

## **MINUTES FAB MEETING 10<sup>TH</sup> February 2016**

7.30pm at the Community Fire Station, Cupar

Present: Laura Rigon; Bryan Rollo; Debbie Payjack; Sarah Davidson, Norma Alari (minutes).

Apologies: Erica Benson; Keith Harding; Giles Christian; Rob Brydon; Lindy Mclean.

### Orchard Walk

Sewage leakage at man hole remains a problem despite remedial interventions in the past. Sarah will continue to lobby various agencies that can help.

It was recently noticed that several trees had been felled at the rear of Charles Jarvis Court and a response from Councillor Marjoram explained that in the recent storms, trees had fallen against fencing of properties at 20 and 21 Charles Jarvis Court. Fife Council had to carry out remedial work on the trees. Currently, much of the land on either side of the footpath is under several feet of water which might be contributing to tree root damage – is there a possibility of improving drainage? One large willow has cracked and will have to be felled too as being held up by another tree. Do FAB require some notices disclaiming tree felling as work carried out by our group?

### Pruning

The principles and practice of fruit tree pruning were discussed – here are a few helpful hints...

Pruning is carried out, in the winter months, to allow light and air to circulate through the tree and to give it shape. This is achieved by removing dead/diseased and crossing/rubbing branches. All cuts are made to an outward facing bud. Last year's growth is cut back by a third (this encourages the tree to put all its energies into the lower stems). Regularly walk round the tree taking views from all angles (looking into the tree and around) this helps to keep its shape and symmetry. There are various books and you-tube videos on the subject. Laura offered to make a small learning tool on pruning.

Feeding of trees is advisable eg bone meal or sulphate of potash (2oz per sq. yard) scattered and lightly forked in. Wood ash (NB not coal ash) can also be

used around trees and soft fruits as well as around potato, carrot, tomato (anything that needs swelling).

Soft fruits require pruning eg raspberry canes old canes should be removed. Autumn fruiting canes should be cut back completely in spring.

### Elmwood

Our thanks go to John for carrying out remedial work on the fruit cage.

The next Elmwood event will be 13<sup>th</sup> March from 11 am – 1 pm.

### Letham Primary School - 19<sup>th</sup> February 10.00

Bryan and Norma will meet with the headmistress to discuss soft fruit planting.

### Monimail Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup>

Arrangements for the day were discussed and volunteers Rob, Giles, Laura, Erica, Keith and possibly Bryan will meet with Emma on the day.

The 27<sup>th</sup> is another helping day at Monimail – all welcome.

### Interpretation Boards and Tables

Sarah awaiting a quote from Dave McKeen for two tables to be installed next to the benches. Some ideas put forward for possible etching. There have been many favourable comments regarding the benches. Keith to put together a 'story-board' for the main interpretation board.

### Sustainable Cupar – Ideas Day 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Corn Exchange 13.00- 16.30

Plans are underway for this event to highlight work being undertaken by SC ie workshops on the following:

Moor Road

District Heating Networks

FAB Fruit and Blossom)

Cycle Paths and Active Travel

Sustainable Housing Development.

Each session will run for approx 20 mins (including question time). There will be tea/coffee/cake served (free with a flyer to be distributed throughout Cupar). Volunteers are requested for the café and baking. Advertising to be done at the next Farmer's Market (20<sup>th</sup> Feb) and via local newspapers.

### Stratheden Project

Rob has drawn up a plan of the area adjacent to the rear of Playfield House which will be forwarded to Eugene Adams - we await his instructions.

### Cupar Could

Sarah explained this groups remit - Cupar town development and public consultations/workshops which will be held from the 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Cupar Development Trust will then take forward ideas.

Next Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.