

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 14th November 2017

ITEM NO: 9 – COPYTHORNE PLAYGROUND

The Fourth 3 Monthly progress report from Friends of Copythorne Playground:

Purpose:

This paper sets out a summary of work carried out by the Friends of Copythorne Playground Group since our third progress report was delivered to the Parish Council Tuesday 25th July 2017.

The Previous Work Programme and Consultation

Friends of Copythorne Playground presented their Business Plan to the Parish Council meeting on the 25th of October 2016. The Business Plan was accepted and FOCP then had a viable scheme to take to potential donors. A Public Meeting was held at Copythorne Parish Hall on 19 November 2016. The exhibition was also on display at both Copythorne Infants School and Bartley Junior School Christmas Fayres. A website www.focp.uk was put on line with a link to the Business Plan and a Facebook Page is regularly updated and used to communicate with supporters. Applications were made to register FOCP as a charitable company, and to open a bank account. At their meeting on 22 November 2016 the Parish Council agreed to donate £1000.00 in 2016-17 and a further £500.00 in 2017-18. Clarke Wilmott Solicitors agreed to act on a pro-bono basis to draft a lease for the playground to occupy Parish Hall land. Local Businesses were approached for donations and amongst others, Paulton's Park responded with an offer of £10,000 getting the fund-raising effort off to a flying start. HCC councillors Edward Heron and Keith Mans donated a total of £3,300.00, NFDC councillors Derek Tipp, Diane Andrews and Les Puttock donated a further £1,150.00 and the Parish Council has so far added £1,375.00 to funds. Local Children have so far raised £365.42 through various events.

The FOCP Business Plan was to raise 20% from the local community and then apply for the remaining 80% through the Landfill Funding Scheme. A disappointing development is that Landfill Funding is no longer available for this project as there are no longer any landfill sites within 10 miles of Copythorne Parish Hall. However, such is the level of local support for this project that instead of the planned 20%, the local community has now donated 50%. FOCP has been actively seeking ways to raise the remaining 50%.

Progress During Fourth Reporting Period 26 July to 14 November 2017

The total sum raised as at 26 July was £21699.16.

At the public consultation meeting in November 2016 a few members of the public expressed a wish to make a one-off donation, rather than support the project in any other way. Those promises have now been followed up and donations have been received.

A Friends of Copythorne Playground cake stall was set up at the Alpaca Open Day on 26 August. Many playground supporters baked cakes for the event which raised a total of £87.00.

Waitrose in Romsey has adopted FOCP as one of their good causes for their green token scheme for the month of October. The total raised is not yet known.

The playground project has been registered with the Aviva Community Fund. Supporters are asked to vote for our project to receive funding using the following link:

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-2637>

Please support us by clicking on this link and giving us your vote.

A fundraising pack has been produced and is being circulated to supporters in a final effort to attract further public donations.

FOCP entered a competition with playground equipment supplier Kompan in the hope of winning equipment supplied by them. Unfortunately we were not successful.

FOCP has made an application for funding from NFDC Construction Fund. A good deal of research, time and effort went into this application and we believe that a strong case has been made.

A committee meetings were held on 18 September and 16 October.

The total funds received as at the 6th of November stands at £24861.16, 49.7% of our £50,000 target. £13,200.00 has been received from local businesses, £5825.00 has been received from local councils, (HCC, NFDC and CPC), £2740.10 has been received in public donations and £3096.06 from fundraising events. In addition to the funds received we have pledges for a further £1500. We anticipate that our fundraising effort will end 28 February 2018. By that time we should have responses from charitable trusts, NFDC Construction Fund, Exon and ASDA. We then propose to build the best playground possible with available funds.

The next 3 months

Nick Goom, one of the mothers from Copythorne Infants School who has experience of applying for funding from charitable trusts, has prepared a template for FOCP to use and is helping to identify the most promising trusts to apply to. FOCP are currently applying for funding from charitable trusts and we expect responses within the next 3 month period.

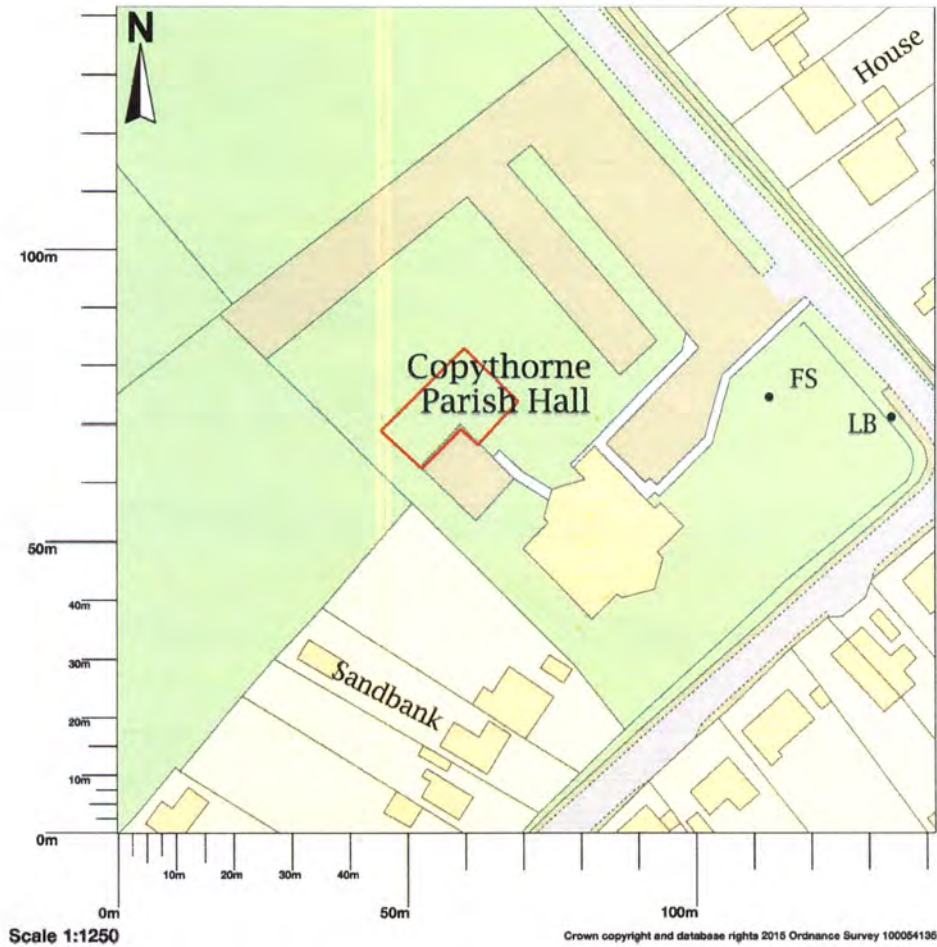
If shortlisted for the NFDC Construction funding, FOCP will make a presentation of the project to NFDC in December, a decision is made at the February meeting and funds available in April.

FOCP will continue efforts to raise funds from the public and follow several leads for funding from large companies, particularly Exon and ASDA.

Risk Register

- A feature which is common to all applications for larger donations from charitable trusts, NFDC or large companies is that the organisation applying must be able to show that they either own the freehold or have a lease of at least 10 years on the site which is the subject of the application. Clarke Willmott Solicitors from Southampton agreed to prepare a lease on a pro-bono basis, however, there have been many unexpected delays particularly at the Land Registry in registering the title of the Parish Hall. This has delayed the preparation of the lease and this has impacted FOCP's ability to apply for funding. The Parish Hall title has now been registered. Clarke Willmott Solicitors have now produced a lease and it is expected that this will be signed soon.
- At their meeting in September, the Parish Hall Trustees acceded a protest from the Horticultural Society about the agreed siting of the playground as they are accustomed to using that space for their annual show. At their meeting in October a compromise was unanimously agreed to resite the playground alongside the existing fenced area used by the pre-school. A location plan accompanies this report showing the revised location of the playground within the Parish Hall site.

Copythorne Playground



Map shows area bounded by: 430648.28,113735.29,430789.72,113876.71 (at a scale of 1:1250) The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

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