen for their shade, density and/or self-seeding properties to be planted.

Hours are extended from 10am-3pm to allow more people to attend.

LM has contacted Tesco to ask for sponsorship by way of sustenance.

**ACTION**: MP to request tools from Trafford Council.

**ACTION**: JW to mention event to the Scouts.

1. **Volunteers**

Some discussion over the recruitment of volunteers, and this will continue at the next meeting.

It was agreed to do another door to door leaflet drop, now that work is taking place.

1. **Avondale Planters**

Some discussion over what to plant in the Avondale planters, and it was agreed to grow fruit and veg.

RH has contacted Incredible Edible Bristol, who advised that food grown alongside a polluted arterial rod, since as Chester Road should still be edible, so long as the soil isn’t toxic, and it’s washed; anything grown above ground will not be there long enough to become contaminated.

Volunteers willing to grow seedlings are required.

**ACTION**: RH to produce planting plans for the planters.

**ACTION**: PP/RH to ask the owner of the giant rhubarb in the Burleigh Road allotments for a donation!

1. **Bird/bat boxes**

RH has spoken to the man who installs and maintains the bird boxes on Burleigh Rd, and he has agreed to assist us with identifying suitable locations for bird boxes.

JW requested 20 bird boxes for the Beaver Scouts to construct. Agreed.

BS requested bat boxes. Agreed.

**ACTION**: RH to order 100 bird and bat boxes, including 20 to be constructed.

1. **AOB**
   1. **Data displays**

RH has chased up Jamie Whyte, but we’ve yet to receive the relevant data, so it is unlikely there will be adequate time to continue with this project for 2015.

* 1. **Dig the City**

Some discussion around ideas for an exhibit at Dig the City 31st July-6th Aug. Agreed that this is a important opportunity for promotion and networking, so GGH would definitely participate. Agreed to a ‘Garden on Every Street’ theme, which summarises much of GGH’s achievements. Details to be established at a later date.

**ACTION**: RH to confirm participation with Dig the City.

* 1. **Manchester Marathon – 19th April**

Agreed with CD to discuss teaming up with Gorse Hill Studios to win the best welcome prize.

Also agreed to take advantage of the road closures to plant bulbs in the central reservation.

**The next meeting TBC, as a number of committee members are unavailable.**