

Broomwood Partnership Subgroup – 22nd September 2008

One item agenda - The development of the old park

In attendance

Paul H (G-Force) – Tina H (G-Force) – Ray B (Councillor) – Grant M (Resident) – Jamie L (PAYP) – Paul F (TMBC) – Daniel A (Youth Service) – Joan L (Resident) – Annette Davidson (Resident)

Apologies

Tony F (Councillor) – Hazel B (Councillor) – Manzar (Youth Service) – Alison T (Community Learning) – Ann Wood (Head of Broomwood School)

Meeting minutes

It was agreed that as there had been a number of initiatives started since we had all last met and that it would be beneficial for us all share what developments we were aware of. These would then be used to inform the production of a draft plan for the park with short term, medium term and long term objectives.

Updates

- **Councillor Ray Bowker** talked about the Councillors ‘Ward walkabout’ with Officers of the Council, including Paul Harvey (Director of Environment). The Councillors raised the issues around the poor park maintenance and their hopes for its future development. Following this there is to be a meeting of Senior Mgmt Team Officers at TMBC who will discuss the issues raised to see if extra can be offered to support the development of the park. He is expecting feedback around mid November.
- **Tina and Paul from G-Force spoke about the following**
 - A chance meeting they had had with Jonathon Coop (the Executive member with responsibilities for parks) who, after hearing what was planned was very interested in visiting the park. It was agreed that this was a relationship worth developing, as Mr Coops support could be very important to the project.
 - Four groups of up to 20 volunteers had offered to come on the park on four different days during October and help cut back overgrown bushes and shrubbery then chip all the cut branches on site with a wood chipper. They were also hoping to secure the loose fence around the old 5-a-side pitch and offered to mark out a small tennis court and a small cycle track on it. They also offered to paint vandalised play equipment on the old and new park. They also talked about paying for a wooden carving to add to those already in the Broomwood Art Trail. Paul F agreed to speak to Mark Saxon (TMBC) to confirm that this was all ok and solicit any extra help he may be able to offer particularly around rubbish removal and accessing a wood chipper. Tina H also agreed to speak to Mark Brazil in an effort to see if he could help as well.
 - Their efforts to development an Environmental Youth Forum to help solicit the views of children & Young People and engage them in the process.
- **Paul Farrand (TMBC) then spoke about the following**
 - The possibility of a funding bid to the ‘Big Lottery Fund’ Community Space program for up to £50k. He offered to submit the initial expression of interest on behalf on the Broomwood Partnership who, it was agreed would be the lead organisation for the bid. Paul F also agreed to ask if we could put a bid in for the larger grant up to £100k at the same time.

- Paul F also mentioned the £1M ‘Children’s Play’ funding that he understood TMBC would have access to in 2010-11. This could be used to help fund this project and was something we needed to investigate once it became accessible.
- **A general discussions happened around these points at various during the meeting**
 - Youth work on the Estate and how the Youth Service/G-Force and PAYP could work together to develop support the development of the Youth Forum as well as some practical ‘hands on’ work on the park to keep children & Young People engaged in the project. A meeting was to be arranged as soon as possible.
 - It was agreed that any plans for the development of the park must take into account the needs of residents whose houses backed on to the park. In particular their security must not be compromised but rather enhanced by any development and their views and opinions must be solicited and be respected throughout the whole process. Following this conversation it was also agreed to recommend two specific actions to address these points
 1. That any plans drawn up should show the only access point into the old park area being through the new play area behind the ATC building.
 2. That the current access point to the old park (which also gives access to the back of the houses on Mainwood) should be closed. It was recommended that this route should be changed only giving access to the back of the houses. It was also suggested that this could be gated. Ideally then, a buffer zone could be built between the park and this route by an earth mound topped with a fence. Plants could then be put on the park side giving security, a sound buffer and creating a pleasant outlook from the park side. Paul F agreed to investigate what steps would need to be taken by TMBC to allow this to happen.
 - That we could consider incorporating a ‘safe green route’ through the park to the School encouraging more use of the park.
 - Any plans would need to take into account the very damp areas at the bottom end of the park.
 - That a newsletter be drafted (for approval at the next Broomwood Partnership) for distribution to the whole community. This was so we could keep people informed of our plans for the park and also to encourage individuals in the community to get involved with the working group. Paul H was to draft and share with subgroup members for feedback prior to submission to BP. It was hoped that the Youth Forum would then take this forward under the watchful eyes of the Youth Workers with any further issues only being distributed once approved by BP.

All these points were then built into the Short term, medium term and long term plan attached.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that we would hold the next meeting on the first Tuesday in November (4th) at 3pm in the Broomwood Centre Café.