**Sunderland Green & Open Spaces forum – update on developments from December 2019–February 2020**

* Linked to Forum’s agreed key priorities as finance, membership, media & influencing, work on website redesign, creation of new address <http://www.sgosf.org.uk> , logo redesign via SU students
* Work continues on developing a ‘How to set up a Friends group’ resource.
* Compiling and producing first newsletter, due to be sent out at end of February ’20.
* Created a Member briefing on role and function of SGOSF. Helen Peverley, SCC Neighbourhood Investment Plan Project Manager will distribute.
* Registered on the Sunderland Information Point [www.sunderlandinformationpoint.co.uk](http://www.sunderlandinformationpoint.co.uk)
* Bi-monthly Forum meetings – December ‘19, Environmental Records Information Centre, Paul Stephens.
* Completed a survey from Localis Research project regarding capacity and capability of friends groups and/or local green spaces fora to take on local park management.
* Follow up from Julie Elliot meeting, July ’19, SCC letter signed by Fiona Brown, Executive Director informing MP that Council now set up six weekly meetings with SGOSF. First meeting held on 7/2/20, next one scheduled for 20/3/20.
* Presented to:
  + Barnes, Millfield & Pallion Residents Association, 4/2/20 (now 3/3/20)
  + Thornholme Residents Association, 17/2/20
* Contact/meetings with:
  + Sarah Murray, Manager National Trust
  + Andrew Bewick, Senior Ecologist, SCC
  + Dan Makaveli, MD, Media Savvy
  + Deb Fozzard, Connect Network, [www.connectnetwork.uk](http://www.connectnetwork.uk)
  + Trina Murphy, Service Manager – Heritage, SCC
  + Kate Welch, CEO,Social Enterprise Acumen, [www.socialenterpriseacumen.co.uk](http://www.socialenterpriseacumen.co.uk)
  + Hetton Park drop in – to determine if a desire to establish a Friends group
* Application to NLCF, #CelebrateNationalLottery25, for funding to organize a celebration of the diversity of Sunderland’s open spaces - unsuccessful
* National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces, next meeting 28/3/20

tw 25/2/20

Outline ideas for learning programme

One of the elements of the successful National Lottery Community Fund grant was funding to support learning initiatives. SGOSF Committee is seeking ideas on how the Forum can best support a programme of activities.

*Learning* is the process of acquiring new, or modifying existing, knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences. (<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=10&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiS4JyWifLnAhUVE8AKHZ2FCQQQFjAJegQIARAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FLearning&usg=AOvVaw1AXqd__l4c3D6lUYBcK5QX> Wikipedia, accessed 27/2/20, 15.45)

Initial thoughts generated by the Committee have included:

* Workshops to explore topics such as bee keeping, willow hedging, wildflower meadow planting.
* Practical growing techniques – how to grow from basics in a house, yard, garden or allotment, community gardens – what’s happening in Sunderland? Traditional gardening, crop rotation, types of digging and technique, composting, wormeries, raised beds, hot/hay boxes, pruning, grafting, propagation, bio-dynamics.
* Apple pressing, jam making/preserving
* Walk and talk (carried out by many current groups, DWT, Groundwork, NT, THPG).
* Visit and tour to green and open space projects in Sunderland
* Visits to other places where ideas are being put into practice eg Incredible Edible- the Todmorton experience).
* Practical issues for new and established groups eg recruiting volunteers, volunteer roles, induction, health & safety, insurance, constitutions, safeguarding, GDPR, DBS, risk assessment, first aid, fund raising, IT skills, using software packages, poster design, social media sites, committee roles, group dynamics, working 1-1, celebrating volunteering.

What we do not want is repetition and duplication with what is happening currently. It is recognized that many of the above ideas have been or are being carried out by many existing groups.

One suggestion is for the Forum to partner or co-sponsor (this has numerous connotations) with interested parties eg branding publicity material with SGOSF logo, use of social media to promote event, funding for publicity, facilitator costs etc. The Forum does not have a clearly defined idea about this and would like to hear people’s thoughts.

SGOSF Committee

2/3/20

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