

Meeting Minutes

Clay Farm Community Garden Steering Group

Held at: Clay Farm Centre

14th June 2019 14:00 – 16:00

Attendees

Chairing - Katie Thornburrow (Ward Councillor)

Kim Graham (Clay Farm Community Volunteer)

Serena (Clay Farm Community Volunteer)

Ian Storr (Local Resident)

Paul Gibbs (DJA)

Charlotte Leaver (TPPS)

Jo Clark (Countryside)

Dr. D Newcombe (Trumpington Residents' Association and Trumpington Allotment Garden Society)

Nicky Saragossi (Resident)

Mark Saragossi (Neighbours of Clay Farm Community Group)

Phillipa Slatter (Clay Farm Allotments)

Lisanne Doran (Lorelei Lodestar Artist)

David Malia (Cambridge City Council)

Apologies

Sarah Tovell (Cambridge City Council)

Carol Wright (Resident)

1.	Welcome and introductions	
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1.2	<p>Following recent local consultation KT outlined plans going forward. for amendments to cycle path to better link existing routes and reduce traffic through the centre of the Garden. The amendments were to be included in Countryside's planning application for the community garden/allotment building.</p>	
1.3	<p>IS expressed concerns about the decision making process of the group and the lack of controls in place to direct and manage the Gardens going forward. IS stated that if you don't live within the area that you shouldn't have the right to input into future development/ management of the Community Garden.</p>	
1.4	<p>CL thanked the group, on behalf of Trumpington School, who had enjoyed a successful program of activity helping to develop the garden and the school were looking forward to more opportunities to get involved with the Gardens and meet with other Community groups and residents.</p>	
1.5	<p>PS stated that focus should be on inclusion and not exclusion and that local people have expressed to her that people have been delighted with the prospect of raising their families at Clay Farm. Also, stressed that both the school and community college are a key element in the future of the community Garden.</p>	
1.6	<p>Serena expressed that the gardens have been used by the local community at this early stage. She suggested that people living outside have not made a greater impact on the development of the Garden.</p>	
1.7	<p>LD expressed that the group name itself is only reflective of the location and not necessarily a limitation to who should be invited to the meetings.</p>	
1.8	<p>MS pointed out that he had been asked by a group of local residents to put forward views of those residents and himself. They all want the best outcome for everyone. Both aesthetically pleasing, and a successful well run Community facility. Main issues at present are with clarity of rules, sustainability (finance plan), who's in control?</p>	
1.9	<p>KT stated that following transfer the garden would initially be the responsibility of CCC. The Steering Group's role was likely to change, should the group wish to move towards self-management. The City Council will retain representation whatever is decided.</p>	
1.10	<p>KT pointed out to the group that the initial terms of reference and the constitution, covering governance of the gardens were being drawn together and would be presented to the group at the next meeting for comments. .</p>	

2.	Countryside/Paul Gibbs presented plans for building and garden design	
2.1	JC explained that one of the layout options Includes amendments to the proposed footpath cycleway ie a narrower winding option as opposed to the 3m wide straight option which has planning permission – however to date Council officers have stated a preference for the approved route.	
2.2	PG shared the hard copy diagrams of Options A, B and C. Options A and B were discussed in detail. There are gas main constraints on all options. Elements of disabled parking for both. Key differences are Option A – the poly tunnel remains as it is and new building replaces existing temporary building. Option B – the building with integrated glass house located in the south-eastern part of the site, including alternative route for cycle way and poly tunnel removed. . Option C (north-east corner) discounted largely because of access difficulties and impact on residential properties.	
2.3	Access issues particularly for bad weather conditions were to be discuss with Garden for Wellbeing Group when they meet with LD.	
2.4	KT explained that the design would allow for maximise light entering the building. PG pointed out that the orientation of the building in option A may need to be realigned slightly. But the footprint would follow that in option B. The group generally supportive of option A as the better location with the integrated glass house option preferable to the poly tunnel. PG to amend proposed submission and DM to circulate favoured proposal to the allotment tenants on the waiting list.	
2.5	Further amendments to proposals included raised flower beds to better accommodate users with disabilities. Safety of pond design requires addressing particularly as site is accessible to children. The specification of the glass element of the building needed further consideration. Polycarbonate may be better choice than glass. The building may provide opportunities for exploring community art.	
2.6	PG to circulate plan of favoured option to group attendees and DM to update prospective allotment tenants.	
3.0	Update from Lisanne	
3.1	Slide show presented by LD describing project work carried out– Outlining methodology of how the garden is being used by various groups. As well as taster opportunity for residents to try various site activities as the garden develops.	
3.2	In January the double layby was replaced by a swale which produced more grass to cut. Started to stock the polytunnel with	

	<p>current seedlings and tender crops, original stored items had been removed or utilised and the tunnel was now in full production.</p> <p>3.3 In March there was the first pop-up café which was a great success and well attended. Thanks to Serenas cooking!</p> <p>3.4 Growing together group – 6-month course in wildlife friendly growing. Put on a show garden in April.</p> <p>3.5 In May surplus crops were distributed to neighbouring residents. Small voluntary donations were now being received for crops. Took part in Chelsea Fringe which helped to attract more volunteers.</p> <p>3.6 For the rest of the summer, the plans are to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance growing areas - Keep sewing and growing - Taking part in Cambridge Veg Fest this year - Pop-up cafes continuing <p>Serena pointed out that a pop-up cafe occurs every other Thursday with requests to increase frequencies. Donations were being received to help fund future activity.</p> <p>Plans for further visits by Trumpington Primary School children, hoped that all children to have visited the garden by the end of summer term. Poor weather causing difficulties</p>	
	<p>3.7 Autumn plans to work with new contacts at City Council, biodiversity officer at CCC and active lifestyle officer. Encouraging gardening for fitness, wellbeing and enhancing the environment. In the winter – plans to organise educational events, develop volunteer base, seek funding. Towards end of year encourage handover of elements to volunteers to move towards self-sustainment of the garden. A legacy document to be produced by end of year.</p> <p>3.8 The Botanic Garden has an initiative to link the community gardens across Cambridge – Cambridge Community Growing Group.</p> <p>3.9 KG composed a website for Cambridge Community Growing Group – increasing the garden profile to all the groups interested in activities in Cambridge.</p> <p>3.10 KT asked if next meeting could to start with Lisanne’s update in the garden. Generally agreed this would be good for group to see what is taking place on site.</p>	
4.	Polytunnel update/discussion	

4.1	KT stated that following earlier discussions the favoured plan is to opt for the scheme which will include a glass house element, and the current temporary polytunnel will be replaced with the proposed permanent meeting room /store.	
4.2	IS stated he believed that the majority of local residents don't like the current polytunnel. So he supported the proposal to replace the polytunnel with the more permanent proposal.	
4.3	KT stressed that the current polytunnel is classed as a temporary structure.	
5.	Steering group members and management	
5.1	Following the group's earlier discussion KT confirmed that she and senior Council officers are carefully looking at the legal and future options for the management of the Garden and a paper is being prepared for presentation to the group. The City Council wishes to Work with residents and users to develop a framework for managing the garden. This is a new venture for everyone.	
6.	AOB	
6.1	MS pointed out that he had received a complaint about an area adjacent to the polytunnel had debris that had become smelly and was attracting flies – located not far from a residents door. Also pointed out that old compost heaps and old pallets look untidy and if maintained better would not aggravate local residents. LD stressed that she had made contact with the local resident and while site works are ongoing the areas had been tidied.	
6.2	LD also explained as well as making direct contact with the resident, the current situation was intended only as a stop gap as there are plans to build compost bins to better manage organic waste. LD encouraged everyone to look at the Instagram page for updates.	
6.3	Serena pointed out that the prevalence of dog walkers at this end of the garden may be making the situation worse. DM suggested that there are proposals for additional dog waste bins to be installed along the west boundary of the Country Park and would ask Countryside to position a bin towards the boundary of the community garden/ country park .	
6.4	KG expressed that she was pleased with the way in which the garden has reached out to local residents and the garden means a lot to her and those local people who have already engaged.	
6.5	KT notified the group of a hedgehog awareness group and programs to come through as well as future opportunities to engage with art and environmental projects through the City Council.	

6.6	DN expressed that he was a local Clay Farm resident as well as representing Trumpington Garden Society and Residents Association and groups are generally supportive of Community Garden and very much hope that the support will continue.	
6.7	NS enquired as to who authorises public events i.e. kids party or a family get-together. JC pointed out that the Garden was the responsibility of Countryside at present. Contact details for relevant Council officers would be sort for future events. Countryside should be notified in the short term as they are responsible for the Garden up until formal transfer.	
6.8	DM to circulate minutes and submission plan following receipt from PG.	
7.	Date for next meeting TBC but suggestion was to start at Garden again .	