

## **Friends Group Meeting Nov 16<sup>th</sup>** **Pilton Community Health Project 2.30-4.30**

Present: Sylvia, Denise Havard (EDI), Gillean, Jonathan, Sue, Graeme, Liz, John G, Ellie, Ally B, Mariana, Linda, Kirsty.

Apologies: Dave L, Isla.

We had a short celebration of recent good news with delicious homemade cake, biscuits and sugar free rose water delight. Plenty of cuppas and short introductions around the table, with the large plan of the garden on display.

Previous August and September notes approved by e-mail.

### **EDI Discussion.**

Recap of Oct events and introduction of group members to Denise representing EDI.

Following on from our Friends Group presentation of ideas to EDI Group Ltd on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct we heard from the company and met on the 8<sup>th</sup> November with Denise and Mark to hear the good news about the board's change of heart on the future of the walled garden in their Masterplan.

Today Denise further outlined the companies desire to work with the Friends Group to reach an agreement to enable community use and restoration of the walled garden. EDI hope we will be able to accommodate the needs of the charitable organisation taking on Plot N: work experience and market garden produce.

-A sustainable long term business plan is requested by EDI from the Friends Group

-A timetable of events and 'workstream' to encourage the group members to expand on the 3 year draft strategy for making the garden accessible and beginning restoration. Prioritise and timetable tasks. Some work required may already have been costed by EDI, Denise to elaborate at a future meeting.

Friends Group explained that access was a priority issue and necessary for initial structural and habitat surveys, to produce accurate costings enabling us to plan and organise the practical work needed. Capacity building of the group, visits, future events and local involvement in the garden's restoration plans requires a temporary access and new door into the walled garden.

**Outcome** - Denise took on board the Friends group's need for access and a site meeting would be helpful. Next meeting on return from holiday ~ end of Nov.

### **Actions** -

1 Workstream idea: John G to take forward and meet group again on Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm

2 Agreement: John G to liaise with Mark H when back from holiday, previous Heads of Terms?

3 Access task group: Graeme, Ellie and Kirsty to take forward planning application.

### **Upcoming Dates and events**

**Economy Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – followup to the petitions committee decision.

**Action** - Kirsty, Gillean, and Linda to attend. Mini-presentation sent ahead displaying local ideas and aspirations for community use of the walled garden and benefits.

**Archaeology Conference 19<sup>th</sup> Nov** - at QMU, parking and information stall arrangements made.

**Action** - Gillean, Jonathan, Linda, Mariana, Liz and Kirsty to attend.

Historic Environment Scotland field archaeology training day - 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1.30-4 ish

Action – Kirsty to send reminder to folk & advertise.