

Hope Triangle Project

Note of meeting held in Oxfangs Care Offices on 27 February 2012.

Attendance:	Mary McMillan	Oxfangs Lochan Tenants Association
	Harry Woodward	DunedinCanmore
	Sharon Laidlaw	Resident
	Mark Vrionides	Edinburgh Greenspace Trust
	Craig Dunlop	CEC Parks and Leisure
	Fiona Tait	Resident
	Scott Neill	CEC-PNP Partnership Development Officer
	Elaine Aitken	Councillor, CEC
	Andrew McCallum	Oxfangs Care
	Karyn Stewart	Resident
	John Stewart	Resident
	Heather Levy	Firrhill community Council
	Christine Mahonay	Oxfangs Lochan Tenants Association

Heather Levy chaired the meeting and opened by speaking to her note of the last meeting, which took place earlier this month on the 6th (copies of the note had been previously circulated). She reaffirmed the aim of the project is to create a “*Well Being Space*”, a place of peace and reflection in the area formerly known as the *Green Triangle*. An area to inspire HOPE and this had provided the name for the project.

HW – advised he had been unable to obtain a copy of the map of the area that he was seeking but has provided an alternative drawing for use at the meeting. He is still looking for a suitable A1 map.

MV – as the Greenspace Trust community gardening officer he was here to listen and see what support his organisation could provide. The Trust did not have much funding left within its grant but may be able to provide a small amount of funding.

HL – looking for funding for the provision of a name plate. She already has a Box for collecting things and has started the collection.

HW – DunedinCanmore own the land and the lochan and therefore take responsibility for its maintenance. Indicated that for other similar type projects, students were asked to present designs and he had brought along a suitable example in view of the word ‘triangle’ used in the name of this project. The example had been done by a student for another project and had been costed at £4,000 to erect.

Previous discussions had proposed that the layout should include a herb garden and a wellbeing path. The concept for the layout was that the path would lead visitors from its trellised entrance on a walk through the garden to the various notice boards and seating where they could sit and contemplate the thoughts and the ambience expressed throughout the site. The access would be from Firrhill Drive and a welcome board would be sited at the entrance.

CD – advised that as the CEC no longer owned the land, he was here in an advisory capacity only. He cautioned that any erected structure should be robust enough to withstand a degree of vandalism.

HL – stressed the need for the project to give attention to community involvement and engagement with the youths of the area, so that they will move away from lighting bonfires and focus on planting and growing. The intention of using suitable climbing plants to grow up and round the trellis should improve its ability to withstand damage.

EA – spoke on discussions with Greenbank residents and arrangements to prevent another occurrence of the events that took place on the last bonfire night. The residents were looking for some protection of their property and the planting of gorse up against their fences had been suggested.

CD – suggested that consideration be given to extending the use of fruit trees to fill in the top part of the triangle thus reducing the amount of ground to be maintained

There was a discussion on the boundary of the land and adjoining area to the rear of Firrhill Drive, which is used by young people as a play area. Not clear if there is a fence dividing the area or land ownership.

Discussion took place on the two workshops for primary and secondary school age kids. The drive for the project was to provide a '*thinking*' space that would reduce the notion of suicide by young people giving them pause to reflect. Thoughts of past events would be on their minds during this time. There was a need for guidance counsellors to be on hand.

The timescale for opening has to fit in with funding provision but whenever it is there was a need a professional to take the lead for planting, someone who is able to respond to the kids who are involved and taking part in the community planting.

HL to approach the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for assistance

CD – spoke on the need to develop a detailed plan taking account of time for planting with Feb/March being the optimum time. Advised that it should be kept simple, the sloping ground provided a good aspect. The Group needed to provide an outline showing what they wanted

HL – to approach Ian Bell for a plan/map

CD – can provide cost of Notice Board but unable to commit to funding. On a health and safety issue the Group needed to decide whether to provide access or place a buffer to prevent access to the Braid burn.

HW – advised there was a need for professional co-ordinator to manage the project.

MV – co-ordinator will need to work with the community to ensure they maintain a feeling of ownership and consequently are willing to take some responsibility for its maintenance.

SN – advised that partnership funding should be obtainable for next year to run workshops

HW – would check out sources of funding within DunedinCanmore

HL – would also investigate funding through '*meet the funders*' events

EA – would investigate lottery funding possibilities.

Proposed a request be made to Oxfams Neighbourhood Centre support the opening day event by being open all day for refreshments and toilets.

Agreed the need to pull together costs and a plan.

Provision for the disabled was not up for consideration if there was insufficient funds

HL – start doing a map and timetable

DONM – 23 April at 1030 am

Jim Napier

08 March 2012.