**Sunderland Green Spaces Forum – update on interim Committee actions**

This briefing is to update members on activity the interim committee has carried out since the November 2017 Forum meeting. At this meeting the issue of an interim committee was discussed and agreed. The following volunteered to be involved:

* David Newrick, Sustainable Sunderland
* Graeme Jobes, Space2Grow
* Kathy Pickering, Friends of Hetton Lyon Park
* Victor Cadaxa, Friends of Herrington Country Park
* Tim Wright, Red Machine Allotment Association

Since then the committee has:

* Met on a monthly basis
* Opened a bank account via First for Money Credit Union (with each person donating £5). Following the demise of the Credit Union, we were refunded £21 and are seeking a new provider to open our account.
* Agreed a provisional theme with speaker for each quarterly forum meeting during 2018.
* Met with Chair of Friends of Mowbray Park to listen to issues they faced regarding recruiting/engaging with new members and made suggestions about potential solutions eg engaging with Sunderland University students seeking to volunteer in the community, development of website/facebook page.
* Met with Dave Logan, VCAS, 21/5/18 to discuss Spectrum and how best to work collaboratively.
* Met with Mark Speed, Head of Service – Place, SCC 30/4/18. Saw value to collaboration on this agenda. Unclear on the process for enabling this to happen. Felt Forum needed web presence. Supported idea of informing SCC area VCS foras.
* Commenced thinking on logo design and information that could be included on an SGSF web page. These include an outline of who we are and what we are seeking to do

*Mission statement*

*Sunderland Green and Open Spaces Forum was set up to bring together groups who**help protect green spaces, particularly its flora and fauna, both now and in the future. It hopes to offer ideas, knowledge and experience for the sensitive development of landscape or visual amenity in the Sunderland area. We will act as a source of independent advice, on green and open spaces in the Sunderland area. We would like to encourage greater public use and appreciation of green and open spaces, promoting the areas wherever possible to those groups that make less use of them. We hope to influence green and open space decision making, including resources and allocation, on a local, regional and national level, and act as a key consultation body on green and open spaces in the Sunderland area. We hope to offer an opportunity to share ideas and good practice, and experience. We hope to bring groups together and work for the benefit of the City as a whole.*

*Our purpose is:*

* *To bring groups together*
* *To benefit from shared experiences and expertise*
* *To find solutions for difficulties*
* *To work with Sunderland City Council and other bodies to promote the value of outside space*
* *To influence future decision making on green and open spaces*
* *To work on joint projects with other groups*
* *To publicise other groups events*

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Updated 4/6/18