



Gorgeous Gorse Hill Minutes 19th April 2016

In attendance: Sandra Aguilera, Mary Burroughs, Ruth Hannan (Chair), Marje Kelly, Mark Kreissl, Lisa Mcauley, Paula Pierrson, Vanessa Scott, Nic Ward (Minutes)

Apologies: Caroline Daly, Mary Patel, Jennie Wadsworth

Minutes from previous meeting

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

Actions from the previous meetings

- John Lee and Vanessa Scott have sent further details relating to the Ravenswood design. Discussed later in the meeting.
- RH visited the Clyne Court residents who responded positively to the proposed designs for Ravenswood.
- The council do not have the facilities to jet wash Ravenswood, so a commercial organisation is required. MKr has a contact which he will pass on.

ACTION: MKr to pass jet wash organisation details to NW.

- Tesco's Bags of Help saw GGH awarded £8,000 towards the canal bridge rest space renovation.
- The activities dates poster is now available on the website and in the noticeboards.
- RH speaking to Caroline Daly re. creating a map of work in the area.
- No update relating to Easy Fundraising.
- NW has produced more tree pit signs.

Funding Bids

Currents reserves are running down, but the group is reluctant to commence new projects whilst others are unfinished, however, we require funding for planting.

Some discussion surrounding up-coming funding opportunities.

Forthcoming Activities

8/5/16 – Lavender Loo at the toilet block – run by LM – lavender plugs and plants are required.

17/5/16 – Styles & Wood planting day – for the second year Styles & Wood volunteers will be helping plant around Gorse Hill. This year the focus will be upon clearing and sowing wildflower seeds along the Iron Bridge path. Discussion surrounding availability of GGH members to supervise and access to toilets.

ACTION : RH to contact THT re using their toilet facilities.

22/5/16 – Tree pit day – run by MB

4/6/16 – Avondale planting – run by JW

Canal Bridge

Need to work with the council, as the area will require cordoning off in order to manoeuvre around the bollards and remove the old planters.

Some discuss around tendering for the design of the area. Agreed to approach Groundworks, as there's still some funding tied up with them, and it is likely to be cheaper.

Some discussion around creating a rock garden, which would minimise the quantity of street furniture requiring removal. An example of an alpine and succulents wall in London was cited, and although it took a couple of years to mature, now looks stunning.

The suggestion benches be created from the rubble of removed street furniture and chicken wire was raised.

Caroline Daly will decorate the bollards.

Open Day

10/7/16 will see the GGH open day, in response to the numerous people who say they "must visit" the area, and our wish to invite various other local groups we'd like to engage more with.

Idea of selling CD's trail maps and entering visitors into a prize draw, with a meeting point at Ravenswood.

Caroline Gleaves at Gorse Hill Studios is interested in opening the building to showcase their talent.

Discussion surrounded many aspects including the tidying of tree pits prior to the event, a talk at GHS on the history of the project, gardening, social media, community engagement etc., providing refreshments at GHS, children's activities such as badge making, gingerbread man decorating, seed bombs.

ACTION: RH to produce a plan

Ravenswood

VS has been test painting for the murals. Decorations should last a couple of years before they require retouching, the only probable may be standing water.

Matt, satin and gloss paints were tested, and gloss discarded, as it creates a slippery surface. The paints dry very quickly, with a base and two top coats drying in 1.5 hours.

Signs and ropes are required to cordon the area off.

VS reported one person who raised concerns over a dislike of paint, and many other who "love" the planting and artwork in the area.

23/4/16 – There [was] a colouring day to help feed into the best colour palate to choose.

CD has decorated the bollards with small, subtle images of caterpillars, toadstools and fairy doors.

John Lee has discussed the logistics of bench installation with the wood supplier. Due to the lack of vehicle access, the benches will be carved from two halves of tree trunks. Larch wood has been chosen so there's no need to repeat treatment, and they're need to be fixed 2' into the ground.

JL has suggested creating a bird and a dog from the wood, with no painting.

ACTION: RH to check for standing water.

ACTION: RH to invite potentially interested people and advertise for volunteers for the painting day.

AOB

a) Succession

NW is likely to move out of the area, therefore anybody who wishes to take over as Secretary should let the Chair know. Given the group cannot exist longterm with the current limited volunteers, RH has suggested GGH becomes subsumed within GHS. Then, as a charity it would be possible to employ a project manager.

Some discussion surrounding longevity and new membership.

VS suggested approaching colleges and recruiting student temps as part of their employability assignments.

b) Bling Your Bin

Discussion around submitting a funding bid in conjunction with Love Gorse Hill, to run a Bling Your Bin event on the same day as the open Day.

c) Sunflower Event

Unlikely we run the sunflower event again, due to a lack of attendance.

Next meeting: 25th May 2016, 7.00pm
Community Room, Stretford Leisure Centre Talbot Rd site

Next events: 8th May 2016 – Lavender Loo at the Old Trafford Toilet Block, 11am-1pm.