

## Hope Triangle Project

### Note of meeting held in Oxgangs Care Offices on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

Attendance:	Heather Levy	Firrhill Community Council
	Harry Woodward	Dunedin Canmore
	Elaine Aitken	Councillor, CEC
	David Crawford	LB Police (Oxgangs)
	Pauline Podd	Oxgangs Care
	Francesca Shaw	Art Therapist
	Richard Lewis	Councillor, CEC
	Jim Napier	Firrhill Community Council (Notes)
Apologies:	Sharon Laidlaw	Resident
	John Stewart	Resident
	Karyn Stewart	Resident
	Christine Mahonay	Oxgangs Lochan Tenants Association
	Mary McMillan	Oxgangs Lochan Tenants Association
	Mark Vrionides	Edinburgh Greenspace Trust
	Fiona Tait	Resident
	Beth Ekman	Piershill Community Flat
	Peter Brownlee	Dunedin Canmore
	Heather Tuffery	Art Therapist

HL opened the meeting and after formal introductions were carried out, gave a recap of the last meeting and events that have taken place since.

### ***Art Therapy Workshops***

Funding for the workshops to the sum of £1775 was granted by Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP) Funding Panel at its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (ref:NP7/09/12).<sup>1</sup>

The four workshops were held in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and run by the art therapists, Francesca Shaw and Heather Tuffery. The first two sessions for participants who had been referred by Social Work or the local schools were not a success and the only family referred were transferred to a similar workshop within the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of support by the relevant contacts in referring children and vulnerable adults who had suffered a loss in their family. Another session for these special referrals has been re-scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> August in the ONC. The schools have been contacted and this will be followed up.

The last two sessions were more successful with approximately 50 to 60 people of all ages turning up at various times throughout the session period and getting involved in creating a tile for the Hope Triangle.

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The art therapy has produced a good selection of tiles for use in the construction of a tiled and mosaic decorated sign marking the entrance to Hope Triangle (see next heading). Tiles not used in the sign will be displayed somewhere within the Triangle.

RL suggested using some of the tiles for an exhibition in the local library/schools. This was supported by FS who indicated that the paper design work done before the tiles were used could also be used for this purpose

### ***Hope Triangle Sign***

Funding for the sign was part of the £1775 sum obtained from the PNP Community Grants Fund. The design created by Steven Lynch and HL has been forwarded to an architect to do a planned drawing of the structure for SL, working with some of the local youth, to create the sign.

### ***Hedge Laying***

Accepting the advice from Mark Vrionides to leave the hedge-laying to October when there's no (or very little) growth happening. Propose to lay the hawthorn hedge along the burn side of the triangle, The work will be carried out by students as part of their university project work and local volunteers. EA remarked that a burn clear-up will need to be done before the work starts.

**Action:** HL to contact Craig Dunlop re tackling the hogweed.

### ***Desired Pathways***

We now have the money to purchase the weed suppressant material.

**Action:** HL to contact Craig Dunlop for the bark and Richard Koch (Criminal Justice Department) re the manpower to lay the paths.

This work needs to be done before the 10<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Meadow planting***

HL reported that the project had been accepted by ASDA to be one of their three selected charities for promotion through their branch at the Jewel. Initially thought being out of the area it would produce little response but has since heard it has been well supported by ASDA customers. Any monies received will go towards plants

### ***Living Triangle Design***

HW reported that he had been unsuccessful in contacting the art student (Shannon) in order to progress the use of her design and considered there may be a copyright issue regarding its use. He has still to obtain funding but thought it unlikely that the outcome from any successful application would be available before November.

RL considered that copyright would in general only be an issue if it was for financial gain. He was of the opinion that providing the design of the structure was clearly attributed to the artist and not altered in any way, copyright should not be an issue. The artist had agreed to her design being used, knew the timetable involved, was to arrange for the work to be carried out, had failed to keep in contact and all reasonable attempts had been made to contact her.

The meeting accepted this opinion, considering it was far too late to alter the arrangements and there needed to be a visual sign that things were happening. Providing the work was satisfactorily carried out the artist should benefit from her work being used. HL indicated she had three joiners who were ready and willing to do the work.

HL agreed to transfer the task of seeking funding for the materials to the Community Council.

### ***Map***

CEC Ian Bell has created a map both electronic and hard copy. H.L agreed to investigate if a plan of Hope Triangle can be created of work/projects completed and of work/projects planned for 2013.

**Action:** H.L to contact CEC Ian Bell for advise

### ***Willow Sculpture***

HL has recruited some volunteers who are going to nurture willow cuttings through the summer/winter 2012/13. These should be ready for planting next summer, 2013 where they will be trained to form a Tunnel leading into Hope Triangle

### ***Log Seating***

EA & FT are still awaiting info/response

### ***Scented Seats***

This task was to be carried out by the ONC Senior Youth Group as a project to work on over the summer and the materials are available but attempts to contact Steven Gillies YPO to progress the matter have been unsuccessful.

### ***Launch Date***

Already agreed the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 would be the official launch of the Hope Triangle as it marks the start of International Suicide Awareness week. Discussion centred on a programme of events that would take place on the day. It was agreed to look at the possibility of having an afternoon session (2-4) and an evening session (6.30 – 8.30) to facilitate those who were unable to attend during the day.

EA suggested that some musical input would be ideal and agreed to speak to the music teacher at Firrhill High School about the possibility of a school choir attending.

HL suggested it would be good for those who attended to feel involved in the process. On a visit to the Scottish Parliament, she had come across a presentation of quotes from women about saying from other women that had inspired them under the title of "Travelling the Distance". Thought something similar could be done here using a 'rag' tree to enable messages to be hung on the tree using CDs. A box of blank discs could be provided for people to use or they could bring an old disc from home.

The main focus would be the planting of lavender, rosemary and other plants along the pathway. Need to arrange for a supply of gardening tools.

### ***Future Plans***

The 10<sup>th</sup> Sept is to be considered as a launch date for a program of activities that will be ongoing for a number of years before the physical aspect of the garden project is completed. The next stage will be in October when the hedge laying will be done but afterwards there will be ongoing development of the area itself and consequently the need to seek further funding.

In tandem with this activity will be the need to maintain its purpose as a wellbeing space for the local community and in particular those who are finding life difficult. It is hoped this will be maintained through community engagement and ownership of the project being transferred to a local community action group.

It was suggested that the Hope Triangle Action Group could merge with one of the Community Health Partnership's health action groups with health and well-being being the focus rather than as a memorial to suicide victims. This would enable the Hope Triangle to become a resource for use by the ECHP in the provision of its services.

RL referring to the aims of the Hope Triangle to promote health and well-being, advised that Edinburgh Leisure were also promoting the relationship between fitness and mental health with the introduction of five new physical activity programmes that aim to increase participation for some communities facing the harshest health inequalities.

DONM – 29<sup>th</sup> August at 10.00 am in Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre.