

## **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

### **ITEM NO: 15 – COPYTHORNE PLAYGROUND**

#### **The Fifth 3 Monthly progress report from Friends of Copythorne Playground:**

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##### ***Purpose:***

This paper sets out a summary of work carried out by the Friends of Copythorne Playground Group since our fourth progress report was delivered to the Parish Council Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

##### ***The Previous Work Programme and Consultation***

Friends of Copythorne Playground presented their Business Plan to the Parish Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 have donated a total of £4,300.00, NFDC councillors Derek Tipp, Diane Andrews and Les Puttock have donated a further £1,650.00 and the Parish Council has so far added £1,875.00 to funds. Local Children have so far raised over £460 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%, we have now received over 50%. FOCP has been actively seeking ways to raise the remaining 50%.

##### ***Progress During Fifth Reporting Period 14 November 2017 to 13 February 2018***

The total sum raised as at 14 November was £24861.16

A lease has finally been signed by FOCP and the Trustees of Copythorne Parish Hall so secure tenure of the land required by all major donors has now been achieved.

Waitrose in Romsey adopted FOCP as one of their good causes for their green token scheme for the month of October. The total raised was £180.00.

The playground project was registered with the Aviva Community Fund. We understand that we will receive £300.00

Councillor Edward Heron has kindly offered £1000.00 of HCC funding from his personal allocation.

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

Three girls in class 6c at Bartley Junior have raised £98.17 from their classmates. Another occasion when local children have been involved in raising money for their own playground.

A Christmas Barbeque was held and raised £130.00.

We have written to 10 Charitable Trusts which we identified as being the most likely to support a project such as ours. Only one has so far responded and that was a rejection.

Applications were made in 2017 to ExxonMobil, Morrisons and Asda. In each case no funds were forthcoming but it was suggested that we could reapply in 2018 and we are doing so.

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 was made. Two members of our committee made a 15 minute presentation to the NFDC Task and Finish Group on 18 December. The NFDC Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel met on 16 January to consider the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group. The Council Cabinet will meet on 07 February and there will be a meeting of the full Council on 26 February. No formal offer has been made but FOCP are hopeful that a substantial grant may be received from this source which will take us close to our original target.

Committee meetings were held on 15 November and 22 January and there were several meetings in December refining our presentation to NFDC.

The total funds received as at the 6th of February stands at £26374.33, 52.7% of our £50,000 target.

### ***The next 3 months***

We reported that our fundraising effort would end 28 February but this has now been extended to 31 March. It is possible that we may receive some positive response from one of the Charitable Trusts that have been approached. ExxonMobil, Morrisons and Asda may agree to make a donation. Our fundraising pack has been distributed to parents of Bartley Junior, Copythorne Infants and the Pre-School and some events have been planned. One mother from Copythorne Infants school is doing a triathlon for which she will be sponsored. Another mother is organising a sponsored children's cycle and 2 parents are arranging a sponsored adult cycling event which would be match funded by ExxonMobil where one of them works. The pre-school are planning a "sponsored toddle"! The Tutu Club which is a pre-school ballet class at the Tin Church are planning a "sponsored balance" at classes between 22 and 24Feb. FOCP are still promoting the sale of name plaques so that children can have their names on their playground. We hope to receive a formal offer of a grant from the NFDC Construction Fund.

At our committee meeting on 22 January we discussed the tendering process and timetable for construction which has now been agreed. We are now meeting with playground equipment suppliers with the intention of building the very best playground we can with available funds by the beginning of June.

### ***Risk Register***

- New Forest District Council Construction Fund - There is a possibility that NFDC Cabinet or Full Council may not approve the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel and hoped for funding may not be forthcoming.
- Any construction project can be subject to delays and so the opening date of the playground may slip backwards from our June 2018 target.

## Appendix I – Plan & Timetable

Stage	Deadline	Comments
<b>Responses from 1<sup>st</sup> stage tender process where each supplier offers their best proposals</b>	23 February 2018	By close of business
<b>Consider 1<sup>st</sup> stage tender responses and develop detailed specification for single ideal design. Issue Stage 2 tender to shortlisted bidders for quotations on ideal design.</b>	9 March 2018	A single ideal design will be developed based on Stage 1 responses. Stage 2 bids will require detailed specifications of materials, design and pricing (whereas stage 1 is expected to only cover high level concepts and estimates)
<b>Receive Stage 2 tender responses</b>	28 March 2018	By close of business
<b>Deadline for all queries and clarifications</b>	2 April 2018	
<b>FOCP meeting to determine winning bidder. Report to Copythorne Parish Council.</b>	4 April 2018	
<b>Confirm winning bid with Copythorne Parish Council</b>	10 April 2018	
<b>Award Contract</b>	12 April 2018	
<b>Target date for Completion of Works</b>	01 June 2018	