

Larkhall Park Partnership Board Meeting
Oasis Adventure Playground
Thurs 29th February 2024

Some **notes** are below; in future we will bring a report on the latest LPPB updates to the following FoLP committee meeting. Ben Rymer, Chair, Friends of Larkhall Park.

Cafe: four consultants have submitted EOs with costs ranging from £5k-£40k. This is an income generation initiative and the chosen consultants' business plan will be decisive on future running. Julian Jaeger asked whether the council intended to execute the consultants' business plan - AD said not necessarily. The council will depend in key operational elements on the plan. Julia Barfield asked if benchmarking has been done - AD said yes. Cllr David Oxley cited the council taking leisure services back-in-house as a service. JJ said he continued to be charged by Better after it went in-house (*note: the profit-share arrangement with GLL/Better was widely reported to be loss-making*). AD confirmed the £80k will be used for the business planning not just cafe capital works, and that £80k may not be enough. Ida Turner flagged the risk that the cafe will close at 5pm/6pm, too early for the community - we need evening classes/evening activities/performances at the site. Ben, Julia and Ida said it is critical that the social value delivered is a central consideration. David mentioned that the kiosk on CC was closed on Saturday. JJ asked about the management models being considered and said there are a range of intermediary options in-between straight ownership and outsourcing via a management contract or revenue-share. AD said no timeframe but it is needed "as fast as possible". Pop-up idea was suggested. Nickie mentioned the power point at the caf and asked if we can get a coffee truck in there?

Action: AD keen on idea of a steering group to feed in and support cafe - BR to convene, pending Kevin Crook review/approval.

Action: Gareth and Ben asked for the consultants brief and bid scoring matrix to be provided to FoLP.

Toilets: two toilets will be opened in the park in "late Spring". Drawings nearly finalised and contractor soon to be appointed. Ida flagged the issue of Hussein's kit being stolen. AD suggested "re-orienting" the changing rooms to partly-include meeting rooms. Changing room locks will be changed on March 7, one key to Hussein, one to BigKid, deep clean on following day, March 8. AD sourcing wire-frame cages to store different orgs' kit. "Not perfect" - AD. Ida suggested CCTV following recent thefts to enhance security. Jeremy mentioned Carey gardens CCTV hadn't worked for two years and didn't act as a deterrent. Colin mentioned litter. Ida/Julia mentioned CCTV as part of masterplan. Ben mentioned his request to the police for increased patrols; David Oxley mentioned he is working with police to try to enable this.

Budget: AD presented his expected budget items. Ida and Julia mentioned that the Board has a mission to deliver social value. FoLP will seek Stockwell Festival 2025 funding and other items at the April LPPB. Benches: AD is going to "wheedle" DCUK to advise on

picnic tables when they are in the park in w/c March 4.

FoLP update: Ben updated on Nickie's progress against the four key deliverables in her recent paid capacity building and funding role for FoLP. There has been substantial progress on all four, with Nickie directly raising or contributing to a total of £33,000 additional income for FoLP during the year and making huge strides in our communications/outreach and governance. David was very enthusiastic about the newsletters. Nickie said having new people joining up particularly to the action plan has been energising, Comms could still be better and fundraising needs further work. She noted that there are few/no activities for kids in the summer in the park. Oasis and Stockwell Partnership got funds from Community Connections NCIL funds, phase one. David happy to support a future FoLP bid for phase two - Cllrs tend to be asked whether there is anything to discount bidding groups. AD asked for costs of putting festival together. Julia asked for an update on the masterplan; to be provided.

Action: Stockwell Festival event manager Dila Vardar to attend or send update to LPPB on April 9.

Build Up Foundation: Build Up Foundation was mentioned as they plan to fundraise £30K for build works for a social space in the park for kids/youth - positive feeling in the room on this, and Javarron presented on the idea. Ben asked for more detail on the specifics before formal approval is given by the Board or FoLP. There will be up to four design workshops with young people locally in midApril/May. Javarron noted the few sheltered places in the park for kids. Colin suggested a stage element maybe to facilitate live music there. Build of the space is expected to be completed by kids by the end of summer.

Football pitch: Carl noted that there are already three 3G pitches in the vicinity of Larkhall Park: at the Allen Edwards primary school on Studley Road, Lark Hall primary school on Gaskell Street and the Hubert Morris school on Hartington Road all have 3G pitch facilities. Ida mentioned two other 3G pitches in the Stockwell Area. All of these 3G pitches are available for the local community to use. Further to these, FoLP has undertaken to learn whether the Superleague facility on Thessaly Road has a 3G pitch. Ben noted that FoLP had passed a motion at its AGM on Feb 13 to oppose any additional pitches in the park, due to: concerns over suitability of the space, daylight and sunlight, concerns over whether football is the right sport to focus resources on, and the noted existing capacity of football facilities in the local area.

One O'Clock Club: several questions on the latest status with the Club and the status of the lease. David unable to update due to commercial confidentiality.

As ever, any questions let me know. Next LPPB is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9.