

Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden

Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016

Royston & Wardieburn Community Centre

Present: - Kirsty, Mariana, Linda, Gillean, Jonathan, Graeme, Isla, Rahel, Margaret, Neiria, Donald McDonald(Community Councillor), Deborah Gallacher

Apologies: - Sophia, Ellie, Liz

Minutes from Nov AGM circulated previously by e-mail for approval. Spelling error corrected

## **2. January minute was adopted**

Matters arising from actions

- Meeting with Lesley Hinds on January 29<sup>th</sup> where she agreed to put forward a motion to encourage EDI/WEL to respond to us. Their response was a definite no, but the group felt we should keep trying to negotiate.
- Forth Neighbourhood Partnership presentation 3rd Feb - meeting theme of the local environment & health and wellbeing was an ideal forum to highlight the potential of the walled garden. Cammy Day proposed another motion to request EDI to respond to both FGWG & GIS. Yet to hear result.
- Due to WEL/EDI's negative response & likely objection it was felt last week was not the correct time to submit our new access plan to the Planning Department - however the group would like to proceed: submit sketch plan for advice, along with supporting references from Foth NP path network plan and LDP identifying the core adopted path. **Action KS**
- Graeme will continue to seek an outlet for our most recent ancient monument findings. He suggested Archaeology Heritage Society or Edinburgh Life **Action GP**
- A link up with the Cockburn Society was thought to be an excellent idea perhaps linking up with The Open Doors Day in September (2017?). Marion Williams has invited our Friends Group to present our ideas.
- We will also register our interest in the "Adopt a Monument " scheme. **Action KS**
- Planning Department confirmation that 2014 City of Edinburgh Council Listed Buildings Guidance section pertaining to curtilage will be a material consideration in any future application to develop the walled garden for housing.

## **3. Identifying areas for sub groups**

- It was underlined that the organisation and management of the way that Friends Group is run needs to change in order to make use of everyone's skills and motivation in response to the enormous amount of details and actions required to move ahead with our plans. It was felt in order to do this, sub-groups need to be formed where priorities could be discussed in a more focussed, effective way to be brought back to the group for approval
- There are already two sub groups namely Planning and SUP's (focussed on researching and archive access so far)
- Suggested new groups were Publicity, Funding, Exhibition/SUP and On – Line Membership with all groups having an underlying need for IT input

**Action N McC to canvas committee members as to which group they would like to work in.**

- The ideas questionnaire will be sent out to the entire membership through Survey Monkey  
**Action KS**
- Leigh was going to organise an electronic membership form, unsure if this is underway
- The committee of RWCC are to be approached when they meet in March to see if FGWG can use their address for delivery of mail for the group **Action KS**
- Want to keep times and places for meeting flexible
- There may be office space available for secure storage of Friends Group paperwork & admin time at the Pilton Health Project **Action KS**

**4. Scotland's Urban Past** - staff want to know our training needs and priorities, timetable of events, and what input we need for the exhibition.

- KS to pole membership with two questions on priorities identified as helpful to our groups aims of surveying the inside of the garden and letting people find the garden and castle site. The first field study training day was very popular. Q's 1 - another archaeological field training day, inside of the walled garden this time (feedback fro previous session) 2 - interpretive signage outside of the garden using some of the Canmore images of the castle. (three identified as most informative)
- After looking at SUP's training provision we identified three areas of interest :- creating an interactive map with Esri Story; creating and managing digital data; engaging young people in our heritage project - Tomorrow's People North are keen to be involved.

**5. Historic Environment Scotland (HES)**

Listing of the Walled garden - Gillean, Kirsty, Jonathan and Linda to meet with HES to discuss updating the references and listing of castle and garden. Ancient Monument Files information and correct errors with the address. Listings officer on holiday until March. Anyone else interested can attend too.

Key to identify the implication of these findings and if the Ancient Monument Act will be a material consideration.

**6. Waterfront Edinburgh Limited, see above**

**7. Community Empowerment Act** : implementation of a section relating to community right to buy has been moved forward to April.

**Action** The committee needs to have a meeting with John Glover to discuss the community Empowerment Act implications eg Right to Buy, Participation Requests , Asset Transfers and ask any questions.

### **8. Funding options**

- KS is beginning an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a start up grant of up-to£10,000 - Leigh and Ellie to help advise.
- The Green Infrastructure Development Fund is available to the Local Authority or Forth Neighbourhood Partnership and could be used for the garden to link in with other schemes.
- There was information shared on the Friends Group status as an unincorporated constituted community group, and what our status would need to be if bigger funding options were to be accessed - see previous meeting notes August-Sept 2015.

9/10 AOMA

- RBGE –photo exhibition, moss & lichen survey, vegetation survey with Leonie their biodiversity officer coordinating - details to follow. Leonie has passed on our groups details and exhibition ideas to Sutherland Forsyth who manages the cottage restoration - delays in opening (but could give us a chance to get better organised)
- Copyright issues with Canmore images used
- Late Antiques & Medieval Postgraduate Society conference in May, Gillean and Jonathan keen to follow this up, - poster?
- It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme has been joined to access public liability insurance (£70 pa) - this does require permission to use the garden from WEL/EDI so stalled for the present.
- Friends of Parks Forum is on at Central Library on 1<sup>st</sup> March - Kirsty and Isla possibly to attend, more welcome! Good opportunity to explore the option of Asset Transfer of the walled garden from WEL to the Parks and Gardens department. Green Infrastructure Fund.
- Donald McD thought our stories would interest the cruise ship guides who have started sending cruise clientele up the coast on cycling heritage trips
- Dierdre Brock & Ben Macpherson meeting - both are supportive of our aims and suggested it would help if we had more evidence of funding & a business plan.
- Gillean proposed that we should find out what other similar groups are doing to counteract EDI

**Date of next meeting**

**Provisional Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March at Pilton Community Health Project**