

Common Good Glasgow

The Way Forward

Minutes of Meeting

The Portal , Govan Road – Sunday 24 Feb 13 1:30pm

Present

John Couzin (Social Historian, Spirit of Revolt)

Stasia Rice (Spirit of Revolution, Govan Born & Bred,
familiar with Political Structures)

Moira Bori (Contributor to Elder Farm Project)

Alison (Verge / Glasgow Artist Studios - actively engaged in a project on Isabella Elder)

Stewart Cunningham (Contributor to Elder Farm)

Stephan Morgan (Supporter of Elder Farm)

Iain McInnes (Community Activist)

Martha Wardrop (Green Councillor for the Common Good, Community Worker & Campaigner to
Protect Scottish Heritage & Common Good Assets)

Ian Sharp (Founder of Elder Farm / Legup Community Group, co-Founder Fairfield Farm
Trust)

Bob Hamilton (City Strolls, Seeking Community Drive to Secure Institutional Change)

Jack Ferguson (Unite)

Alexio (Social Sciences & Contributor to Elder Farm)



Timeline Intro from Ian Sharp with Contributions from Bob Hamilton

- Ian heard a rumour about allotments in Elder Park, which turned out to be false, but in following up found an alternative on the Fairfield Farm / Elder Farm site.
- He worked alone for a few months, suggested LHA put an article about the site project in their newsletter, asking for help from the Community .A group of members began to form
- A welcoming family group was formed, which sadly disintegrated after a couple of successful seasons due to internal politics.
- The garden has been kept going by a band of friendly workers who are fighting their way out of a pit of despond, meanwhile a decision was made to make a fresh start
- The previous groups were dismantled, and a new group Common Good Glasgow formed
- This group is concerned with how the Council manages / uses their assets, the hows and whys of selling assets, identification of assets
- A common response has been “what is in it for me”
- How to turn that into a positive response ie “We should be taking an interest in our community”

Vision

- Does the Elder Farm Project Suffer From Lack of Vision
- What do we want to do with the site
- What do we see happening on the site in 5 / 10 / 15 years from now?
- How can the community maintain / sustain the site?
- Should we be paying rent for a site that was originally given to the community ergo is owned already by the community?
- Historically how much National Land has been appropriated by Families given Care of and Not Ownership of the Land?
- Do we want to be a burden to the already overworked Glasgow City Council Land & Environmental Services / Parks (LES GCC) (all the while hoping to provide much needed public toilet facilities and perhaps worm bins for dog mess 0
- Can we encourage other communities to recover their own Common Good Assets by creating a template / keeping a record for future use – identifying te necessary steps / conditions / etc ?

Group members were invited to ask questions / raise issues and discuss possibilities how to preserve Common Good Assets and their benefits of for future generations

Some Results –

How to get more volunteers to help out at Elder Farm

- Ask the Job Center and Back to Work Groups for help
- Under curren conditions this may involve setting us as a registered charity
- Supervision & Health & Safety Issues would apply
- This could be a valid learning experience

Gifts to the Community Are Not Automatically Given Common Good Status

- Are local communities aware of their Common Good Assets
- How to identify Common Good Assets –
- Gifts have to be registered as Comon Good Assets and do not automatically get registered as Common Good Assets
- Fairfield / Elder Farm has not been registered as a Common Good Asset
- There is a move to ammend the title deeds of Fairfield / Elder Farm to allow Social Enterprise - currently no commerce is allowed as per original deed of gift

How to research Common Good Assets

- Some training to be provided by the Mitchel Library to identify Common Good Assets – Bill Forrest
- Is there a fear factor preventing communities from claiming their Common Good Assets?

Should Common Good Property Be Marked for Public Awareness

Extension St Enochs Center was a Common Good Asset – were the public aware?
Could they be landmarked / flagged on maps or identified using notices
Would a universal Common Good Logo be recognisable and invite local curiosity?
Common Good Lists should be provided yearly
Common Good Maps?

Would Elder Farm be a useful Common Good hub?

Would regular Common Good events help
Regular showings of Common Good media
Yearly Common Good Day Events
Minibus tours of Common Good Assets

Are There Any Other Common Good Projects / Groups Out There

Several in England and a few in Scotland
Andy Wightman site is available http://www.andywightman.com/?page_id=1027

More Help

IT groups to make maps require funding
Would an useful alternative be to create a google map using
commongood.glasgow@gmail.com account
Would major unions be into
Would public meetings work

How to deal with vandalism

working with the community
inviting in project workers with valuable skills and insight

Work Day

A work day in the Elder Farm Community Garden was agreed for **Sunday 10 March** – garden will be open from 11am – 4pm to allow further understanding of potential, current resources and needs to commune with the garden after which members will hopefully reflect and bring their reflections and ideas to a third meeting **Sunday 24 March @ The Portal 978 Govan Road G51 3AJ**