**Sunderland Green & Open Spaces Forum – SGOSF**

**Minutes of SGOSF launch organising meeting, Tuesday 8 January 2019**

Held at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens café’ - meeting started at 6.20pm

**Present:** Ann Huntley, *Friends of Herrington Country Park (FoHCP)*, David Newrick *Sustainable Sunderland*, Graeme Jobe, *A Place to Grow Project*, Jennifer French *FoHCP*, Kathy Pickering *Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park*, Patricia Sandy Shields Road *Allotments*, Tim Wright (Chair)*Friends of Barnes Park and Red Machine Allotment Association,* Victor Cadaxa (Notes) *(FoHCP), Robert Welsch, Green Party*

**Apologies:** Ashley Sutherland *Friends of Mowbray Park and Tunstall Hills Protection Group*, Kirsty Pollard *Durham Wildlife Trust*, Peter Nailon *River Wear Trust*, Graeme Anderson, G4S Media

**SGOSF draft launch programme:** it was agreed that this was the sole item. Tim introduced the discussion, with the stated aims and 4 bullet point objectives in the draft programme.

**Launch venue:PopRecs on Stockton Road**. Details were given about the proposed venue, it is a community base, which can hold a minimum of 40 people. It has been donated free of charge for the SGOSF launch. PopRecs was agreed as the venue

Open visit to PopRecs: agreed to do this prior to the launch, to check on disabled access, etc.

**Launch date: Saturday 23 March 2019 –** this date was confirmed.

**Launch publicity**: to state “all ages welcome” so we don’t discriminate against parent with children (NB: SGOSF committee + PopRecs visit to consider arrangements + space for children)

**Pre-registration for launch - agreed** to give an idea of numbers for seats, refreshments, and avoid queues to register, but people will be allowed to allowed to enrol on the day.

**Start time: 9.30-10.00** arrival, register if not done (*advertise refreshments + meet & mingle?*) A number of organisers will need to be there from 9.00 to set up.

**10.00 -10.10 Chair +opening theme:** Tim Wright to chair and set the theme of the day. He needs a time-keeper to assist, due to tight programme times.

**Speakers:** suggested to be a panel, so all/any can respond to questions at 11.00 – 11.15

**10.10 – 10.20 Welcoming address:** Tim to chase up Julie Elliot MP again. Suggested change to title (see amended programme) OK-ed subject to the MP’s wishes.

**10.20 – 10. 30 Sunderland Council:**Cllr Amy Wilson, Cabinet member covering green spaces, parks etc can’t attend (works Saturdays), Cllr Michael Mordey not responded to 2nd approach. Victor to chase it up. *(NB: not agreed what to do if no elected member can/will speak)*

**10.30 – 11.00 National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces:**Sarah Royal or other leading member to be the speaker. **Agreed:** keep the working title, subject to the speaker’s wishes. Given travel time from Birmingham, Tim offered to put the speaker up.

**11.15 – 11.30***(Chair to remind?)* participants this is a chance to network.

**11.30 – 12.00** speakers from 4 or 5 different local environment projects/organisations. **Agreed: 5 minutes per speaker**, to allow more discussion & question time afterwards.

* CEED – there was no response as yet, Kathy to contact: what would they present in a 5-minute slot, and does it fit with the day’s theme?
* Friends of Thompson Park/Flower Mill: Kathy to contact further, to firm up.
* Space to Grow: agreed to have Graeme’s 4 to 5-minute presentation.
* Durham Wildlife Trust: Kirsty responded positively. Victor to check on holding title – is this OK or does she want to change it?
* Sunderland Council: no response yet from Clive Greenwood, Tim to pursue

**12.00 – 12.20 Questions & discussion:** increased from 10 to 20 minutes.

**12.20 – 12.30 Sunderland Green and Open Spaces Forum:** what we’ve done so far, and what we hope to achieve. Not agreed who from SGOSF to do what in this session.

We MUST invite & welcome groups attending to join SGOSF

***NB: interim committee to discuss if individualscan also join and if so, how group and individual membership fit together***.

**12.30 – 12.50 Audience input.** In small groups, make practical suggestions on how to take forward the 3 bullets with issues/questions.

SGOSF members to facilitate, with sticky labels for answers/suggestions, stick these on flipchart paper and put up on walls.

**12.50 – 13.00 Summary and next steps** (and/or way forward): Tim as event Chair

*Q: is there time to pick up on suggestions from the audience input for this?*

**Publicising the launch**: a variety of suggestions were made.

Media: SCC’s VIBE magazine, Sunderland Echo, Northern Echo, Radio Newcastle, Spark FM

TV programmes: Look North, TT News, Made in Tyne & Wear

Green Party: can publicise via SLACK account: agreed to request via Robert

SGOSF member organisations’ + other friendly groups websites Facebook pages

Via PopRec, publicise to/via all Friends groups + invite to attend.

SGOSF members are/to be invited to add to the list.

**Durham Wildlife Trust:** Kirsty offers to publicise in DWT’s magazine (NB 18 Jan deadline) and via DWT networks

***SGOSF interim committee to take forward these proposals, then report to 5 Feb organising meeting***