



Friends of Summers Field

c/o Sandy Higgins, Hill View, Church Road, Doynton, BS30 5SU

24 October 2011

Dear Doynton Resident

It seems a long time since the meeting in the Village Hall last April and an update on progress is overdue.

Firstly you'll notice that Lee Whitbread's name is not at the top of this document. Because of work commitments Lee needs to step back from the project and hand over responsibility for chairing the management committee so I have agreed to take over. Lee has put in a great deal of work and energy into getting things started so I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking him on behalf of us all.

So..... what progress has there been:

Lease and licence for Summers Field

Jonathan Hazlett and Lee have been working with SGC (South Gloucestershire Council) to agree the wording of the lease for the orchard and licence for the wildflower meadow, both of which are now in a form acceptable to all parties and ready to be signed.

Friends of Summers Field Limited

Rather than having the lease and licence in the name of any individual residents which could create issues of personal liability, the management committee decided that a specially created charitable company should be formed. This is to be called Friends of Summers Field Limited and Jonathan is in the process of setting it up. The proposed members and directors of the company are Jonathan, Lee and me. Once established we will open a bank account and apply for charitable status.

Management committee

Day to day responsibility for management of Summers Field will be delegated by the directors of the company to the management committee, membership of which is open to all Doynton residents. In addition to Jonathan, Lee and me, other current members of the committee are Jill Salter (as the Parish Council representative), James Hughes, Andrew Read and Andy Stew.

There are currently vacancies on the committee so, if you're interested in assisting the project in this way, please return the attached response form to me.

Initial start-up costs

The most immediate issue is the costs for the first year of the lease and licence which are payable on signing of the documents together with a contribution to SGC's legal costs in setting them up. In total this comes to £700.

Once signed, the company will need to take out public liability insurance. The premium for this is estimated at £350.

The next step would be to agree a design for the orchard and wildflower meadow. SGC can provide a designer but would charge £630 for this service. Other sources of advice such as the Gloucestershire Orchards Group (<http://www.gloucestershireorchardgroup.org.uk/>) are being investigated.

Fund-raising

Lee has successfully applied for a capital expenditure grant from SGC, but unfortunately this can only be applied to equipment and fixtures, not the start up costs.

An application for an environmental grant will also be submitted to SGC for consideration at their next quarterly review on 9th December. Other possible sources of grants are also being investigated.

In the meantime the committee have considered the following other methods of fundraising:

- Donations – we appreciate that there have been a number of calls on Doynton residents' generosity recently, so our feeling is that requests for donations are more likely to be successful once the plans for the orchard and wildflower meadow have been established and individuals can sponsor a tree or bench or similar. Nonetheless if you would like to make a contribution towards the initial start up costs, any level of donation would be very much appreciated. Please fill out the relevant section of the attached response form and return it to me if this is the case. Once charitable status

has been established such cash donations will be collected under gift aid and the relevant tax claimed back.

- Sponsorship by local businesses – This is being investigated by the committee, but again there have been a lot of requests from other local projects recently.
- Membership fees – individual membership of the Friends of Summers Field as an interest group can be offered for an annual subscription - £10 has been suggested. Initially the benefits of membership will necessarily be limited (a regular newsletter for instance), but as the orchard and meadow develop other benefits can be incorporated (regular events, talks, meetings with other orchard groups, etc). Again, if anybody is interested in taking out membership, please return the attached response form to me.
- Events – a number of ideas for fund raising events have been proposed. If you would like to be involved in organising an event, again please return the attached response form to me.

Bulb-planting

As some of you will know, the Golden Valley Trust have been successful in obtaining a large supply of spring bulbs and invited local organisations to apply for allocations. The committee applied for an allocation to be under-planted in the wildflower meadow and similar applications were submitted for the Village Hall garden and the Village Green. All of our applications have been successful and the bulbs have been collected, so volunteers for a planting work party will be required. Again please return the attached response form to me if you are willing to take part in the work party.

Local consultation

At the public meeting in April concern was expressed that all Doynton residents that will be directly affected by the orchard and wildflower meadow should be individually consulted about their views on the proposals. The committee will make the proposed designs available to all residents adjacent to Summers Field and seek their views prior to implementing the proposals.

So..... a great deal of progress, but a long way to go.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Higgins

Friends of Summers Field

Response Form

Please complete the donation section if relevant, put a line through those sections that are not relevant then return to Sandy Higgins at Hill View, Church Road, Doynton BS30 5SU

Management Committee

I am willing to fill one of the vacant positions on the Management Committee.

Donations

I wish to make a donation of £..... towards the initial start up costs of the Summers Field Community Orchard and Wildflower Meadow and I enclose a cheque for this amount payable to Friends of Summers Field Ltd.

Membership of the Friends of Summers Field

I wish to apply for membership of the Friends of Summers Field interest group and I enclose a cheque for £10 for one year's subscription (to run from 1st November 2011) payable to Friends of Summers Field Ltd.

Event Organisation

I am willing to assist in organising fund-raising events.

Bulb planting work party

I am willing to take part in the bulb planting work party (date to be arranged).

Name:

Address:

.....

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Tel No:

Email: