

Boggart Hole Clough priorities

for grant bid from Manchester City Council *Parks Improvement Fund*

Correspondence (4 emails), from August 2021, presented below discusses issue above.

Email from Peter Milner, FoBHC Admin - petermilner@hotmail.com - sent 28.8.2021 (number & name of recipients, see below):

Boggart Hole Clough: MCC Parks Improvement Fund - priorities

To: Stephen West & Paul Rosenbloom, Manchester City Council (MCC) North Area Parks Managers.

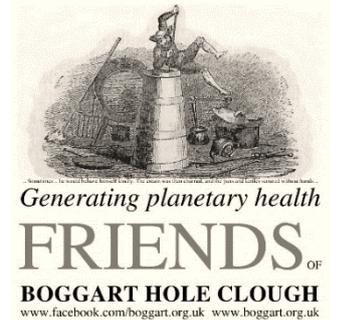
Copied to: Basil Curley, Hannah Priest & Veronica Kirkpatrick, MCC Charlestown Councillors; Marise Lindsey, Boggart Hole Clough Community Group (BHCCG) Chair.

Blind Carbon Copied to: 30+ people including some Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (FoBHC) & some BHCCG Members.

From: Peter Milner, FoBHC Admin / BHCCG Committee Member.

Hi,

Re BHCCG bid for MCC Parks Improvement Fund grant (Charlestown ward); responding to Chris Cooper's 16.8.2021 email below. Five comments:



1. At 28.7.2021 BHCCG committee meeting it was decided the grant bid should include monies to cover costs of purchasing & planting **10 Lake-shading White Willows** alongside the south-eastern promenade to cool the water counteracting eutrophic conditions in which Avian Botulism thrives; this disease killed approximately 60 Canada Geese, among other Waterbirds, in July. We consider this should be highest priority for this grant bid & that it should not yet again be relegated to some possible future grant bid as proposed in the 16.8.2021 email below. Please see FoBHC 13.8.2021 email re this subject pasted in below, & *Lake-shading sweep of White Willows* (FoBHC, 31.7.2021) PDF on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/fobhc_31.7.2021_lake-shading_sweep_of_-white_willows.pdf

2. At 28.7.2021 BHCCG committee meeting it was decided the grant bid should include monies to cover costs of purchasing & fitting **Wooden Railings on Footbridge** near the Lake. The footbridge's history was discussed - namely, MCC twice fitted new steel railings on the footbridge & on each occasion they were promptly stolen, which probably explains MCC's reluctance to replace them again for so long. It was pointed out that the footbridge below 99 Steps has wooden railings, fitted some years ago, & these have not been stolen & still look good - please see 17.7.2021 photo attached [left]. We consider this should be 2nd highest priority for the grant bid, & that fitting steel railings, as proposed in 16.8.2021 email below, would be a waste of public money as they would, history suggests, likely be stolen again.



3. As stated at the 28.7.2021 BHCCG committee meeting, we do not consider "**new signage within the park**" to be a priority, indeed there seems little, if any, need for new signage at all (with exception of Lakeside signage - see *Please don't feed birds at the lakeside* (FoBHC, 28.6.2020) PDF on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/fobhc_28.6.26.2020_please_dont_feed_birds_at_the_lakeside_flyer_poster_signage.pdf). Related matter - the Clough's lecterns are in a poor state & we continue to urge MCC to properly maintain / refurbish them.

Continued on next page

4. And, as also stated at the 28.7.2021 BHCCG committee meeting, we consider outsourcing “**creating new mapping images of the park**” to be wrong. *Creating new mapping images of the park* should be insourced into the Clough, involving park users - adults, children - a local community art / education project, bringing people together, potentially producing many original maps of the Clough, exploring its various natural historical aspects. Various maps thus created could then be outsourced for making into display panels & installed in the park.
5. As shown above, the 16.8.2021 email below misrepresents 28.7.2021 BHCCG committee meeting proceedings (e.g. see comment 2 above). We are not “impressed with the process .. identifying .. priorities” (to quote from same email) which consisted of a one-off ‘workshop’ with ideas plucked out of thin air (see e.g. comment 3 above), paying no regard to work carried out by FoBHC. Our *process*: ongoing weekly walks & discussions in the Clough, involving innumerable people over many years (as can be seen on our website), researching, **prioritizing proposals tackling the Clough’s very real problems rather than evading them**. See *Free Natural History Walks* (FoBHC, 27.7.2020) PDF on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/fobhc_27.7.2020_free_natural_history_walks.pdf

Peter.

P. F. Milner, Admin, Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (FoBHC), 01612035009.

www.facebook.com/boggart.org.uk ~ www.boggart.org.uk ~ <https://boggartholeclough.wordpress.com>

Blind Carbon Copied (to protect their privacy) to various people including Friends of Boggart Hole Clough. We hope you are happy to receive emails from FoBHC informing you about matters related to the Clough. But if you no longer wish to receive such emails, please let us know by emailing the sender (petermilner@hotmail.com) & your details will be deleted from FoBHC’s contact list.”

Email from Chris Cooper, BHCCG Committee Member - boggart.rec@gmail.com - sent 16.8.2021 (number & name of recipients unknown):

Update From Meeting with Steve West, 11th August 2021

Hi All,

I met with Steve West on Wednesday 11th August to discuss the Parks Improvements Fund bid to be submitted in September. I informed him of the priorities that we established at the committee meeting on 28th July. These are (in priority order):

Charlestown

Bridge repairs

Branding, including mapping, signage and renaming pathways

New trees for area adjacent lakeside path - white willows

Harpurhey (for David Lewis Rec)

Picnic tables and associated bins

Table tennis tables

He was supportive of all of these projects and impressed with the process we have been through in identifying these priorities. I also explained that we had had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed improvements to the children’s play area and we decided this was not as high a priority as the other items, so we do not want to include it within our bid. I told him that we have thoughts on how we could make improvements to children’s play equipment in the parks, such as through other funding streams or fundraising activities. Again he was supportive of this decision.

-
-
-
-

Continued on next page

In terms of each project:

Charlestown:

Bridge repairs: Steve is arranging for a further survey to be done as the condition of the bridge may have altered since the last survey and this new survey will be required to accurately scope out what is required and therefore what the costs will be. This will take place over the next two weeks. I raised the ideas the committee had over materials for the handrails as an alternative to metal. This will be looked at as part of the survey. The priorities are that materials used that meet safety requirements and also are less likely to be damaged or stolen. It is therefore likely that steel will be the most appropriate option - however the survey work will determine viable options.

Branding, mapping, signage and renaming pathways: Steve informed me that Manchester parks are currently being re-branded, and the brand will be uniform across all parks in Manchester, except for Heaton Park, which is considered separately as a major destination park with its own revenue streams and management. As part of this project, new signs with the new Manchester Parks brand will be installed at entrances, replacing the existing black signs.

Therefore, the scope for our project will be around creating new parks mapping, which can include naming or renaming of pathways, plus new signage within the park, which will help with wayfinding; plus signage external to the park to create awareness and signpost people to our park. There are two actions from this: Steve is speaking to John Mouncey regarding costings for creating new mapping images of the park, based on costs for this at other parks in the city. This cost is what we will need for including in the funding bid. We can then work together as a group on what goes on the maps e.g. if we rename paths, what the new names are etc. This is not imperative for September, we just need the costs. Identification of what signs we will want in and around the park and where. This will involve surveying the park and identifying the most appropriate locations, which I will be doing with Steve and Paul Rosenbloom in the next couple of weeks at a date and time to be arranged (Paul is off this week). This will identify the costs based on number of signs, size of signs, installation etc. Once we know the costs for these two elements, we can then come up with a detailed scope for this project.

Tree planting: the costs for projects 1 and 2 will determine what we can do with this project i.e. will there be enough money left to do this? Peter Milner has helpfully provided costs of white willow trees as a guide, which is £224 each, so if we had 10 this would be £2,240, plus whatever additional costs may be incurred with preparing the ground and planting. Steve suggested that this project could form part of the next round of funding in early 2022, which is focused on revenue generating elements of the park, such as the cafe i.e. tree planting by the lake could form part of improvement works to the cafe.

Harpurhey:

A meeting has taken place this week with the Neighbourhoods Team, also looking at what the funding priorities are for David Lewis Rec. Steve did know the outcome of this meeting, however he expected that it would be broadly similar to what we have proposed - certainly in terms of picnic tables and litter bins. He will get costs for these and for table tennis tables, the latter of which could be located on the unused area of hardstanding adjacent to the existing sports court.

I will be working closely with Steve over the next few weeks to ensure the funding bid is submitted in alignment with timescales. I asked for the actual date in September when it has to be in, but he was not able to give me this as it is still being determined. There are decisions being made around the content of application form, which have still to be resolved. However, it is expected to be the first half of September.

I will report back after the meetings I have to keep the committee in the loop as this progresses, including all appropriate information and as and when there are decisions that may need to be made.

Handrail Hill

We also covered Handrail Hill, as this was an area of priority that we identified at our meeting. Steve is currently getting costs for putting in a new handrail to Handrail Hill, replacing what was recently stolen. He is also getting costs for resolving the drainage issue at the bottom of the hill. These works will be paid for out of the parks budget and will not need to form part of our funding bid. The intention is for these works to be completed in the next few weeks, before the end of the summer, and before the weather deteriorates and there are further safety issues, including in consideration of the impact of the current problems with drainage.

All the best Chris.

-
-
-

Continued on next page

Email from Peter Milner, FoBHC Admin - petermilner@hotmail.com - sent 13.8.2021 (name of addressees, see below; Blind Carbon Copied to 10+ people including some Friends of Boggart Hole Clough):

Parks Development Fund - Boggart Hole Clough

To: Paul Rosenbloom & Stephen West, Manchester City Council (MCC) North Area Parks Managers; Marise Lindsey, Chris Cooper & Margaret Dolan, Boggart Hole Clough Community Group (BHCCG) Committee Members.

From: Peter Milner, BHCCG Committee Member.

Hi,

Re bid for Parks Development Fund grant: White Willows.

At 28.7.2021 BHCCG committee meeting it was decided a MCC Parks Development Fund grant bid should include monies to cover costs of purchasing & planting 10 White Willows at the Lakeside to begin replacing the sweep of 15 Manchester Poplars felled in 2007 due to Venturia Populina disease.

Please see attached: *Lake-shading sweep of White Willows* (FoBHC, 31.7.2021) PDF which can also be seen on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/fobhc_31.7.2021_lake-shading_sweep_of_-white_willows.pdf

Sources, e.g. Barcham.co.uk sell White Willow (*Salix Alba*) saplings 3-4 metres (10-13 feet) high @ £224 each x 10 = £2,240.

Costs also need to cover services (buying, storing, transporting, planting, etc) of MCC Ecological Conservation Team.

Re Parks Development Fund grant bids for the Clough, please keep me updated. Thanks.

Peter. ..

Email from Marise Lindsey, BHCCG Chair - themariseshow@gmail.com - sent 28.8.2021 (addressed to Peter Milner, copied to Basil Curley, Hannah Priest, Veronica Kirkpatrick, Paul Rosenbloom & Stephen West) **responding to 28.8.2021 email, see page 1 above:**

Re: Boggart Hole Clough: MCC Parks Improvement Fund - priorities

Hi Peter, while I respect your objections to certain specifics of the priority list for the funding I have to clear a few things up.

The list came from a workshop that took place at the AGM open meeting, there were over 20 people present who use the park in various ways. During the workshop discussions were made at length for suggestions on what each individual felt the park's improvement fund could be used for. A list was created, which was then dwindled down during the workshop to be discussed by committee members at a committee meeting. You were present at that committee meeting, which enabled you to add the trees to the list as you absent from the workshop. It wasn't a 1 off meeting, it was a reflection of the ideas and suggestions from the workshop.

I appreciate what you are saying about discussions with park users, however for this specific funding time is of the essence. The application needs to be submitted within the next few weeks. And realistically with that time scale in mind we, as a group, wouldn't have enough time to do a survey then analyse the data presented to prioritise a list of jobs that need doing in a park so big with a £30k budget. I am sure you will agree that £30k is not actually a lot of money to what is needed.

However, hindsight is a wonderful thing. There are other pots of funding that can be applied for. I am more than happy to use the cafe as a base for park users to return a basic survey form on what improvements they feel are needed in the park. If you would like to create a form I am more than happy to print a batch out? Then we, as a group, can work with the data and create a list of requirements. Look for relevant funding pots and start ticking them off the list.

Marise.

Re FoBHC's priorities for grants in general - see e.g. page 2 of *Forest Planet City* (FoBHC, 15.10.2020-1.1.2021), unfolding paper on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/fobhc_15.10.2020-1.1.2021_forest_planet_city_pages-1-9_revised.pdf