

Annex 8

8.1

Work Programme to be carried out

There has been no active use of the land since it was sold by the Ministry of Defence in 2011. We will remedy the abandonment and neglect of the land by making the site a safe and welcoming open green space and making it accessible to public access by returning it to the green open space it formerly was, prior to its purchase by successive owners who have made no attempt to utilise the land, other than trying to make money out of planning applications for housing development. Our Association will do this by:

- 1) Clearance activities to cut back existing vegetation and clear scrub growth.
- 2) Remove all such cuttings from site.
- 3) Treat the area to ensure no regrowth of this type of vegetation.
- 4) Encourage active and ongoing involvement of community activity through Scone and District Community Council and Scone Village Association and Robert Douglas Memorial School.
- 5) Recover the area to a green space with existing broadleaved trees and Spruce tree, which will be maintained under existing Tree Preservation Orders.
- 6) Ensure that access is available for all, including wheelchairs.
- 7) Encourage responsible use of the site by all users.
- 8) Installation of seats for use by residents and for community use.
- 9) Installation of play equipment for use by the community.
- 10) Removal of the fence installed in April 2016.

This work programme will be done through a combination of volunteer effort and directly contracting professional expertise.

Value of the Land

Agricultural grazing land (which is the closest comparator) is roughly available for £4,500 to £5,500 per acre. This would make the green space at Woollcombe Square worth around £2,750 at the upper end. It has no commercial value or hope value as it is zoned as green space and has been refused planning permission previously.

Purchase of the Land

The Community Association will fund the purchase of the land if the valuation is around the level outlined above. If the valuation was considerably more the Association would approach bodies, such as, the Scottish Land Fund. The members of the Association have all contributed to the current money held by the association for use to purchase the land and also to help fund any immediate professional work that is required.

Funding the restoration and enhancement of the open space

The Association will be approaching local charitable trusts such as the Gannochy Trust, to assist the restoration and enhancement of the open space as outlined above.

The Association will be applying to the Trust under two of their three aims

- 1) To **improve** the Quality of Life for people by:
 - a. creating positive change in people's lives and communities
 - b. Increasing inclusion, empowerment and independence
 - c. Increasing access to employment, volunteering, education and leisure opportunities
 - d. Increasing equality of opportunity and active citizenship

and

- 2) To improve the **availability** or **quality** of the built and natural environment for wide community use by:
 - a. Providing greater access to services and facilities
 - b. Improving infrastructure
 - c. Offering more sustainable services and facilities that reflect local priorities
 - d. Enhancing the natural and built environment

The Association is also looking at funding options with the Forteviot Trust, under one of their aims – "The advancement of environmental protection or improvement" and the Perth & Kinross Community Grants Scheme under its Community Environment Challenge Fund which can be used for equipment costs, tidy-up and maintenance activities and reasonable professional fees which are directly incurred in respect of the project concerned.

It is estimated that the initial work on the site will cost around £3000 with the further enhancements, such as, the play equipment being part of the longer term fundraising approach the Association will undertake. As previously intimated much of the maintenance will be done by the Residents Association as an 'in kind' contribution.

This level of investment and the purchase of this land is very low risk. The WSRA will in due course produce an agreed plan for the area. This is a small-scale proposal and should be treated accordingly in this process.

Volunteer Skills

Amongst our members we have the following skills and experience:

Member of Scone and District Community Council

Worked for MoD in provision of housing for serving families

Treasurer of Scone Youth Group

Treasurer of local playgroup

Parent Council Fundraiser at local school

Robert Douglas Memorial Committee member

Robert Douglas Trust member

Volunteer in addiction/rehabilitation centre

Red Cross Volunteer

Parent Teacher Association member

Playgroup assistant

Sports Coaching degree

PVG checked 3 members

Para medic professional

Highland Dance teacher

Fitness Instructor

Macmillan coffee shop volunteers

Perth City Lifesaving Club

Electrician

Editor of local community magazine

Chairman of Local Historical Society

Session Clerk to local church

Pastoral Care via local churches

Organising a church gardening group and development of community garden

As can be seen from the large array of volunteer experience and job experience, the association is more than capable of looking after this grassed area for the benefit of both the residents and the local community. All members have large gardens which are looked after in such a manner as to give confidence in looking after a grassed area for community use.

Expertise

The Association has been in contact with the Local Authority Woodland Officer throughout the process and it is one of the reasons why the trees now have TPOs on them. The Woodland Officer advised that the trees do need some professional work carried out on them. The Association have also approached the Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust for help in preparing a comprehensive approach to the enhancement of biodiversity on the site.

Summary

To summarise, the WSRA will tackle the years of neglect and abandonment of this area and we will re-engage with the community to transform the area to a usable, green, open space and make it an asset for the whole of the local community.