

# Hope Triangle Project

**Minutes from the Hope Triangle Sub Group Meeting on 3 April 2012**

**Held in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre**

## **1. Present:**

Heather Levy, Peter Brownlee, Chris Walker and Harry Woodward (all Dunedin Canmore HA), Mark Vrionides (Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust) and Francesca Shaw (Art Therapist)

## **2. Apologies:**

Councillor Elaine Aitken

## **3. Welcome & Introductions**

Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting, expressing her disappointment that due to the weather we were unable to actually view the site today. Heather gave a brief introduction to the background to the idea for the Hope Triangle and updated those present on the work needed to be done, before handing over to Peter. Harry apologised for being unable to provide a large map of the Triangle area, but Peter had provided smaller scale maps to look at.

## **4. Update on work in the Triangle so far:**

Peter gave an update on work that had been done by Dunedin-Canmore so far, this is as follows:

- A.** Shrubbery and trees had already been planted along the eastern end of the Triangle (the area backs on to the Greenbank houses) and this includes a mixture of red and white hawthorn and blackthorn which is designed to offer a wind break and create some defensible space. The chespale fencing recently erected had been done to prevent damage to the new trees and Peter apologised to Heather for this happening without the local community being made aware. This fencing is only temporary and will be removed when the trees are fairly reasonably grown.
- B.** Fencing at the north end of the Triangle needs replaced, as well as some of the trees needing trimmed, we will discuss this on site when it is possible to view the Triangle area. Discussion needs to include the local community as there are access issues with the path to the former City Hospital site; in addition some people are cutting through the back-greens of some of the Firrhill Drive tenements (Council land at north west end of

the Triangle). We need to check this out regarding closing off any fencing, and trimming trees here and at the east boundary side, etc. Again, the local community will be involved in this discussion. Peter and Harry would try to check out the access issue near to the old Hospital access, which may now be part of the private 'Steils' development accessed via Glenlockhart area.

- C. Some plum, apple and pear fruit trees were planted last year at the east end of the triangle, Harry has signs for these.

## **5. Next Stages of work required and key points:**

Heather suggested the following points had to be agreed with the 'full group' at the next meeting and should be developed as key points for the Group:

- a) The project has to be manageable and not be 'high maintenance' for DCHA and the local community. The community should be involved in planting, workshops etc. to give a sense of 'ownership' in the community
- b) The idea of involving art therapists, counsellors, etc. is a good one and is a crucial part of the project. The timing for this is less crucial for the anniversary of Craig Stewart's death in July (and Heather is sure Karen and John will want to make their own arrangements for this) but the idea of workshops for planting, etc. would be useful during the local children's and youths school holidays in July and early August.
- c) With regard to some of the additional work required, Mark said it may be possible to have a hedge installed near to the entrance to the Triangle area, at the west end near to Firrhill Drive. It is also suggested that we get a Notice Board for this area which will provide a range of local, mental health, etc. information for visitors.
- d) Heather suggested a 'sensory garden' is a good idea for the area, with thyme, camomile and lavender being 3 of the type of fragrant plants which may be suitable. It is also proposed to get some seats made from these plants that induce calmness and peaceful feelings to people. Heather also said that she had heard there may be some fallen trees in the Steils area (after the winter storms) and she will check this out with local contacts.
- e) Harry stated that the Edinburgh College of Art student, Shannon Kelly, had visited the site with him recently and she is keen to be involved with her 'Triangle' theme for an art-related project, which will include planting, a trellis framework seating area and also include workshops as part of an interactive approach to the design and art work. Shannon should be able to attend the next full meeting of the Group.
- f) Harry stated that he is unsure how much funding DCHA can provide for this project, as there was no money left in the development budget for this

– Heather suggested money set aside for a sculpture could be used? Harry will check this out but Heather also stated that there needs to be some focussed thinking from the group on the type of funding for the longer term aim of combining the health as well as environmental aims of the project. The local Oxfords Lochan Residents Association also supports this idea.

## **6. Timescale, etc.**

Heather stated that it is important to start getting a timeline created for the project and hoped this could be done at the next full meeting. Elaine Aitken is keen to help with any Council-related information and advice and the idea of summer workshops is a good one. There is a Mental Health week in September, and, re planting, the hedge could be done any time, with the willow needing to be done earlier in the spring rather than later (could be done in the autumn).

## **7. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be the 'full Hope Triangle Group' on Monday 23 April 2012 at 10.30 am in the Oxfords Care offices.