

# **Minutes of the Friends of Parkwood Springs Open Meeting**

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

St. Catherine's School, Firhill Crescent, Sheffield S4 7BX

**Present:** Neill Schofield (co-chair), Louise Bull (co-chair) Ray Swift (vice-chair), Peter Bull (treasurer), Carol Schofield, Robert Almond, Bernadette O'Callaghan, Julie Eaton, Kevin McNeill, John Cossee, Isla Wurn, Clare Gregory, Cameron Gregory, Judith Heafield, Penny Philcox, Chris Dickinson, Michael Thomas, Mary Gibson, Nick Blood.

## **1: Welcome and apologies:**

Neill, chairing the meeting, welcomed all present. Apologies received from Jon Dallow, SCC.

## **2: Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September were accepted.

## **3: Celebration of the Lantern Procession 2019**

A short run through of photos of the day.

Comments:

There seemed to be more people involved in the Procession than in previous years.

The workshops and procession involve range of members of the community.

The community appreciates the event. Well done to all involved.

The Friends group are hoping to have another Procession in 2020. All offers of help accepted!

## **4: Forthcoming events**

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 11:00 am - 2.00 pm. Forest Garden. Tim Shortland has now left the Council. Catherine Nuttgens has taken over his role. Tim is planning to come along to the Forest Garden sessions as a volunteer. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Garden which was set up by Tim with the help and support of lots of people will be celebrated at this session. Anyone is welcome to come along, just drop in for a few minutes to say hello or stay for a bit of gardening.

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. Conservation Session. We will be working on Little Pear Tree Field, renovating the hedge and removing brambles from the area where we hope to encourage growth of more variety of wild flowers. All are welcome - come for a break from Christmas preparations!

## **5: Activity Programme 2020**

We are beginning to put together the programme for next year and would appreciate suggestions for activities.

We are already planning: Monthly Forest Garden and Conservation Sessions, bi-monthly Open Meetings and a Lantern Procession.

Other suggestions include: Dawn Chorus walk, Fungi walk. Small mammal live trapping.

Further suggestions from meeting: History/heritage walks; focus on ponds, possibly involving 'Frog Life'; wild flower walks.

Putting together a collection of photographs of wild flowers.

## **6: Report from meeting with SCC re Extreme Development of the former ski village and other matters**

Robert, Peter and Bernadette, and Hugh Waterhouse from the Friends of Wardsend Cemetery, met with Alan Seasman, Lucia Lorente-Arnau, and Jon Dallow from SCC on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November. They were given the following information:

### **Extreme Development Lease and planning application**

Extreme have now signed an 'Agreement to Lease'. This sets out timescales which need to be fulfilled:

End of November: team of consultants must be in place.

End of January: pre-planning submission.

End of May: full planning application.

We need to make sure that we fully engage with this process. We have had a good relationship with the council officers and councillors and hope our views will be responded to.

The detail will be important, and we will learn about this at the pre-planning submission stage. We need to make sure that there is strong community input.

Comments from the group:

The boundary is important.

Concerns about fencing.

There will need to be some fencing along the cliff edge for safety.

Response:

The Friends Group is against fencing the site. In meetings with Extreme this has been broached, their representative said that while there may have to be some fencing of sensitive areas they do not plan to fence the site. Alan Seasman said that SCC do not want the site fenced either.

Comments:

Broadly in favour of development but it does need to be done right.

Pleased that things are moving ahead.

Response:

The Friends group have been talking to the developers and SCC over time and have pushed for the following:

The site should be open as far as is possible, though the need for fencing some areas for safety or security is recognised.

Footpaths need to be protected, though some diversions may be necessary.

At all stages the importance of wildlife and the other users of the site must be recognised, and their needs acknowledged.

The pricing of the attractions should mean that local people are not excluded. Season tickets, off-peak pricing etc will need to be explored.

The impact of the construction will need monitoring. Some disruption is inevitable, but it should not prevent other users accessing the site.

Concerns:

Has the Friends group shared with the meeting all information given by SCC?

Response:

Yes. All information has been shared, no information was given "in confidence".

Concerns:

Why is there a need to enclose the extended eastern boundary?

Response:

No details have been submitted. Extreme have put forward ideas, but there is no detail yet as to exact proposals.

Concerns:

The people refurbishing the bike track have stated that they have been in design meetings with council officers, specifically about building bridges over the gully. Areas will be fenced off for commercial reasons, the extension of the luge into the bike track and woodland.

Response:

There may need to be a bridge over the luge, but no definitive location for the luge or any other element has been given yet.

Further information:

Extreme are developing the site, Continuum is the company which they have chosen to run the ski slope and downhill mountain biking, Skyline will run the

luge. Skyline have developments in New Zealand and other parts of the world.

Concern:

Cable cars will be intrusive.

Response:

There have been meetings where indicative ideas of where things might be have been given, but, as yet, no firm proposals have been made.

The planning process will enable us to look at all firm proposals in detail and lodge objections if necessary.

### **Proposed wetland on Former Landfill Site**

Viridor intend to give up their lease on an area of SCC land, which is between the original ski village site and the Viridor owned land. SCC have agreed to extend the area of the agreement to lease with Extreme so that it includes this land. The Friends group have been lobbying for part of this to be turned into a wetland which will increase the biodiversity of Parkwood Springs. We have pushed for a detailed analysis, Roger Knowles, SCC, Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes, has been involved.

The wetland area needs to be deep enough so that it will not dry out during the summer.

We are not only wanting that the area be created, but that an obligation is put on Extreme to maintain the area.

Comments:

Viridor have started some work on the paths.

The wetland sounds very positive.

Having a wetland area will mean that further development of that area is less likely.

Further information:

They need to complete the paths by 2020, though it looks like this may be the end of the year.

### **Household waste recycling centre**

The Friends group would like the Household waste recycling centre to be relocated. The communities which surround the site have poor access onto Parkwood Springs. The queues waiting to get on to the recycling centre contribute negatively to the air quality in the area.

SCC is planning a review of all recycling centres beginning in June 2020. It is possible that the review will suggest that Sheffield needs fewer, larger 'super sites'. This is how it is in most other comparable cities. In the short term some modification of the site may be made to allow better management of cars.

Finding a new site is critical - much of the former industrial land in the river valley is designated for housing.

We need to make the point that the removal of the household waste recycling centre has been on the agenda for a very long time and it is a critical issue for the development of Parkwood Springs as the 'Country Park in the City'. We may need to put further pressure on SCC to act. If removal of the centre becomes a medium term project some works will be needed to improve access to the Country Park in the short term.

We have installed air quality monitoring equipment at several sites including near the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

There is a site on Penrith Road, opposite Parkwood Academy which is being considered for housing. An idea has been suggested that this development could include a pedestrian access on to Parkwood Springs. This would entail the properties being at right angles to Penrith Road. This would also mean that they would overlook the access. This is still at the 'ideas' stage, and may not be feasible.

## **7: Masterplan Update**

Jon Dallow SCC was unable to attend, he will be invited to the next Open Meeting.

## **8: Any other business**

Carol notified the meeting about the Sheffield Folk Chorale's concert at Christchurch on 14<sup>th</sup> December which will be raising money for the Youth Club and Assist, which helps asylum seekers.

## **9: Next meeting**

The first Open Meeting in 2020 will take place in January, date to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.