



Winter on Park Range

Prospectus:

Proposal to plant forty-seven trees
around Rusholme in honour of
Sir Gerald Kaufman
whose contribution to Rusholme as
MP for Ardwick and Gorton
for forty-seven years
(18th June 1970 – 26th February 2017)
was immense and much
appreciated.

CREATIVE
RUSHOLME

This booklet sets out an invitation to community and other organisations in the Rusholme area to plant trees in honour of Sir Gerald Kaufman during the winter of 2017/18.

Arising from a series of “Rusholme Rising” community creative learning sessions held in the spring of 2017, the proposal is the first phase of a ten-year effort, in conjunction with City of Trees, to plant one tree for every resident of Rusholme.

The booklet sets out some potential sites for planting these initial 47 trees and suggests local groups and organisations who might take the lead for the various sites. It invites those groups to raise the money for the trees and to “take ownership” of their local trees planted as a result of this invitation.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact one of your local councillors –

Jill Lovcey, Rabnawaz Akbar or Ahmed Ali

cllr.j.lovcey@manchester.gov.uk

cllr.r.akbar@manchester.gov.uk

cllr.a.ali@manchester.gov.uk

**Rusholme Rising:
Creative Learning for Co-operative Communities**

In April, May and June 2017, three Creative Learning sessions, supported by the City Council’s Neighbourhood Investment Fund took place for members of voluntary and community groups and faith communities. The aim was to help grow a friendly, inclusive and sustainable Rusholme.

Part of the learning included exploring ideas to make cities a better place and included initiatives such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the Learning City, Happy Cities, and the City of Trees. The City of Trees Initiative (www.CityofTrees.org.uk) aims to plant a tree for every person living in Greater Manchester. This would equate to around 13,000 trees for Rusholme. By planting trees, not only do we increase the number of trees, we help link up green spaces in Rusholme and support wildlife and make it a more pleasant place to live and work.

There was real interest from participants in this idea and, in order to take it forward and to make sure the learning has practical outcomes, a Tree Walk was held in May with Pete Stringer from City Of Trees. Six attendees from the learning sessions took part. During the Tree Walk, which started at the Anson Road Community Shop and ended in Victoria Park, with a detour to the Armitage Centre, discussions were held about where best to plant trees, what sort of trees and possible sources of funding. On the walk, the residents were inspired by the idea that we start with a project to plant trees in memory of Sir Gerald.

This proposal arose from the Rusholme Rising learning programme and has continued to gain support from our local councillors.

Proposed way forward:

- Plant trees in green spaces first (parks, verges, gardens etc.) as it is much cheaper than planting in pavements and much less complicated as there are likely to be fewer underground utilities (electricity, drainage, gas pipes, telecoms etc.) involved.
- Invite organisations and groups around Rusholme to adopt the project and to raise the funds for and look after the trees in their area. The costs per tree in green spaces will be less than for those in pavements. Costs will vary according to site conditions, tree size and whether the group is able to provide the labour.
- Take a relaxed view as regards the boundary of Rusholme, accepting that local people see the Rusholme neighbourhood as extending from Platt Field to Whitworth Parks and from West Point to Parkfield Street.
- Plant 'forest' trees wherever possible. They are substantial in the landscape, a real haven for wildlife, sequester CO₂, long lived and help to manage drainage and provide shade on hot days.
- Raise the finance locally. Groups will need to apply for funding, or raise the costs themselves. City of Trees does not have funding for tree purchase, planting or aftercare.
- Leadership through our elected representatives. Our City councillors have offered to promote the scheme and to liaise with the City Council to help make it happen.
- HealthymeHealthycommunities will offer a will offer a funding workshop at Trinity House 1.30 – 3.30 on 31st October for community groups to help them fundraise to plant trees.
- We will aim to plant the forty-seven trees within two years of Sir Gerald's passing - by the end of February 2019.



Platt Fields Park



Victoria Park

Fourteen potential planting sites

Over the course of the three-hour tree walk, we identified 14 sites, all of them green spaces, which could take trees without causing significant challenges to services or to people living nearby. For future years, there are many other sites and groups are welcome to suggest other suitable sites for planting. The idea is to start with this project.

Anson Estate & Birchfields Park

1. Community Space through Anson Road Community Shop

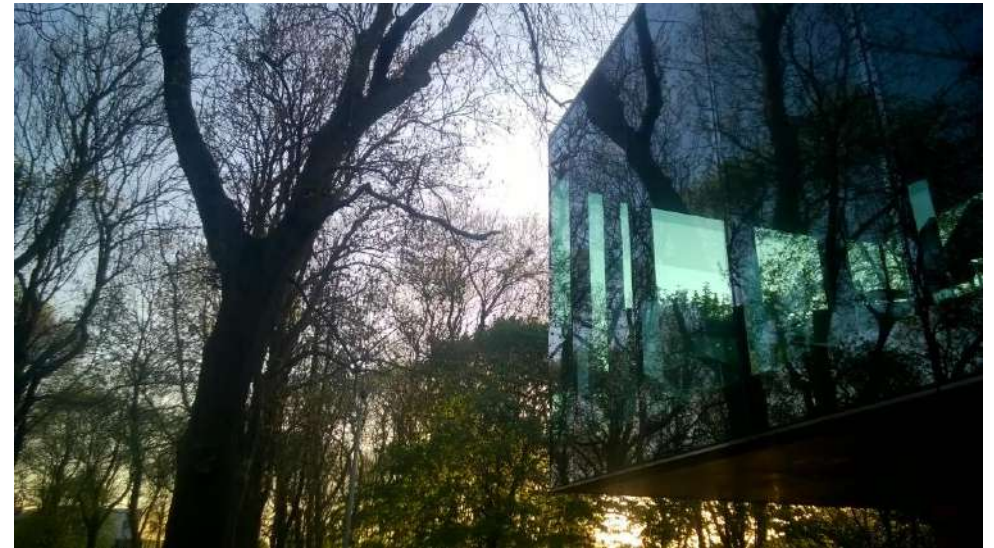
Where: We visited the Community Space on Brynton Road/ Old Hall Lane There are already some trees in this community space but more trees could be added. The landlord is One Manchester. A big tree could be added – 25/30 cm and a medium tree and some smaller trees. The land is owned by One Manchester and it may be possible to get funding through them.

Community Involvement: it would be good if the trees could be directly linked to the Anson Community Shop and possibly to the youth project at the Anson Cabin.

2. Old Hall Lane

Where: Old Hall Lane, near the Community Space on Brynton Road, has some missing lime trees in a line of trees and it has unplanted grass verges. Further limes could be planted in the grass verges to keep the line of limes going and also some forest trees could be planted. The trees would be on highway land and funds would need to be raised.

Community Involvement: West Point Residents' Association might apply for the necessary funds, MEA Central - the new secondary school on Lytham Road - might adopt the project or it might be added to the Anson Community Space project.



Whitworth Park



Birchfields Park

3. Birchfields Park

Where: North of South Fields near the large stone there is a gap in a line of trees which could be filled in. This could be part of a small new woodland area. They could be oaks, willows and birch. Sadly, ash are no longer planted due to ash dieback.

Community Involvement: Friends of Birchfields Park, St. Edwards Church, Holy Trinity Platt, Pakistan Consulate, Birch Community Centre.

4. Norman Road

Where: A line of street trees in the pavement along the boundary with Luther King House. These would be more expensive as they are in the pavement and would need to have pits dug and there are likely to be services under the pavement.

Community Involvement: Residents of Norman Road working with Luther King House, Birch Community Centre, Territorial Army Base.

5. Platt and Worsley Court, Norman Rd/Wilmslow Rd

Where:

- a) Two small trees at the entrance corner to Platt and Worsley Court from Norman Road
- b) One oak tree opposite the corner on Norman Road
- c) One large tree in front of Worsley and Platt on Wilmslow Road
- d) One birch at the Eco House to replace one taken down.

Community Involvement: Platt and Worsley Residents Group be asked to apply for funding with One Manchester, Holy Trinity Platt, Birch Community Centre.

6. Platt Fields Park

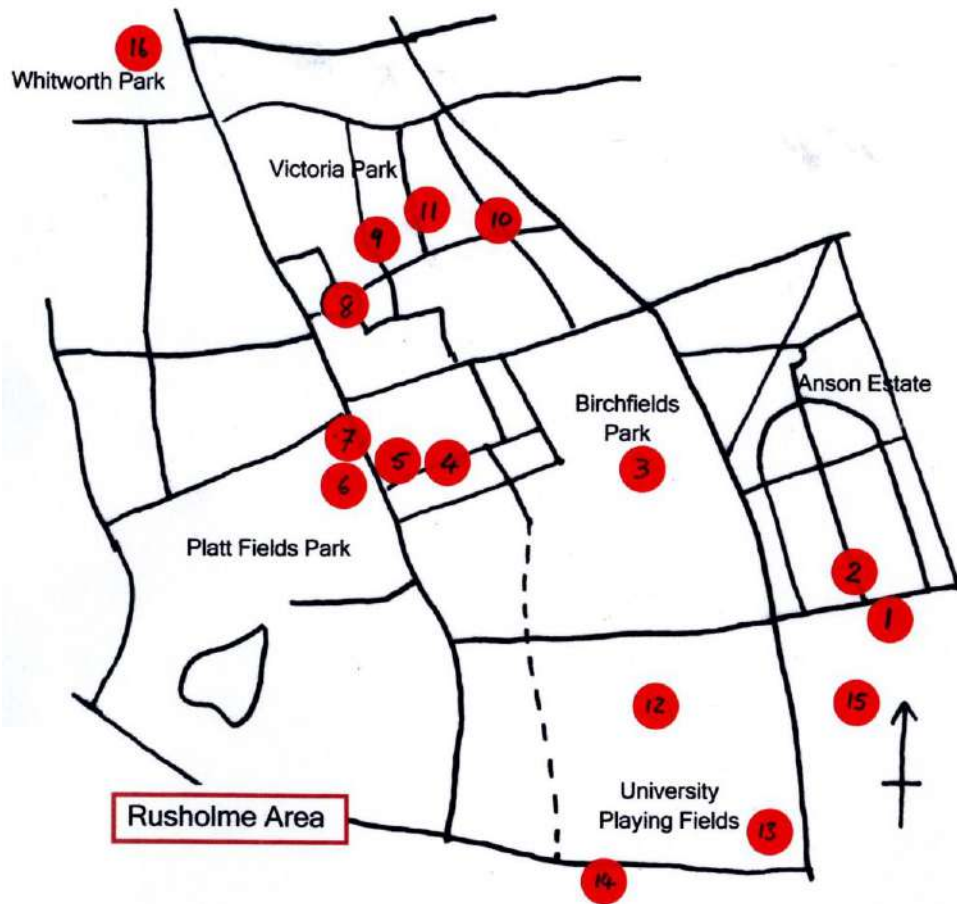
Where:

- a) 4 or 5 forest trees by the entrance to the Rose Garden, to continue the line of trees along Wilmslow Road
- b) Another line of trees, possibly of medium size in the Rose Garden border
- c) A forest tree in the gap opposite Platt Costume Gallery

Community Involvement: This could be a joint project with the Friends of Platt Fields, Upping It!, the managers of Platt Fields and the Costume Museum, Holy Innocents, the Jamia Kareema and Shah Jalal Mosques, Trinity House Community & Resource Centre.



Holy Trinity Church Platt Lane



Potential Planting Sites Identified
 Suggestions for additional sites would be welcome



Shah Jalal Mosque, Eileen Grove West



Anson Estate in the springtime



Manchester Central Mosque

7. Wilmslow Road

Where: By the old toilets at Platt Lane/ Wilmslow Road junction there is room for one big and one medium species - the big tree by the road; the medium tree a tree of interest e.g. an Ironwood Tree.

Community Involvement: Holy Innocents Platt, Friends of Platt Fields, Rusholme & Fallowfield Civic Society, Trinity House Community & Resource Centre and Upping It! could be asked to support this project. The land belongs to Manchester City Council.

Victoria Park Conservation Area (close to Sir Gerald's former residence)

8. Park Crescent

Where: in the green circle. There are some gaps and some trees need replacing - one big tree and three smaller trees.

Community Involvement: Residents in area, St. Edwards Church, Traders' Association, Rusholme & Fallowfield Civic Society, Schuster Road & Park Range Residents' Association.

9. Lower Park Road

Where: on the grass verges street trees – forest trees if possible.

Community Involvement: Xvarian College, Schuster Road & Park Range Residents Assn, Chinese Consulate, Central Manchester Mosque, New Apostolic Church, Rusholme & Fallowfield Civic Society.

10. Denison Road/ Conyngham Road

Where: on the corner of Conyngham Road and Denison Road. A tree in the grass verge and replace a street tree. The tree in the grass verge could be large.

Community Involvement: Schuster Road and Park Range Residents Assn could be asked, the Central Mosque, St. Edward's & St Chrysostom's Churches, Rusholme & Fallowfield Civic Society, Manchester University Halls of residence.

We also hope to plant a tree close to Sir Gerald's former residence on Denison Road.

11. Upper Park Road

Where: on the same side as the Mosque, plant a street tree in the verge by the car park and another on the opposite side near the main entrance.

Community Involvement: Manchester Central Mosque could be invited to apply for funding.

In addition to planting new trees, in this area, *the Street Tree Pits* in the Victoria Park Conservation area could do with some tender loving care: water/feed/weed/break up the soil.

Community Involvement: Schuster Road and Park Range Residents Assn, Manchester Central Mosque, St. Chrysostoms Church, New Apostolic Church, University halls of residence.

Vicinity of Armitage Centre Playing Fields

12. Playing Fields Manchester High School for Girls/ Manchester Grammar School

Where: Perimeter Boundary - small to medium trees every 10 metres.

Community Involvement: the Manchester High School for Girls and Manchester Grammar School to be invited to raise the funding.

13. Manchester University Armitage Centre

Where: all the green areas on this site – there are a lot and particularly in the corner of the site between the new pitches and Moseley Road/ behind back gardens on Birchfields Road. There is space for many trees here – it could be a bio-diverse woodland area. Manchester University has been approached.

Community Involvement: the University of Manchester to be asked to lead this project, Holy Innocents Church.

14. Mosley Road

Where: on the pavement alongside Armitage Centre playing fields the missing street trees could be replaced.

Community Involvement: University of Manchester to be asked to lead this project and apply for funding.

Since the tree walk in May, two other opportunities have been identified.

15. Lytham Road, Birchfields Primary School and MEA Central

Where: on the grounds of both the new MEA Central school and Birchfields Primary School there is potential for significant additional tree planting.

Community involvement: MEA Central, Birchfields Primary School, West Point Residents' Association.

16. Whitworth Park

Where: In August Manchester University transplanted five semi-mature trees into Whitworth Park along the Moss Lane East boundary and a further seven into the centre of the Park.

Community Involvement: The University, Whitworth Art Gallery and the Friends of Whitworth Park could be approached to dedicate these trees to Sir Gerald's memory.



Trees being transplanted from Manchester University campus to Whitworth Park

Appendix

Rusholme Rising:

Creative Learning for co-operative communities

Residents' groups in Rusholme and local faith communities were contacted to see if they would like to attend one or more of three creative learning sessions. The aim was to help grow a friendly, inclusive and sustainable Rusholme. In all, 28 residents attended learning sessions over three months.

We learnt about making our communities better:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030: Seventeen Goals to transform our world:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Learning cities: 'A learning city can be characterised as one in which communities attempt to learn collectively to change their own futures'.

For further information: <http://uil.unesco.org/lifelong-learning/learning-cities>

Happy cities: helping individuals, commutes and cities to do more of what matters: <http://www.happycity.org.uk/>

We studied how we can learn to work together better

We learnt about how we can help our communities work together more easily, reflecting on: "I" "We" and the "Bigger We":

"I" – thinking of about what we are doing; reflecting

"We" – how are we helping the groups we're in grow and thrive?

"Bigger We" – how to help bring about changes beyond our immediate communities?

We learnt about action research:

"Action research seeks to bring together action and reflection, theory and practice, in the pursuit of practical solutions to issues of pressing concern to people" (Reason & Bradbury, 2001).

<http://actionresearchplus.com/>

We reflected about loving our Planet:

We shared how we loved nature and our favourite places in nature and watched a video from David Attenborough showing what a wonderful world we live in and the glory of nature:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYXBJmrsxZU>

In order to save nature, we considered many ideas and what we could do as individuals, in our communities and for the wider planet.

We considered giving half the planet to nature:

<https://eowilsonfoundation.org/half-earth-our-planet-s-fight-for-life/>

And closer to home, we agreed to support *City of Trees*: a movement to re-invigorate Greater Manchester's landscape by transforming underused, unloved woodland and planting a tree for every woman, man and child who lives there, within a generation.

<http://cityoftrees.org.uk/>

We agreed to hold the tree walk described in this booklet.

We meditated upon the need to work both for our planet and for social justice:

Through drawing we explored how we are citizens of a universe going back 13.8 billion years.

We thought about our planet and how special it is and our one and only home. We listened to cosmologist Carl Sagan exploring how to take care of it better:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wupToqz1e2g>

In the last session we worked on how we might put these ideas into practice in our community. For more information contact Helena Kettleborough, Centre for Connected Practice:

info@c4cp.net



Birch Community Centre and cherry blossom



City of Trees is an innovative and exciting movement, set to re-invigorate Greater Manchester's landscape by restoring underused, unloved woodland and planting a tree for every woman, man and child that lives in the City Region, within a generation.

City of Trees will be assisting with this project.

More at: www.cityoftrees.org.uk

Rusholme Rising! was created by:



Text created by Helena Kettleborough and Phil Barton.
Photographs © Phil Barton 2015, 2016 & 2017

And supported by:



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