

FRIENDS OF CRAIGLOCKHART WOODS AND NATURE TRAIL

Note of the Meeting of Sunday 20 April 2014 at Craiglockhart Tennis Centre

<p>1 Apologies Tim Duffy</p> <p>Present; Ewan Davidson, Bill Troup, Jane McLaren, Lindsay Snedden, Simon Hart, Tana Collins, Will Searle, Hilda Henderson</p> <p>Ewan welcomed Jane and Tana to their first meeting.</p>	
<p>2 Matters Arising Nothing not on agenda. The minutes of the AGM on 11 March 2014 were approved.</p>	
<p>3 Curling Rink Area Ewan provided up-date on the curling rink proposals as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path; Everyone who responded to the consultation was keen to see a replacement path in the area. Since the completion of the consultation, a communication has been received from a resident of Craiglockhart Terrace apparently representing 30 local residents who wish the replacement path to be a tarmac path built to a similar standard to the canal path and are opposed to a whin path as proposed in the Development Plan. The consultation, based on doorstep discussions, did not attempt to establish preferences on matters requiring specialised technical knowledge such as path surfaces. The decision on the path surface will, of course, be taken by the Council. Discussion by Committee members took into account the character and appearance of the Local Nature Reserve, our visit to the Scottish Path Demonstration Centre at Oatridge College, the advice received from an independent expert (the technical officer at 'Paths for All') and from council officers, compatibility and coherence with existing paths and best value considerations. It was agreed unanimously to endorse the existing proposals in the Development Plan for a rigorously specified whin path and to advise the Council accordingly. • Wildflower Meadow The Urban Pollinators project will not be going ahead this year. It was agreed that we would therefore proceed as originally proposed in the Development Plan, promoting community involvement in the preparation and planting of the site. With one exception, everyone who responded to the consultation was enthusiastic about this proposal. It was agreed to take forward the proposals for a wildflower meadow. • Seating This met with general support during the consultation and will be pursued with the Natural Heritage Service. • Fruit Trees This proposal was also welcomed during the consultation though Natural Heritage staff had some reservations about the establishment of an orchard in a LNR. It has been agreed that two or three native apple trees would be acceptable in the area between the entrance and the flagpole. • Petanque This was also a popular proposal. It was agreed to go ahead and organise a demonstration game in the summer. <p>Ewan reported that the cherry laurel area that has been cut back will have to stay undeveloped for the next few years because of the contamination in the soil. He suggested we include a tidy up in this area in our next task day.</p>	
<p>4 Navigation and Signage This was criticised in last year's CEC assessment and by the 'mystery shopper' this year carrying out the green flag assessment. The Natural Heritage Service propose to install welcome signs at the Lockharton Crescent and Glenlockhart Road entrances and 3 finger posts at key points in the lower area of the LNR to improve navigation. Improved signage will also be provided within the Leisure Centre complex. Signposting at the top of the hill on land currently owned by the Craighouse Partnership will be considered when the status and ownership of this land is clearer.</p>	
<p>5 Events It was agreed that we would ask the Scottish Petanque Association to organise a demonstration game of petanque in early July/August. We would look for donations and possibly hold a raffle to raise some funds. Later in the year we would organise a petanque match for teams of local residents.</p> <p>The development of the wildflower meadow in the curling rink area will create opportunities for community events combining preparation and planting with social elements.</p> <p>It is still hoped to stage a small open air concert or even a mini series of concerts in the summer of 2015 in the curling rink area. We have already made some preliminary contacts and Tana would be able to</p>	<p>Ewan</p>

make contact with local harpists.	
<p>6 Wester Craiglockhart Hill</p> <p>Ewan reported that the Natural Heritage Service have concerns about the state of parts of Wester Craiglockhart Hill (especially the meadows) and had asked if we would be interested as a group in acting as a community sounding board for this site. It was agreed that we would be prepared to take an interest in this area at least on a pro-tem basis.</p>	
<p>7 Website</p> <p>Lindsay reports that it is now due a refresh and needs to be tied in with the new electronic membership data base and electronic newsletter.</p> <p>In future he will post AGM minutes and the minutes of the 2 previous committee meetings.</p>	Lindsay
<p>8 Membership</p> <p>Will reported that the electronic membership database has now been set up and the first electronic newsletter circulated to all members.</p> <p>We have 264 households registered and have e-mail addresses for approximately 40% of these.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next newsletter would go out as a hard copy for delivery early July and an effort would be made then to gather the missing e-mail contact information. This newsletter would advertise the summer petanque demonstration and the subsequent competition.</p>	Will/All
<p>9 Accounts</p> <p>Bill reported that the accounts for December 2012-December 2013 showed a balance of £5,200.</p> <p>Subsequent expense on the history board, website, AGM and wheelbarrow take the current balance to £3,900.</p> <p>Bill advised that this was an adequate reserve for the group in the light of past patterns of expenditure.</p>	
<p>10 War Poets Trail</p> <p>Ewan advised the group about the proposed War Poets Trail which is a spin off from the social history board. The trail will link the war poets room at Napier, the plaque on Wester Craiglockhart Hill, the Hillside statue at Happy Valley and the history board. The whole trail will be about 3 mile in distance.</p> <p>Edinburgh Napier will fund and produce the trail leaflet. Ewan has provided navigational text. He will forward Napier contact details to Jane who is willing to help with the mapping and sketching of the paths on the hill.</p>	Ewan/Jane
<p>11 Clean Up Days</p> <p>It was agreed that the next clean up day would be another joint venture with Friends of Craighouse.</p> <p>Tana will raise this with Rosie. We would look for a date in early summer and not necessarily on the same day as the LCV input. We shall look also to diversify the range of tasks for the day and would hope to incorporate a social element as well.</p> <p>Ewan and Simon will discuss the range of tasks that might be included with Natural Heritage.</p>	<p>Tana</p> <p>Ewan/Simon</p>
<p>12 Play Structures</p> <p>Several respondents to the curling rink consultation expressed an interest in having some low key natural play structures for young children within the area. It was agreed that this suggestion should be included in the Development Plan. Ewan will arrange a meeting with those who made the suggestions to see if a 'shopping list' can be put together with a view to an external funding application..</p>	Ewan
<p>13 Marsh Survey</p> <p>Ewan advised that the Council plan to survey the marsh area to establish what is growing and how the area should be best managed. There have been some concerns expressed about the amount and state of the stagnant water.</p> <p>It was reported that frogs and toads and spawn have been spotted again this year, mainly around the overflow pipe. It was noted though that numbers appear much lower than in the past.</p>	
<p>14 AOB</p> <p>It was agreed that items 3, 4, 6, 10, 11 and 12 would be put forward for discussion at the LNR Management Group meeting on 1 May 2014.</p> <p>No other matters were raised.</p>	