

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Committee Meeting
Nov 19th 2019 @ CJ's house

Present – CJ, KY, HC, AS, RB, MD, IB, MB, AF

Apologies – AN, LF, AB

1. Tea in the Park Report (CJ)

Very high winds meant we had to move into the Church Halls at short notice. Despite this there has been very positive feedback from families. Lots of new volunteers helping out, including Youth Police. Particularly excellent home baking stall this year.

Dog show, bike track and Beat the Goalie remained outside. Dog show was well populated and well run by Dofos with Lucy. Pineapple prizes for duck race were well received

Learning points – contingency plans for weather, more activities that can be either indoor or outdoor, signposting to help getting people to move around the halls

Next year – need to spread roles a bit more – designated contacts for the different activities. Budget cap to be agreed beforehand. Keen to maintain as many community-based and community run activities as possible

Next year's TITP 5th September

Actions: HC to book church

2. Autumn Clean Up (MB)

Attendance good. Some excellent work in Dianne's Garden. Suggest additional tasks if there are more people than litter e.g. Butterbur removal (particularly good in the spring), path work, tree branch removal, painting of substation

3. Finance report (IB)

Report prepared by IB, awaiting Chair's report. IB planning to step down from the committee (we need to advertise for a new treasurer).

Actions: All to try and recruit, email membership, put an advert on noticeboards etc.

4. Membership – report from AB, presented by MB

- TITP recruitment resulted in 19 new members. The number of paid-up members is 195 (up from 182 this time last year)

- AB has submitted a gift aid claim of £213 to HMRC.

- January/February circulation of renewal letters: Our custom (prior to Jan 19) was to deliver/post all, along with the winter edition of Valley Voice. We now send VV in electronic form to those reachable by email. We propose that renewal letters should be sent by *email* to all (emailable) members except those who pay their subscriptions by cash or cheque. Doing this will mean that we will need to deliver/post only 73 renewal letters instead of 207.

5. Schools (CJ)

CJ has been working with schools talking about the park and doing work in the park. This was very enjoyable and successful; the children worked really hard and achieved a lot. Peter Davidson (Council) helped out, got the children building hedgehog houses etc. – keen to help out again

6. Tree report (AF)

Apple crop looked good – fruit went so hopefully the community has benefitted from this

MB has a bid in to the 'Community Fund' for cherry trees

Could we raise money from local community? Crowdfunding through 'MyParkScotland'?

AF may have access to some new Willow Trees – will identify places along the burn to plant

Branch has fallen across the burn – needs clearing.

Actions: MD to look at fundraising websites to see if she might be happy to take this on. RB to look at whether he can remove fallen branches

7. Fitness (MD)

We remain keen to promote activities in the park, and would be keen to develop new activities. We may be able to help with funding to kick start new activities, e.g. targeted at specific groups.

8. Greenbank Church (KY)

Church are keen to work together with others in the community. Likely to be installing planters etc. around church – we can help publicise this sort of thing through social media, on noticeboards

9. Communications (MB)

From Mike Shields

Green Flag: we have met the criteria again.

Parks Quality Assessment carried out in May 2019. Our score went up a little -77% (from 75% last year) – an extra point each for Dianne's Garden providing a colourful entrance, and for the gym facilities, with an approving comment on the siting of the latter. Most of the items for attention are for the council. Information boards needed cleaning – MB has done that.

There are some comments about sustainability that seem out of keeping with what we see:

- That 35% of rubbish in parks is recycled. We have no recycling bins so unclear how this occurs
- That leaves are used in the park

Actions – MB to feed back to Mike Shields. Including that we are decreasing herbicide use by doing things manually. Could we have recycling bins?

Action - Can we have composting facilities? MD to look at what we could do with leaf litter

From a member: One complaint about bikes & also dog poo, the latter particularly left by professional dog walkers with large numbers of dogs. We have put up some new notices about the latter

10. Recruiting new members

We all need to work on recruiting new members and in particular new committee members (2 ordinary members and 1 treasurer)

Action: all

11. Happy to chat benches (MB)

We could try this – there is a bench near the park entrance without a dedication that we could put a laminated notice on

Action: MB to trial, will liaise with Mike Shields, our local councilors etc. first

12. Matters arising from last meeting

Items for Valley Voice. Constitutional requirement for 21 days notice prior to AGM

13. Dates of next meetings @Greenbank Church Hall (HC will book church)

Tues 14th Jan @7.30

AGM Sunday 23rd Feb