COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 25th JULY 2017

ITEM NO: 12 – COPYTHORNE PLAYGROUND

The Third 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 second progress report was delivered to the Parish Council Tuesday 25th April 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, to open a bank account, to register with HMRC for gift aid and to become a registered charity.

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.

Progress During Third 3 Months 26 April to 25 July 2017

The total raised by sponsorship of local Mum Mai Wakatsuki who ran the London Marathon for playground funds was £1343.17 and this has now been received by FOCP.

At their meeting of 22 November 2016, the Parish Council agreed to donate £1000.00 in the financial year 2016-17. This sum has now been received by FOCP and we thank the Parish Council for their generous support.

Parish Council Chairman Joe Reilly has an allowance from council funds of £375.00 which he can donate to the good cause of his choice and we are most grateful that Joe has given this to FOCP. Joe has also donated a further £125.00 of his own money to FOCP, an unexpected and most generous act.

Friends of Copythorne Playground had a stand at Copythorne Carnival where a further £68.60 was raised from toy pig races and bat the rat. FOCP also had a float in the Carnival Procession on the theme of the Magic Roundabout. This was an opportunity to further raise awareness of our project amongst the community.

The main fund raising event during this period was a very successful Fashion Show held in the Parish Hall on the 29th of June. All tickets were sold out with playground funds receiving both entrance fees and commission on clothing sales. In conjunction with the Fashion Show a raffle was held. Many local businesses had donated excellent prizes, the star prize being dinner for 2 and a nights accommodation at Le Chanteclerc. All raffle tickets were sold and the total raised by Fashion Show and Raffle together was £1231.87.

FOCP committee meetings were held on 22 May and 03 July.

Funds raised and received so far total £21699.16 which is 43.4% of our £50,000 target.

The next 3 months

FOCP are having to confront issues detailed in the Risk Register below. In particular, we now face the prospect of completing the project without Landfill Funding and are urgently pursuing other sources of funding. These include an NFDC grant, Charitable Trusts, Lottery Funding, the Aviva Community Scheme, large company donations, donations in lieu of flowers through local undertakers, Tesco bags for Life and Wave 105 Cash for Kids.

Risk Register

- FOCP's application for Registered Charity Status was rejected for a second time. The Charities Commission were concerned that FOCP plan to transfer the playground to the council as registered charities cannot raise funds for government assets. FOCP's application for Giftaid was also rejected for a second time due to the wording of the application. At the FOCP committee meeting held 22May it was decided to not pursue either Registered Charity Status or Giftaid. Lack of Registered Charity Status has not inhibited fund raising so far and Giftaid would now be a much smaller boost to funds than was originally anticipated. The disadvantage of not having Registered Charity Status is that there will be a smaller number of Charitable Trusts to who we could apply for funding.

- A fundamental part of the FOCP Business Plan was that the majority of the funds required would come through the Landfill Funding Scheme. At the time the Business Plan was written we were eligible to apply to both Veolia and Virador. Since then Veolia has now concentrated all their landfill in Hampshire on one site in Portsmouth and Virador announced the closure of their Squabb Wood site at Romsey. Virador would not accept applications based upon proximity to Squabb Wood after 10 July. It is a fundamental requirement of their application process that the applicants can show that they either own the site in question or have a least a 10 year lease on the site. Unfortunately, the lease on the site which the Parish Hall will grant to FOCP was delayed because the Parish Hall deeds could not be found and the title was not registered. The deeds were found but the lease was not produced in time for FOCP to apply to Virador by 10 July. Landfill Funding was never guaranteed but is lack is a serious blow and much effort is now being made to secure funds for other sources as detailed above. Depending on the availability of alternative funding there is now a possibility that the opening of the playground may be delayed and/or the playground may open with less equipment than planned.

  FOCP – July 2017