

# **Bosden Farm Allotments Meeting – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

## **Present:-**

PM	GM
MS	PD
CR	TD
BH	RH
PW	GG
WD	RG
Cllr Wendy Meikle	CT
DO	

## **Apologies:-**

HS  
AH  
SM  
WL

### **1)Welcome and Introductions**

### **2)Previous meeting minutes**

The FAQs have been made available on the allotment website. We would like the allotments to be presentable.

Councillor Wendy Meikle informed that she is looking into the issues regarding the footpath at the top of Nightingale Close.

### **3)Updates and planning**

The allotments project was approved at the Area Committee meeting. This indicates that it has been given the stamp of approval by the Councillors for when it goes through the planning process.

The Councillors have expressed that they recommend that the land should not to be offered out to other interested parties.

The next stage is to complete the draft plan and pre application enquiry. Chris Smyton from the Planning department will then do a site visit.

RH expressed that Nightingale residents remain concerned regarding the land and attendance at the meeting is to receive information first hand as to where the project is up to.

Discussion took place regarding the entrance to the allotments site. There will only be one entrance and this will be on Kingfisher Road.

There was concern expressed regarding the footpath and that residents were paying to maintain this. Councillor Wendy Meikle is looking into this issue but this is separate to the allotments, the entrance will be on Kingfisher Road and this item has been discussed many times during the previous allotment meetings.

### **4)Information from Mark Jenkinson – another allotment project**

It is rare for an allotment site to be created. However, Paul McIntyre has received contact from Mark Jenkinson who has set up a site in Cumbria. He has provided a lot of information regarding getting the site put together. Advice has been provided regarding drainage, water supply and ground preparation.

It is thought that the land is to be skimmed as it would be very difficult for people to work on their plots in their current state.

We are looking at a shipping container for storage as we don't want to have sheds on the site.

### **5)The Woodland Trust**

Paul explained that the Woodland Trust can provide free trees to certain organisations and we could apply for these. We can apply every year and can choose the types of trees wanted. The trees could take some time to reach adulthood. There are currently issues with privacy for the houses on Nightingale Close. The screening would be for this side of the site. The brambles at the back (along Peregrine) should remain, they are great for wildlife.

### **6)Next steps:-**

We would like input from residents from Nightingale/ Kingfisher/ Serin / Peregrine as we have a blank canvas and can look at a number of different options. It is time to think about what we want. GM discussed regarding splitting the plots with hedges etc, having different sections. We would need to consider maintenance and roots for hedges and reduction in growing space.

We may need raised beds, we need to test the soil.

We are hoping for an element of hard standing to have some car parking.

At the time of the school field, there were issues with stones.

We could look at getting **well rotted** manure (which does not smell).

Mark expressed that the roadway needs to go down the middle of the site and the water needs to be put onto the roadway and coming off from this.

A composting toilet could be obtained.

RH suggested that moving the gate further over would be beneficial for getting in and out of the site and would be less disruptive to the houses currently positioned adjacent next to the gate.

RH suggested a styal could be placed onto the public footpath to prevent wheelbarrows going up and down. However, there needs to be access for prams / wheelchairs.

The footpath wouldn't be a practical route for plot holders as the allotment entrance will only be on Kingfisher Road.

RG and GG expressed that they would like to be able to maintain their hedges from the back of the allotment site. Once this is closed off, they could liaise with the allotment committee to gain access.

This needs to be considered in the allotments' public liability insurance.

Councillor Wendy Meikle informed regarding Pure Innovations being interested in the site. Accessible plots would need to be in close proximity to the car parking area.

PD suggested that we contact the school to ask regarding their involvement in the allotment project.

Forest School is very expensive to put into place for schools but this could be a possible alternative.

It has educational benefits for the school and there could be possible funding opportunities.

### **Funding :-**

Councillor Wendy Meikle informed that there was £1000 available to be applied for through area committee for starting costs.

Questions were raised with regard to how we were going to raise the funds for the set up. For greater funding, we need a long lease. This would allow us to apply for greater grants from the big lottery, SEMMS etc. We will need a bank account. National Allotments Society and Stockport Allotments can help with this and help us to negotiate the lease. MS expressed that we need to look at gaining a 25 year lease with no rent to the council. An average half plot is around 100 sq yards which is still quite large. We can look at dividing this further into smaller plots. Currently on Dial Park allotments, plot holders pay around £25 per year for a half plot. This includes rent, National Allotment society fees and 3<sup>rd</sup> party public liability insurance.

#### **7)AOB:-**

There was concern expressed that the site would be started and not finished. It was expressed that we hadn't worked for the last 2.5 years for this to happen. However, the worst case scenario would mean that it reverted to the exact condition it is currently in.

#### **Actions:-**

- \*Contact to be made with Green spaces team and Stockport Homes – Mark Rodgers – regarding funding applications.
- \*Contact to be made with school regarding an allotment site for them. They do currently however have their own projects. Pre-school could also be approached.
- \*Enquiries to be made regarding drainage of the site.
- \*Draft plan and pre application enquiry to be submitted to the planning department

#### **Next meeting:-**

Date to be confirmed