

BRAUNSTONE TOWN COUNCIL

FRANKLIN PARK WORKING GROUP

REPORT OF MEETING HELD 13th APRIL 2015

PRESENT:- Councillor Mr N Brown (In the Chair), Mr J Dodd, Mr J Johnson, Mrs J Selvidge

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Mrs P Hurd, Community Development Officer, Mr I Kennett, Senior Groundsperson, Mr D Tilley, Executive Officer & Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs N Blight

2. Report of the Last Meeting

The Report of the Meeting held on 11th September 2014 was taken as read and signed by the Chairperson.

3. Activities for 2015

a) Apple Day/Grand Opening

Members of the group agreed that the Franklin Park Orchard would be permanently opened to the public in the autumn of 2015. A Grand Opening Day would be run in conjunction with the Apple Day and it was proposed that Saturday 3rd October be booked for the event. Following last year's closure of the Apple Day due to poor weather, it was agreed that the Millfield Hall in the Braunstone Civic Centre be used if the weather is poor. Proposed activities for the day to be discussed and approved at a future meeting.

b) Fruit Picking

Plans would be made to open the Orchard for fruit picking in the late summer. The Executive Officer & Town Clerk would liaise with Mr Jim Johnson regarding suitable dates to open the orchard to the public for fruit picking.

c) Open Day

Members agreed that the Orchard would be open in the early summer for the general public to view the orchard and the work being done on project. Mr John Dodd advised that the Braunstone Wildlife Watch group have arranged a meeting on Sunday 7th June and John suggested that he could open the orchard from 9.30am - 4.00pm for public to attend. It was agreed that flyers/posters and an advert in the Braunstone Life be prepared to advertise the Open Day.

4. Arrangements for permanently opening the Orchard

a) To receive an update on the progress with the Action Plan

An update on the work completed so far in the Action Plan was received. Members noted that waste items and brambles had been removed from the Meadow area, Woodland area adjacent to Franklin Park and Lower Orchard Area. It was agreed that the cleared land in the Meadow area would be rotavated and sown with grass seed. Cleared land in the Lower Orchard area would be allowed to grow back and the Woodland area adjacent to Franklin Park would be allowed to grow back under control.

b) To Consider any further or additional items of work

The main pathway in the Orchard became very wet during the winter months and restricted access to vehicles. It was agreed that a mill waste path be installed the

entire length of the orchard area to provide a suitable path for vehicles to maintain the site during the entire year.

Members also agreed that wider gates to the Orchard area be installed to allow access for grass cutting and hedge trimming. In order to allow access to the site through the main gate for the tractor, it was agreed that shrubs around the entrance be removed. This would also improve the safety aspect by providing a clear view of the area.

Participants in the Youth Offending scheme had previously carried out some work in clearing areas of overgrown shrubs and rubbish. It was agreed that the organisation would be contacted to ask for further assistance in the preparation of the site for public opening.

Safety signs for the pond area would need to be provided and inspection of the boardwalk posts need to be undertaken to ensure the pond area is safe.

5. Any Other Business

It was suggested that the Police Beat Team be contacted prior to opening to the public to ask if they could monitor and patrol the area in the short term to prevent any early problems.

John Dodd suggested that a Pruning session would need to be arranged for February 2016 as no pruning had been undertaken for a couple of years. It was suggested that Broxhill College??? ran pruning courses. It was agreed that this would be investigated for members to either attend or enquiries made to ascertain if a tutor would come to the site to help undertake the work and train volunteers.

6. Termination of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.18pm.