

HGRA Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday 20th February 2023

Attending: Amy Hardy, Tom Priestley, Sean Ellam (SLH), Lana Grindley, Karen Banks, Elaine Cuthbertson, Carol Conyers, Liz Hendry, Marina Baruvett, Karen O'Donnahugie, Chris Winnick, Kellie Dowdell, Giles Archibald

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Peter Thornton

2. Sean Ellam – Garages

Last consultation visual boards were brought showing aspirations for garage area.

Overview of last consultation – many neighbours discussing with SLH. Became apparent on that day that there would be considerable issues with viability of scheme. Have been on site with engineers to discuss options: 1) Demolish garages and turn into open community space. 2) Renovate garages and re-let to community. 3) May be opportunity for SLH to clear and secure site then make available for community groups to lease and develop, with further funding available.

Ballpark figure of £200,000 to renovate.

SLH keen to move forward to do something with site. 2/3s of garages not currently let, due to poor condition, despite local demand for garage space. Some damage due to vandalism, some due to age/wear+tear. SLH very keen to improve site in whichever direction community prefers as current condition obviously not acceptable.

When walking on to site – gardens on right-hand-side the back wall of garage forms the retaining wall of gardens, not previously known to SLH this was the case, so leads to further unexpected building complications+cost. More work required to strengthen retaining walls, and to keep 6ft privacy between gardens and garages area.

Giles – locals he has spoken to were mainly concerned about privacy aspect.

Is there potential for allotment spaces, as also long waiting list.

Sean – proposal for demolition would have been to remove top half of garages and move any occupiers in to the lower ones whilst new ones built.

Marina – is there an option to turn space into additional communal garden space for the houses who back onto the area? Then their responsibility to take care of and direct use, as has been her own experience with the land behind her own house on High Sparrowmire.

Sean – any option involving gifting after refurbishment wouldn't be preferred as cost incurred by SLH that isn't then available for all residents, not just the houses.

Giles – potential for locked allotments? KTC has money available for maintenance of allotments. Council has money set aside to find new allotment spaces, could also tie into Climate Jury requests.

Carol – could there be an option to create allotments with shed, sheds at back to create privacy for garden owners. Either adapt current buildings (Sean would need to look at viability of that) or if having to knock down and building new retaining wall, then make it a series of sheds.

ACTION – Sean to return to SLH to consider viability of creating allotments, potentially with the sheds at back (either new build or adapted).

ACTION – Amy to create poll on FB group regarding options for garages area. 1) Refurb all the garages, increased security and lighting. 2) Create allotment space at top with sheds for privacy, and refurb bottom section.

3. Chris Winnick – Tree Planting on Round Hill

Tree Planting event on Wednesday 8th February 2023, approx. 30 students from St Thomas' school (year 4), KCV, CWT, and HGRA.

Area on map – red shaded areas in flood scheme now planted with willow whips. At a later date would be nice to return and plant further with damp-loving species in that flood area, e.g. cowslip, primrose, bugle (excellent source of nectar), devils scabia. Planted as plug plants.

Then planted some fruit trees and fruit bushes towards higher ground. Will become foraging source for residents, or if left to rot will be used by local fauna.

Graham Nicholson's plans for alder trees will also be beneficial as damp loving.

Want to emphasise the work that Mike Strutt from CWT has put in to making the tree planting day a big success!

400 more trees arriving 17th March. So further planting event needed, and any left over for residents to take?

Marina – trees will need space to develop, so need to be careful not to over plant, and be aware of larger species potentially over-shadowing smaller species.

Always potential to give away trees to residents/schools etc.

ACTION – Thomas to find out progress on Alder trees, as need planting soon or wait until autumn.

ACTION – tree planting event Wednesday 22nd February 10am to finish off trees not planted at first event. Include Marina's 4x sweet chestnuts. Community centre booked (free until 4pm).

ACTION – Amy to promoted new event on Facebook Tuesday morning – BRING YOUR OWN SPADE!

ACTION – Thomas to email Mike Strutt regarding 400 additional trees going into area behind Sparrowmire Lane?

ACTION – Chris and Mike to do a walkaround the Sparrowmire Lane area to assess viability of area and create planting plan+map.

ACTION – Thomas to get in touch with SLDC and Graham Nicholson regarding planting on Sparrowmire Lane.

ACTION – Thomas to speak to Dan regarding schools' involvement with new trees.

4. Calendar of events for 2023

4.1. Coronation

Karen and Elaine idea of using community centre to screen the coronation live and invite all residents, with buffet. Themed activities for children. Joint event by HGRA and HGCC.

£1000 available from KTC for street party/celebratory lunch, also £380 left over.

ACTION – Thomas to forward email to Elaine regarding funding.

ACTION – Elaine to look into Coronation event.

4.2. Litter picking

ACTION – Thomas to email Dan (Lana's husband) regarding litter pick event.

ACTION – Thomas to email Katie regarding any other litter pick events later in the year

ACTION – once date confirmed Amy to create FB event + poster

4.3. Sports day

Lots of interest last year at Jubilee event, but not currently volunteers available to take this on yet.

4.4. Repair Café

Not enough volunteers available to take on the Repair Café currently.

5. Finance Report

Rest of Kendal in Bloom grant now used.

£370 remaining – use for bench or other idea for end of path in Round Hill.

Karen – lack of events for 10-16 age bracket.

ACTION - Elaine/Karen etc to contact Thomas regarding funding for different events when they know they'll happen, as Communities Grant can be applied for at any time of year (but takes 6-8 weeks to come through).

ACTION – Thomas to find out if more topsoil needed for new trees.

ACTION – Thomas to email Giles regarding information on benches.

ACTION – Thomas to email SLDC regarding removal of fly tipping in Round Hill.

ACTION – Giles to find out progress from SLDC regarding bins.

6. Community Centre Garden

Two different plans for garden space and kitchen garden outside community centre have been having a good response from residents.

Some funding available but not enough, although final amount not known as design not finalised.

Giles – time for funding applications April/May time. Garden very likely to be supported by many different funds due to excellent prospects for community and biodiversity.

ACTION – Elaine/Karen to contact HGRA when funding needed.

ACTION - Elaine/Karen to contact HGRA when posters etc needed.

Date of Next Meeting -

Monday 22nd May 2023