

## **Hallgarth Residents Association Committee Meeting 28/11/22**

**PRESENT:** Tom Priestley (in the Chair), Amy Hardy, Carol Conyers (Treasurer)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Liz Hendry, Chris Winnick (Natural Kendal), Karen O'Donoghue, Louise Foster (CCC), Carolina Smith, Mike Sturt, Dan Hinton (Sandgate School), Peter Thornton

### **1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported apologies for absence in respect of Elaine Cuthbertson, Lana Grindley, Karen Banks, Giles Archibald, Hazel Johnson, Hazel Seddon, Katie Passat.

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held 22/08/22 were referred to. Copies are available online at [www.hallgarthra.com](http://www.hallgarthra.com)

### **3. SuDS Scheme**

After the walkaround on 30/10/22 Mike and Chris agreed to draw together a draft proposal for a long term management plan of the area. This included a planting map and was presented to all attendees. It was noted that these documents were in draft form and input from residents at this stage was welcome.

A date of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 10:00am was set with the involvement of Dan Hinton (Headmaster Sandgate School). At this event:

- **Mike** will have pre-prepared willow for planting by students on 19/01/2023
- **Mike** will have ordered £1500 worth of trees and other planting equipment/accessories to enable the event.
- **Dan** will relay on to Maggie Cole at St Thomas's and will bring the school children at 10am to the site.
- **Dan** will relay on to Terry Parr at Kendal Conservation Volunteers to invite them to join.
- **Amy** will advertise the event to local residents via Facebook and posters, including plans for future works
- Funding will come primarily from the existing council communities grant. **Tom** and **Carol** will organise any top-up through **Peter Thornton**.
- **Dan** will attempt to arrange for a grant to cover trowels and tools for the school children, and will advise if there are any issues with this.
- Potential for some of the money to be used to pay for seed trays and seeds for school children to grow flowers from seed to be planted out later. **Dan** and **Mike** to discuss and organise.

The above points are to be taken as actions for the named individuals for the 20<sup>th</sup> January Event.

In addition to this event the association aimed to continue the planting in the summer/autumn of 2023 with plug plants and flowers as per the planting plan arranged by Mike and Chris. This would hopefully be with more schools involvement, potentially including bug hotels and other wildlife encouragement.

Finally Mike discussed the pond and viewing area which were shown on his plan. He highlighted the possibility of digging these out to create a viable place for Newts to settle in the area. This could be funded by a district level licencing scheme which has significant grants available to cover the cost of a mini digger and associated works.

Many further possibilities were discussed, this included creating a 'wildflower meadow' area which would need some annual cutting back as well as endless possibilities for planting wetland species either side of the path. All of these can be considered and discussed on an ongoing basis in future meetings.

Actions:

**Tom** and **Louise** will look into how appropriate a Communities Grant is for planting and other other events.

**Tom** will distribute this draft plan to residents and collate the comments, noting especially residents thoughts on the potential for the creation of a newt pond

**Tom** and **Peter** to discuss potential for removal of existing fly tipping on site by the council

#### **4. Garages Consultation**

No further information has come from the garages consultation since the last meeting. Tom has had conversations with adjoining residents though who would be affected. Some residents feel that another community garden might not be the best use of this area as there are already other green spaces nearby. It is also obvious that maintenance may be an issue. It was mentioned that some residents actually wanted the garages and they would be easily let if they were available and properly maintained. Possibility of electric car charging ports being installed was also discussed. We are unsure how much will there is within SLH to do this. It was agreed that the site as it stands needs attention, including a minimum of renovation and more lighting to reduce anti social behaviour and fly tipping.

Actions:

**Tom** to discuss options with SLH as we await their plans

#### **5. Roads**

Much discussion was had regarding recent Facebook posts about the roads and speed bumps on the estate. This is a reoccurring issue and not a simple one for the Residents Association to address. It was thought that the problem is many divided opinions on the estate about what should be done means that residents often feel like they are not being listened to. To address this the following actions were created:

**Amy** to create a Facebook Poll asking if more or less speed bumps should be created/removed on the estate

**Peter** to send the speed data from outside the playground to Tom so it can be posted online

#### **6. Repair Cafe**

Hazel Johnson and Kate Passat have both previously said they would be interested in helping to set up a repair cafe based in the community centre with the assistance of Simply Repair South Lakes but they felt they needed another individual involved to make this happen. Luckily Carolina Smith joined the meeting and volunteered to assist with this. Also Jayne Williams has volunteered online so there is now a team of 4 in place to start this.

**Tom** to collate everyone and link up with Simply Repair South Lakes

#### **7. Litterpick 6<sup>th</sup> November**

Unfortunately Katie could not make the meeting but has since indicated should would be indicated to do another litterpick in the future.

In post meeting correspondence Katie indicated the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov litterpick did not go ahead.

**Tom** – Organise a date in the new year with Katie and Book the Community Centre

**Amy** – Develop a poster and promote online

#### **8. Christmas Events**

Elaine and Karen who are usually the main organisers for the children's events with the Association have been especially busy with family commitments during the last few months and have not been free to organise any events in the run up to Christmas. This is unfortunate but totally understandable and they indicated they would still like to do more events in the future once they have more free time. They both expressed their thanks for the flowers sent on behalf of the committee to them for their work on the Jubilee Event.

#### **9. Treasurers Report**

Carol reported that the balances left of the grant funds are:

- Kendal in Bloom £169

- Jubilee £372
- Community Grant £1,162
- General Funds £200

These are mainly due to underspending during events, with the bulk of the Community Grant money left over from the more limited schedule of events which we've been able to hold this year due to the lack of volunteers. These funds were agreed to go towards other projects within the association, with the first main one being the planned tree planting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

It is also worth recording that the audit of the accounts was completed by Richard Patching of Fellside Forum. This was not mentioned at the meeting.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

Difficulty attracting volunteers was discussed with many ideas thrown around, including creating an advert showing what budget we have. Perhaps more work to find out what the community wants in terms of events/activities and clubs would be a better way to attract volunteers?

Spare Jubilee Funds were discussed and it was thought best to put this towards a commemorative bench in the centre of the new circle

It was not mentioned in the meeting but is worth mentioning here that the Associations prompt work with Guy Widdowson at CCC has meant the swift resolution of the flooding issue around the SuDS scheme and the creation of the round area at the end of the path. Guy has been thanked for his involvement in this.

It was noted that Tom is now starting work on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec and may not be able to commit as much time as previously to the Association.

**Tom** – Organise the next meeting

**Tom** – Look into a commemorative bench

**Amy** – Replace the signage in the notice board on the community centre wall

Next meeting agreed as **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Feburary at 7pm**