



NEWSLETTER – Nov 2020

Friends

GOOD NEWS – Our Heritage Lottery/Welsh Government ‘Community Woodlands ‘ bid for funds has been accepted. Most of the project elements have been approved and will be funded. There are just two areas we were asked to take out of the funding request, the installation of additional seating and the provision of a shed for Gardening Club tools. We have already started to think about alternative ways of providing these two elements and we will talk about these later

However, the following we will be able start work on as soon as is practicably suitable:

PUBLICITY - We will be publicising the project as widely as possible, including, press and media releases, website, Facebook, Glamorganshire Voluntary Services Newsletter and leaflet drops. Please pass the word to as many people and organisations as you can.

LET US KNOW OF ANY IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE TO INCREASE PUBLICITY

TREE WORKS – Vale Council have completed some of the very high priority works and will continue the remaining works W/C 23 Nov Ambler Tree Experts will start works, as detailed in their report – we expect this will start????

DRAINAGE– delivered by Terrain Aeration – we expect this to take place?

Using machinery pictured left Terraine aeration will aerate the square by drilling 1 metre deep holes throughout the Square other than an area reserved for our Bog Garden. These hole will then have compressed air blasted into them causing a network of frissures creating a comprehensive drainage network.

This enhances natural drainage through the soil within the Square, enhancing soil composition, and is environmentally friendly as it limits excess water draining into local drainage systems. Click the link to see it in action

HORTICULTURE WORK – members of the Gardening Group have already started some of the work, in particular installing mini stumperies. I know they are keen to use much of the wood that may become available after the Tree Works are completed

The Horticulture Plan has been developed during a process of wide public consultations, seeking advice from David Clements Ecology, who conducted the initial Ecology Survey, and proposals delivered by Catherine Etchell Associates, Landscape Architects, who were commissioned to develop a plan resulting from the recommendations from the above consultation exercises

The main elements of the plan include: A Bog Garden, Wildflower planting, Community Garden, Hibernacula, Stumperies, Variable heights of grass cutting, Re-planting self seeded saplings.

We will be commissioning an 'Artistic Impression' of the plan which will reflect the plan as it stands, but have accommodated in our budgets to amend and update it as and when necessary. All the best laid plans etc etc. As the Gardening Group gets established and begins to implement the project we are sure that additional elements will be added to the plan.

If you want to be a part of this development please let us know via our website, everyone welcome no matter what your past experience, just an interest to get involved is sufficient

NATURE TRAILS – Towards the end of the Horticulture element, we will be asking David Clements Ecology to lead two professionally led trails. Our intention is that FoVS volunteers will take part in these with a view to leading trails themselves to other groups, including; schoolchildren, parents with children, youth groups, care home residents and the general public.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED AS A VOLUNTEER (change to lower case)

PROJECT EVALUATION – We will need to evaluate the progress and completion of the project to feed back to our funders. These evaluations will take place on the Square and a part of these will be to conduct structured questionnaires with members of the public. These will be conducted mainly on weekends on at least three occasions, at the beginning, during, and at the end of the project.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN DELIVERING THESE QUESTIONNAIRES – PLEASE LET US KNOW (change to lower case) ADD picture of someone with clipboard

WIDER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT – In order to be considered for funds to deliver our proposals, we are committed to engage with the wider public. We are committed to make the Square and its enhanced facilities available to as many people as possible. The following is the statement made in our successful bid to Heritage Lottery, which we are committed to deliver. '**As the project develops and following on from it, we will use the enhanced natural environment and stronger community support, to reach out to the wider community to encourage engagement with nature and gardening, in accordance with 'Welsh Government's Wellbeing of Future Generations' act**'.

We will need to engage with other groups in the area, schools, youth groups, care homes, and groups of people who may benefit by being a part of the Friends group, or may just be able to benefit from visiting the Square.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF KNOW OF ANY CLUBS OR GROUPS YOU FEEL WE SHOULD CONTACT (change to lower case)

BENCHES – As we mentioned earlier, we have not been funded to provide these. However, having discussed this with our very cooperative Vale Council Parks and Open Spaces Officer we have considered the following approach. Some of the existing benches sited along the eastern side of the Square and facing Victoria Road, will be re-sited and renovated by the Council. FoVS have committed to providing the concrete bases for installation. It is possible that over the next few months a few more benches may become available for renovation and we have said that we could provide appropriate bases for up to a total of 5 newly sited seats.

WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH RE-SITING THE BENCH SEATS AND WILL SEND OUT A MESSAGE WITH DETAILS NEARER TO THE TIME, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE TOWARDS THE END OF THE PROJECT.
(change to lower case)

WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO RAISE FUNDS TO PAY FOR THE BASE INSTALLATIONS – DONATIONS AND OR IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE VERY WELCOME. – WE WILL UPDATE YOU ALL ON FUND RAISING IDEAS
(change to lower case)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Attached is a spreadsheet of the detailed IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE. As you will see there is a considerable amount of work to be done. Much of the work will depend upon voluntary contributions from FoVS members, and we will not be able to achieve our goals without you.

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, EVEN IT MEANS JUST PASSING THE MESSAGE ON TO A WIDER GROUP ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING – IT WILL ALL HELP