

# Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

## Scrutiny Project Group (Scope/Brief) on Friends of Groups

<p><b>Group Members :</b></p>	<p>Councillor Caulfield (Lead Member)</p> <p>Councillors Brown, Flood, Hill, Niblock and Simmons.</p>
<p><b>Subject to be reviewed:</b> (the issue)</p>	<p>The project group will examine how Friends of and Community groups work with the council to improve local parks and open spaces.</p>
<p><b>Reason for the Review / Terms of Reference:</b> (why are we doing this)</p>	<p>A friends of or community group is a group of local residents and other interested parties who dedicate their time, skills and knowledge to improve their local park or open space. While the council works, as landowner and public service provider, with and offers support to these groups, how this relationship is managed has never been reviewed to see if it is enabling the best possible outcomes for the groups as well as for the parks and open spaces. How Friends of groups activities contribute to the achievement of council objectives on council owned land has also not been looked at in detail.</p> <p>How friends of groups work together to share best practice with other groups has not been looked at nor how the groups are open and accountable to local residents i.e. how robust their constitutions are and how, and if they engage with local residents.</p> <p>How effective groups are in improving local spaces will also be looked at so that recommendations can be made to enable all the friends of and community groups to be as effective as possible in improving their local park or green space.</p>
<p><b>How the review aligns with the Council's priorities and vision:</b></p>	<p>Vision: Putting our communities first.</p> <p>Priority: To improve the quality of life for local people.</p> <p>Objective: To increase the quality of public space for which the council has responsibility through targeted</p>

	improvement programmes.
<p><b>Aims and Objectives of the Review:</b>          (what do we want to achieve/what will success look like)          (consider equalities impacts for protected groups and other groups experiencing deprivation and/or health inequalities/inform EIA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased and effective communication between the council and individual friends of groups.</li> <li>• Better communication and the sharing of best practice between friends of groups and more consistent method of operation taken by groups</li> <li>• Increased support and training offered to enable all friends of groups to be effective, including mentoring.</li> <li>• Friends of groups have the support and resources to engage with all local residents.</li> <li>• Friends of groups having strong, robust and inclusive constitutions so as to be accountable to local residents, and that the groups have the resources and training to do this.</li> <li>• Synchronisation in the work and priorities of friends of groups so as to maximise positive outcomes.</li> <li>• Friends of groups having the tools and training to make sure that equality and diversity is considered in their decision making processes, for example in the provision of equipment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Method of Review:</b>          (how the work will be undertaken)</p>	<p>Officer and Member Interviews          Project Group meetings          Desktop research          “Friends of” groups consultations          Site visits to other Friends of Groups who demonstrate best practice.          Talking to and learning from other authorities who have reviewed and/or demonstrate best practice for working effectively with Friends of groups.</p>
<p><b>Research &amp; Evidence:</b>          (information that needs to be gathered)</p>	<p>The SPG needs to obtain a list of all friends of groups in Chesterfield, establish the relationship they have with the council and what support the council offers, and examine how friends of groups currently operate (including what is written in their constitutions). The SPG will look at how friends of groups operate in other areas and how other authorities engage and work with the groups. Authorities will be chosen for comparison who are either similar to Chesterfield who are seen to demonstrate best practice.</p>

<b>Witnesses :</b> (who to invite, information and answers needed)	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Assistant Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Health and Wellbeing Manager Green Spaces Development Officer Lead Officers CBC Friends of groups members
<b>Review Group Meetings &amp; Site Visits:</b>	25 August, 1 September, 22 September, 5 October  Site visits TBC
<b>Resource Requirements:</b> (what resources will be used)	Councillor and Officer time Administrative support for meeting arrangements.
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	August, 2016
<b>Scrutiny Project / Report Completion Date:</b> (Group to agree final report)	December, 2016
<b>Final Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Business Meeting on:</b>	December, 2016
<b>Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Committee on:</b> <i>(allow for public notice period)</i>	24 January, 2017
<b>Cabinet (or other body) Reporting Deadlines on:</b> <i>(ie, WBR / Cabinet Member)</i>	w/c 6 February, 2017
<b>Scrutiny Report to Cabinet (or other body for decision) on:</b> <i>(allow for public notice period)</i>	21 February, 2017

Cabinet Member(s) & Head(s) of Service Consulted on	Date : 18/08/2016
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project brief and scope form :	
Scrutiny Project Group agreed project brief / scope form:	Date : 16/08/2016
Project brief / scope form signed off at Scrutiny Business Meeting :	Date : 13/09/2016