

Friends Group Public Meeting - 19th May 2016 North Edinburgh Arts 5-7pm

Present: Liz, Ana (guest from Heriot Watt undertaking a study on openspace viability on Granton's Waterfront Area of Regeneration), Barbara Robertson (GIS), Willy Black (GIS), Jonathan, Gillean, Kirsty S, Linda G, Alison Cleland (new supporter 1st meeting), Dave L, Isla, Mariana, Graeme (5.45)

Apologies Sue, Sophia, Laura.

Introductions made around the table as some new faces and guest speakers.

Previous minutes - accepted, with a note made of publication of 'Granton's Lost Garden' in Edinburgh Life - everyone felt this was a great article, accurate and with good account of the latest research uncovered by the Friends Group.
Second article in Scottish Local History magazine pending.

Correspondence

Scottish Natural Heritage - query was made regarding green infrastructure and local landscape designations like Special Landscape Area as a follow up to Local Development Plan representations made in Oct 2014.

Outcome - co-written 2006 SNH/HS review guidance circulated to planners within the group.

Action - KS to complete 'scorecard' for candidate Special Landscape Area and forward for advice and comment to SNH contact, planning department and perhaps reporter to the LDP if examination still ongoing.

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership - minutes of April meeting with garden owners and council. Draft response letter circulated for editing.

Outcome - Deputation request & letter sent to Forth NP for circulation with the agenda to local councillors. Discussion of letter and Friends Group representatives able to attend the next Community Planning Partnership Meeting on 25th May, 7pm.

Action - Kirsty, Linda, Liz, Graeme? to attend

Guest speaker : Grove Garden

Dave L gave an interesting account of the pros and cons of 'meanwhile use' agreements with landowners EDI group ltd at Fountainbridge's 'Grove Garden'. Although massively supported by local people with a waiting list for growing spaces it has been a challenge to keep up with the moves and changes imposed at the site. Issues such as no water supply at the site have hampered the horticulture as have pollution issues.

Updates from April/May actions

- Penicuik's 'Lost' Garden Visit - inspiring site visit for the committee, we all felt encouraged by the optimism and example set by the Penicuik Trust in bringing the garden back to life.

Outcome - Both Jane and Roger Kelly would love to visit Granton Castle Walled Garden when it is open, offered sound advice and support for our aims.

Action - both added to mailing list and will keep in contact

- LAMP's conference - a thankyou sent and information from National Trust for Scotland speaker, Dr Shannon Doherty, followed up. Archaeology Scotland thought to be best advisors for helping plan future archaeological investigations.

Outcome - Expertise and help offered with translation of late-medieval charters relating to Granton castle Garden's origins.

Action - associate group membership and contacts updated as university students very keen to visit the walled garden. Charter copies to be passed on.

- WEL/EDI letter response - meeting arranged at city chambers.

Action - group members able to attend to meet with solicitor and agree a strategy for the city chambers meeting.

- Mushroom Trust Funding Application, deadline 31st May.

Action - draft application to be completed and circulated for discussion and approval before sending.

- Network of Organisations Involved and supportive - list is growing and it was thought to be a good idea to publicise this as evidence of the local support and wider interest in the walled garden's restoration and future accessibility.

- 'Save the Garden stall' - idea started by Gillean and Jonathan to raise awareness.

Outcome - great feedback & support from over 70 passers by, most had no idea the walled garden was even there or under threat from development.

Action - a petition in the drafting for people to sign, and further local awareness raising planned, weekly if possible. Materials to be passed to Mariana.

AOMA and dates of note

Twitter account suggested to help raise awareness of Friends Group campaign
Archaeology Scotland unable to take on any new projects in Lothian until 2018, but Graeme was able to make a timely contact with city archaeologist who believes the garden may be of interest.

Action KS to follow up and complete new 'Adopt a Monument' form.

Granton Improvement Society keen to find a common strategy to work together to safeguard and restore the walled garden - meeting to be arranged some time in June when Will and Barbara back from holiday. Invite to survey results event on 31st May.

25th May - RBGE's Community Horticulture event 6-8.30pm

25th May - Forth NP meeting and deputation - 7pm

28th May - NEArts 'Garden to Glass' event 1-3pm

31st May - City Chambers meeting 11am (pre-meet 11am Thursday 26th)

Date and venue of next meeting tba,
suggestions welcome for the agenda