

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD****ON TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm in the VILLAGE HALL, LOUNGE**

Present: Cllrs Morris (KM)(Chairman), Rathbone (TR)(Vice-Chairman), Beckham (NB), Lord (SL), Morgan (PM), Roberts (DR), Ross (CR), Sulej (JS) and Williams (EW)

In attendance: Sharon Jones, Clerk to the Council, Cllr A Kolker, CEC and 3 residents

- 12.19. 1. Declaration of Interests:** There were no interests declared.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr O'Donoghue and Cllr Kolker, CEC.
- 3. Minutes:** To approve & sign the Minutes of the meeting of 26th November 2019.
Motion: To approve Minutes of the meeting of 26th November 2019
Resolved: *The Minutes of the Meeting of the 26th November 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.*
- 4. Cheshire East Council Matters:** To receive a report on Cheshire East Council Matters. To deal with any questions by Members relating to the report and any questions by Members notified in advance to the Chairman and the CE Councillor.
This item is deferred to the January meeting as Cllr Kolker was unable to attend the meeting.
- 5. Committee Matters:** To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:
- **Amenities Committee Report** – Motion: To approve the Environmental Working Group Proposal (see Report in Appendix)
Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to approve the Environmental Working Group Report.*
 - **Village Hall Management Committee Report** – Motion: To approve the motions in the Village Hall Management Committee Report (see report in appendix)
Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to approve all the motions in the Village Hall Management Committee Report.*
- 6. Planning Matters** - To review the outcome of the Planning Meeting 10th December 2019 at 7.00pm.
There was no report as the Planning Meeting had been cancelled as no applications had been received by the publication date for the agenda.
- 7. Financial Payments:** To approve payments in Schedules 11/19. Includes: Salaries & expenses.
- **Motion:** To approve 12/19 Schedule of payments.
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman (or any other councillor) to sign the 12/19 Schedule of Payments.
Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to approve the payments on the Payment Schedule for 12/19.*
- The payment schedule was signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- 8. Clerk's Report**
Actions from Last Meeting
- a. Clerk to meet with NB and SL to discuss how to progress the project – Completed.
 - b. Clerk to write letters of thanks to the Brownies and Guides – Completed.
 - c. Members to review proposed budget and bring any comments to 10th December meeting – Completed.
 - d. The Chairman and Clerk to write a letter of confirmation to the Chairman of the VHPFF – Completed.
 - e. Clerk to arrange a meeting for the working group to discuss this further with our CEC representative – In progress
 - f. Clerk to arrange a Staff Committee Meeting to discuss an Appraisal Policy.

- g. Pre-Consultation of Community Governance Review ends on 31st January 2019 - If Councillors wish they can submit a comment that Blackberry Gardens is part of Goostrey (or another personal comment if they wish). **Action:** Clerk to submit this comment on behalf of the Parish Council.
- h. Clerk to make a submission to the Pre-Budget Consultation regarding the New Homes Bonus process and to notify Holmes Chapel Parish Council that this has been submitted- Completed.

Correspondence See Appendix 12/19

- 9. **Highways & Speedwatch:** To consider any Highways & SpeedWatch matters and to take any appropriate action.
 - **Highways** – The pothole between Shearbrook and Mount Pleasant was discussed. **Action:** Clerk to report the pothole and to put a notice on all village noticeboards to give instructions on how residents can report highways faults.
 - **SpeedWatch** -Cllr Rathbone directed the members to the report in the document pack and reported that the first nil return had been recorded at a Speedwatch Session.
- 10. **Local Policing** – No items to report.
- 11. **Budget and Precept for 2020/21** – The Parish Council to consider the following motions (reports are in the appendix)

Motion 1: To approve the budget for 2020/21 as laid out in the “Budget for 2020/21, 2021/222 & 2022/23” spreadsheet.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to approve the budget for 2020/21 as laid out in the “Budget for 2020/21, 2021/222 & 2022/23” spreadsheet.*

Motion 2: To approve the precept for 2020/21 of £44,012.00 with the understanding that the tax base (to be approved by CEC on 16th December 2019) may increase the Council Tax of a Band D house in Goostrey by less than £0.20 per annum.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to approve the precept for 2020/21 of £44,012.00 with the understanding that the tax base (to be approved by CEC on 16th December 2019) may increase the Council Tax of a Band D house in Goostrey by less than £0.20 per annum.*
- 12. **Minor Items & Items for the Next Agenda:** To take any points from Members and to note urgent items of interest;
 - **Newsletter Delivery** – To consider using the delivery system for the Villages Magazine to deliver the GPC Newsletter. The Clerk had been quoted at price of £60.00 plus VAT to deliver the GPC Newsletter with the Villages Magazine. There are 10 issues per year, and we would need to co-ordinate the dates of our newsletters with the publishing dates of the Villages Magazine.

Resolved: *The Parish Council decided in principle to trial this method of delivery for the next issue of the GPC Newsletter*

 - **Friends of Goostrey Station Report** - see the report in the Appendix.
 - **Amazon Box at the Station** - Cllr Morgan highlighted that it was acceptable to put the Amazon packaging back into the delivery box for Amazon to deal with.
- 16. **Date of Next Meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Meeting – 28th January 2020.
- 17. **Closure of the Meeting:** The meeting closed at 20: 50

Public Forum

A resident reported that the phasing of the lights on the Saltersford Road for the traffic going into Holmes Chapel was causing traffic to back up to the Yellow Broom.

Action: Clerk to report this to CEC Highways.

These minutes will be submitted for approval at the next meeting. Until then they are draft minutes.

REPORT OF GOOSTREY'S ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

**POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTING AND OTHER ACTIONS ON
LAND GOOSTREY PC CARES FOR**

1 Introduction

The Environment Working Group was convened following the formal adoption of Goostrey Parish Council's Environmental Policy. The aim of that Policy is to:

“...demonstrate how Goostrey Parish Council will support the long-term environmental, cultural, and economic health and vitality of the Parish, and will promote a community that is vibrant, safe, healthy and inclusive.”

The Group has met to explore a range of issues and opportunities in relation to the implementation of Goostrey Parish Council's Environmental Policy. Whilst a number of proposals take shape, the Group has focused on one that reflects international concern as well as local priorities – the promotion of pollinator-friendly planting in the village.

This report represents a proposal to the Parish Council from the Working Group to implement a small-scale pollinator-friendly scheme that would demonstrate publicly the PC's support of its own and other Policies and Strategies. It will also demonstrate that amenity planting can be both pollinator-friendly and attractive.

2 Context

The need to manage land to promote pollinators is increasingly important – populations are in decline and between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the planet need help with pollination. It is said that pollinators are responsible for bringing us one in every three bites of food.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology has reported that a third of wild bees and hoverflies are in decline and some species face extinction. This research is supported by the Royal Horticultural Society which publishes guidance to landowners, farmers and gardeners on how to contribute to reversing pollinator decline.

On that backdrop, there are international, national, regional and local initiatives to promote planting that seeks to reverse the decline in pollinators and this can be seen in a number of strategies that seek to prioritise biodiversity. The Government has published The National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England¹ which seeks to “build a solid foundation to bring about the best possible conditions for bees and other insects to flourish”.

In adopting its Environmental Strategy², Goostrey Parish Council recognises the importance of pollinators and wider biodiversity by including the strategic aims to:

“Protect and enhance biodiversity including habitats and protected species”

This aim has been supported by a number of successful recent and ongoing initiatives in the village:

¹ See

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/794706/national-pollinator-strategy.pdf

² As listed in the Parish Council's Environmental Policy adopted in December 2018.

- The planting of trees in several areas across the village by the Scouts (such as the Shearbrook Bongs)
- The School's achievement of EcoSchool status
- The award-winning work completed by the Friends of Goostrey Station including the prominent installation of several bee boxes
- The popularity of the Wild About Goostrey awards scheme shows that local residents are committed to pro-actively creating wildlife-friendly areas

3 Proposal

The Environmental Working Group has explored the opportunities for protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the parish of Goostrey. The Group recognises that these opportunities are constrained by uncertain land ownership and management arrangements, by resources available (both financial and physical) to invest in initiatives to promote biodiversity and diverse views on the management and aesthetics of land in both the Parish Council's and private care.

On that last point, the Working Group appreciates that colourful planting is positively received by residents and wishes to illustrate that, with small changes in the selection of bedding plants/annuals, eg replacing begonias with marigolds, snap dragons or Sweet Williams, such plantings can remain bright and formal but be beneficial to pollinators.

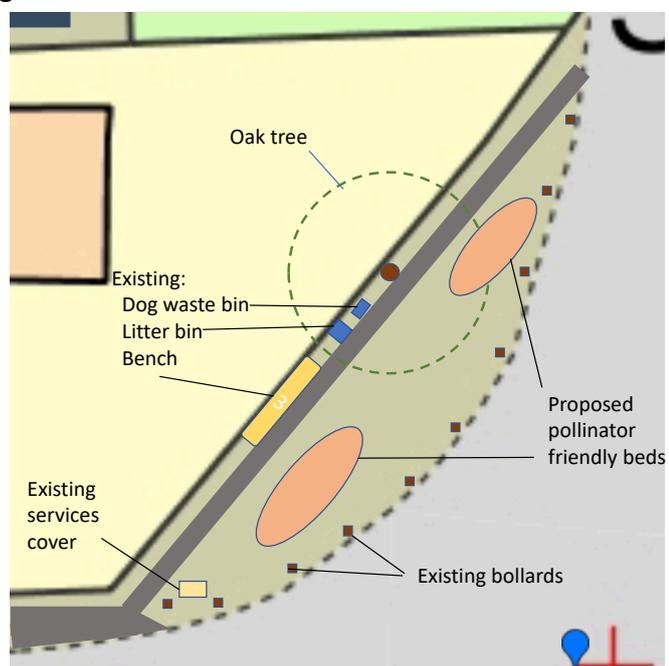
3.1 The scheme

The Working Group is seeking support from Goostrey Parish Council for a first initiative. This initiative, implemented by volunteers, would see one small area of the village maintained with biodiversity and pollinator support in mind as well as making a positive contribution to the appearance of the village.

The area identified is the green space on the corner of Main Road and Church Bank where the Parish Council has already been discussing improvements. It is understood the type of planters are being considered (to be located on the 'back verge' adjacent to the wall – the Working Group does not have a view on the design of these but would like them to be constructed of sustainable material and to include the planting of them within in the overall scheme.

The figure shows the existing plan of the area in question (it is not to scale). It shows the approximate location, size and shape of the two proposed beds that would be planted with pollinator-friendly plants.

3.1.2 Bed planting: It is proposed that a *Happy Bee and Butterfly Flower Bulb Mixture* is planted. This mix has been developed by the Beekeepers Association and is low cost – a bag of 120 bulbs costs just £20³ and contains:



³ Source – dobies.co.uk

- Happy Butterfly Varieties: Allium multibulbosum (nigrum), Allium Purple Sensation, Allium sphaerocephalon, Nectaroscodium siculum.
- Happy Bee Varieties: Crocus Ruby Giant, Chion Luciliae, Tulip Linifolia, Muscari Armeniacum, Nectaroscodium siculum, AnemoneBlue Shades.

and flower from January to June (from planting September to December).

In addition to the bulbs, compost and mulch would be required to give the bulbs nutrition and protection (estimate £50).

3.1.3 Planter planting: As mentioned above the Working Group would consider that planters should be made of recycled materials which have the potential to be longer lasting and lower maintenance. In addition, we would like to plant the planters with a combination of:

- hardy penstemons – these are very colourful and low maintenance and can still be flowering in October⁴
- hebes which are loved by pollinators and flower late⁵

and other plants as the size of the planters allows.

3.1.4 Creation and maintenance

Members of the Working Group have committed to creating and maintaining any and all pollinator-friendly planting on site (whether in the beds or planters). Initially the beds will be dug removing turf. Any existing daffodil bulbs uncovered will be re-located to grassed areas. The pollinator-friendly bulbs will be planted in manured soil and the mulch added on top. The volunteers will water as and when required and attend to the grass (reducing the need for contractors). A notice may be placed on or near the bench explaining the contents of the beds and planters and their purpose.

To ensure the area operates to an organic standard, the Working Group requests that no chemical fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides are used on the site and contractors are notified of that request.

3.2 Summary

To support the scheme, the Working Group is asking the Parish Council to fund the planting (as it would if it was implementing its own scheme (such as the bulb planting on Shearbrook Bank)). The funding would cover:

Purchase of Happy Bee and Butterfly Flower Bulb Mixtures (2 no.)	£40.00
Organic mulch - 4 bags	£60.00
Compost/manure – 2 bags	£20.00

The Working Group accepts that this funding would be a one-off on this occasion and does not set a precedent for future planting. The Working Group would hope that the scheme demonstrates to the Parish Council that a more wildlife friendly scheme can both be attractive and cheaper.

⁴ <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=406>

⁵ <https://www.flowercouncil.co.uk/campaign/garden-plant-of-the-month-august-2018-hebe>

4 Potential future initiatives

In addition to this first small step the Working Group has identified a number of other actions that it will progress with partners. These include:

- Working with St Luke's Church to see how it could contribute to the work of the *Caring for God's Acre* initiative making the churchyard a valuable wildlife asset alongside its spiritual and social importance
- Liaising with local farmer's to seek to encourage the wilding of field margins and boundaries (creating conservation strips) with a reduction in the use of chemicals
- Encouraging further actions on land that the Parish Council cares for such as locating bird, bee and bat boxes and considering a small-scale funding scheme for actions that contribute to the delivery of its Environmental Strategy
- Identifying neglected areas of land (such as verges and quiet corners) that could be managed differently to promote biodiversity
- Signpost residents to sources of advice and information on actions they can take to contribute to biodiversity improvements

5 Conclusions

The Working Group recognises that different people have different perceptions when it comes to planting and maintenance – this is evident across the village as properties and their grounds are modernised. It is, however, possible for a wide variety of different planting schemes meeting different tastes to encompass pollinator friendliness and colourfulness as these qualities are not mutually exclusive, as any bee knows.

The Working Group has proposed what it considers to be a pragmatic and small-scale scheme that seeks balance a number of potentially competing desires on a scale that is not over-ambitious. The Group does not believe the scheme is at odds with other planting in the village and the scheme would represent a tangible action arising from the Environmental Policy. The scheme would also enable the Parish Council to claim a bronze "Wild About Goostrey" award.

We hope the Amenities Committee in the first instance considers this proposal favourably as we strongly believe it is the benefit of the village and is a worthwhile exercise demonstrating commitment to wider environmental issues.

WORKING GROUP RESPONSE TO PARTICULAR QUESTIONS POSED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

mowing of verges reduces the mowing of verges from 4 times per year to twice.

Q Do we wish to apply one set of criteria universally? Eg is tidy grassed areas a priority?

A Not necessarily. If we are clear on the objectives of the planting of an area and this is communicated and understood a varied approach can be taken.

Q Do we want native planting?

A Not necessarily – many pollinator-friendly planting are non- native eg buddleia have Chinese and South American origins and are butterfly magnets. Planting should perhaps consider native species as these are best adapted to our fauna and climate but, of course, as our climate changes so will our planting schemes.

As with all purchase, we should perhaps seek to minimise the distance the item has travelled to reach us. Locally grown planting (whether native or not) should be favoured over imported.

Q Do we want colourful showy planting regardless of source?

A "Showy" planting does not exclude pollinator-friendly species but, again, its source should be a point of consideration when buying.

Q Is bee etc friendly an absolute priority?

A The biodiversity impact of any form of planting and its maintenance should be a significant consideration (and that includes the use of chemicals). There needs to be an understanding that bee friendly does not need to be ranked as it can easily co-exist simply by slight alterations in plant selection eg French marigolds/snap dragons/busy lizzies replacing begonias etc

Q Where do we stand in respect to consideration of seasons?

A Seasons are vital – they are the rhythm of planting. To that end, planting should follow them and that may mean there are less colourful periods, just as in any formal garden even professional ones. Twice a year planting changes do not reflect seasonality certainly.

Q Is use of annuals accepted?

A Yes, poppies are annuals and can provide beautiful displays year after year and are pollinator-friendly. Bedding plants are annuals and some can be pollinator friendly if such types are correctly selected.

There are wildlife friendly bedding planting schemes that can be adopted⁶ and they are not mutually exclusive to colour.

Q What are our expectations in respect of establishment cost together with resources and costs of maintenance?

A No form of gardening is cost or maintenance free. To maintain schemes and displays (of whatever type of plant) will require investment.

Q Are we aiming for "plant and forget" with minimal maintenance. I note from today's newspaper that Highways England new guidelines for the mowing of verges reduces the mowing of verges from 4 times per year to twice.

A Don't think we can plant and forget for any planting scheme as other species invade and take over. Maintenance will be required by contractors and/or volunteers irrespective of the aim of the scheme.

⁶ <https://www.wildlife-gardening.co.uk/Wildlife%20Friendly%20Bedding%20Plants.htm>

ITEM 12.19.5 COMMITTEE MATTERS - Village Hall Management Committee Report

The Village Hall Management Committee proposes the following items for approval by the Parish Council:

Pay Phone – The Village Hall Pay Phone requires a repair costing £74.00. Given that Village Hall Staff and most people attending events at the Village Hall have their own mobile phones and we have a phone in the Parish Office, we propose that the Pay Phone is removed from the Village Hall.

Microphones & Leads - The PA system has been tested by an external supplier and has been found to be working correctly, however, the supplier has suggested that we purchase new microphones and leads as the current microphones and leads are causing some sound distortion through the PA system. We propose in the first instance that we purchase one new wired microphone and one new microphone lead to double check that the quality of sound is now acceptable (added to the Payment schedule).

Vacuum Cleaner - We have two vacuum cleaners at the Village Hall, a Vax and a Dyson. The Vax is now beyond repair and needs to be scrapped, the Dyson needs a service at a cost of £69 and a replacement flex (included in this price, this is also on the Payment Schedule).

Additionally, the VH Supervisor has requested a Henry Hoover is purchased for her use. We should be able to purchase one for £140 including VAT (included on the Payment Schedule, a price comparison has already been carried out but will be checked before purchase).

ITEM 12.19.08 CLERKS REPORT

Correspondence List

- a. Chairman, VHPFF - Parish Council / VHPFF
- b. CEC TPO's RE: Application 19/5119T - 8 Meadow Close, Goostrey - T1 - Mature Oak, Fell, T2 - Pine- Crown Lift
- c. Steve Shaw Request to support the Local Electricity Bill
- d. Royal British Legion - VE Day update
- e. Manchester Airport - FW: Arts Tickets from Manchester Airport LAST CALL
- f. Goostrey Brownies Re: A Big Thank You
- g. The Villages Magazine Re: Magazine Delivery
- h. Goostrey Guides Re: Washing up at the Seniors' Lunch
- i. CEC [OFFICIAL] RE: Joint Use Agreement
- j. Blue Dot Re: Blue Dot Donations

ITEM 12.19.11 - Budget and Precept for 2020/21

GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT BUDGET for 2020/21, 2021/22, & 2022/23
For Budget Meetings

SUMMARY	Year 2018/19	Year 2019/20	Year 2020/21	Year 2021/22	Year 2022/23
Total Income	£63,973.00	£64,823.00	£65,637.00	£66,687.00	£67,937.00
Projected Spend	£63,974.00	£64,823.00	£65,637.00	£66,687.00	£67,937.00
Excess over budget	-£1.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
RECEIPTS	Budget 2018/19	Budget 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23
4405 Precept Payment	£44,012.00	£44,012.00	£44,012.00	£44,012.00	£44,212.00
Village Hall Lettings	£18,000.00	£19,000.00	£20,000.00	£21,000.00	£22,000.00
4006 Performing Rights Recharge	£261.00	£261.00	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00
4450 Bank interest	£1,000.00	£800.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00
4407 Lunch Ticket Sales	£700.00	£750.00	£800.00	£850.00	£900.00
4422 Wayleave	£0.00	-	-	-	-
4475 Exceptional income	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3003 VAT Refund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£63,973.00	£64,823.00	£65,637.00	£66,687.00	£67,937.00
Parish Council	Budget 2018/19	Budget 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23
Administration					
7601 Audit and accountancy	£500.00	£1,000.00	£800.00	£800.00	£800.00
7901 Bank Charge	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
7510 Computer	£300.00	£400.00	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00
7502 Telephone & Broadband	£450.00	£450.00	£450.00	£450.00	£450.00
7602 Website	£300.00	£350.00	£375.00	£400.00	£400.00
7504 Office supplies/printing/postage	£1,000.00	£1,500.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
8204 Insurance	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	£900.00	£950.00	£1,000.00
7603 Legal & Professional Fees	£1,000.00	£500.00	£1,250.00	£500.00	£500.00
7605 Subscriptions	£900.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
7050 Councillors Expenses & General Expenses	£300.00	£300.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
7512 Accounting system	£300.00	£500.00	£312.00	£312.00	£312.00
7550 Parish Magazine	£250.00	£250.00	£280.00	£280.00	£280.00
7580 General	£500.00	£500.00	£200.00	£352.28	£167.73
TOTAL Administration	£7,025.00	£7,975.00	£6,992.00	£6,469.28	£6,334.73
Donations					
TOTAL Donations	£4,500.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
* Implement Grant Funding Policy					
Salary & Expenses					
Clerk's Expenses	£200.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
7000 Clerks Salary (£13.39 per hour)	£9,500.00	£9,000.00	£13,500.00	£14,431.50	£15,427.27
7006 Employers NIC for Clerk	£600.00	£800.00	£1,000.00	£1,060.00	£1,133.14
7015 Training	£1,000.00	£2,000.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
TOTAL Salary & Expenses	£11,300.00	£11,900.00	£15,100.00	£16,091.50	£17,160.41
TOTAL PARISH COUNCIL	£22,825.00	£24,875.00	£27,092.00	£27,560.78	£28,495.14

ITEM 11.19.12 MINOR ITEMS & ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Friends of Goostrey Station Report – Cllr D Roberts

The old Station Building has undergone a remarkable transformation thanks to Railway Heritage and Network Rail

1. Cheshire Best Kept Stations, Meeting in January to start the ball rolling regarding taking part & checking requirements etc.
2. Northern Franchise - future very uncertain - poor service and cancelled trains, especially Sundays - this may have a negative effect on FOGS activities
3. Bike rack initiative. Northern are keen to install cycle racks at stations to encourage the reduction of car usage and to enhance commuters' health etc by cycling to stations. This was highlighted in the Northern Rails Cycle Promise.
 - FOGS have approached Northern - no response to date.
 - FOGS have looked at costs and alternative funding inc Lottery.
 - On hold for now
4. Ticket office roof and guttering work by Network Rail - completion December.
 - It is then hoped we can try again with the opening ceremony and acknowledge all the hard work which has taken place by all parties.
 - As far as the long-term plan for the buildings - this is within Northern Rails lease, but toilets need to be provided.
 - Expect opening will be early in New Year.
5. FOGS are purchasing a brass plaque in memory of Cyril Caulkin. Plan to place this outside/inside the Ticket Office. Cyril was part of a group of people who were instrumental in getting FOGS up and running. He was extremely passionate about the ticket office refurbishment.