

Friends Group Meeting 28th July 2016
Royston Wardieburn Community Centre 6-8pm

Introductions were made around the table as we had a new member attending. No notes from June meeting at the botanic cottage due to time constraints: to be circulated around those present by e-mail for approval ASAP.

Present - Alison, Liz, Isla, Linda, Mariana, Gillean, Jonathan, Sophia and Kirsty
Apologies Ellie C, Dave L, Alison C and Graeme.

After introductions had been made, Mariana updated us on news from Historic Environment Scotland's 'Urban Detectives' training event on their online National Record: Canmore. Although an individual record for the walled garden is not complete there is a good record for Granton Castle, which can be added to [Edinburgh, West Granton Road, Granton Castle | Canmore](#) .

Modern community gardens & allotments are also welcome as a record of urban land use. Mariana has begun one for Granton Community Garden ref 236077. [Edinburgh, Wardieburn Road, Granton Community Garden | Canmore](#)

Action - Friends Group Canmore login details can be circulated to anyone keen to add information we have researched and perhaps had verified by HES themselves.

Agenda

- 1 City Archaeologist Meeting update - 5th July
- 2 Granton Improvement Society meeting update - 19th July
- 3 MSP Ben Macpherson surgery update - 22nd July
- 4 RBGE exhibition meeting update - 26th July

Correspondence

- 5 Funding options for archaeological survey work needed, exhibition ideas.
- 6 DTAS - welcome pack and membership confirmation
- 7 WEL/EDI - upcoming meetings
- 8 Historic Environment Scotland - Scotland's Urban Past letter of support.
- 9 Gavin Barrie - Redhall Walled Garden visit and future interest
- 10 Future meeting dates - MSP Andy Wightman &

1 Outcome - City Archaeologist is keen to help our Friends Group describing the walled garden and Granton castle site as 'one of Edinburgh's hidden archaeological gems'. Advice given on archaeological watch needed for a new access creation and historic interpretation signage. He will forward data on medieval and renaissance plants growing in a North Edinburgh garden, from pollen core analysis and archaeological work at Pilrig.

Action - KS to keep in touch with our plans, and await more information.

2 & 3 Awareness raising Meetings

Graeme chaired a positive meeting between Friends group members and GIS to discuss ways of working together to protect the walled garden and make it accessible.

Outcome - GIS to take ideas & paperwork to their board for a decision.

Action - MF to draft notes and send to those who attended, await response to our requests for support of our council petition [Petitions \(Open\) - Save Granton Castle Walled Garden | The City of Edinburgh Council](#) and access plans.

We updated our local MSP Ben Macpherson of progress and discussed plans which included the newly approved Local Development Plan allocation of housing land and openspace on the waterfront.

Outcome - Ben seemed supportive of our friends Group request to have the new Masterplan being produced retain the walled garden as Openspace.

Action - as requested forwarded the paperwork discussed with GIS. This included the council's Openspace plan below, and national planners recent decision to approve Openspace designation at Granton Castle Walled Garden, and adjoining grounds of Caroline Park House.

LDP excerpt below, with area of interest highlighted in pale green.



4 Really positive meeting with exhibition organisers at RBGE to discuss ideas for their **Edinburgh Shoreline exhibition, Aug 2018**. Gillean, Jonathan, Liz, Linda, Mariana & Kirsty attended to share our Friends Group story, research and ideas.

Outcome - Exhibition organisers are keen to showcase Granton's 'lost' Castle Garden story in the exhibition. Impressed with the depth and variety of research.

Action - KS to forward requested contacts and research. Follow up meeting again in the autumn. date tba. Scotland's Urban past team would like to help.

Correspondence

5 'Stories Stones and Bones' lottery funding aimed at community led archaeology forwarded by DTAS.

Outcome - Definitely of interest to the group to help facilitate awareness raising and archaeological watch needed for path works and historic interpretive signage.

Action - Formative funding subgroup to take forward. City Archaeologist approached for advice.

6 Development Trust Association Scotland membership confirmed and pack received.

Outcome - Advice source in the future and networking opportunities.

7 Waterfront Edinburgh Limited - Friends Group members have been invited to take part in a consultation on new plans being drawn up for the waterfront, given our interest in Granton Castle Walled Garden.

Outcome - Friends Group members keen to attend and promote the benefits of the walled garden being retained as Openspace and made accessible for community use.

Action - Six or seven of our committee are able to attend and will meet for a discussion beforehand with advisors.

8 Historic Environment Scotland - letters of support for our Friends Group aims of making the garden accessible and recording its history have been forwarded to Waterfront Edinburgh's chair and also to the Mushroom Trust.

Outcome - group members heartened by the support shown by the Scotland's Urban Past team. We look forward to continuing to work together.

9 Councillor Gavin Barrie - Mr Barrie would like to be informed of the groups progress, particularly the outcome of our upcoming waterfront planning meeting this August.

Outcome - He has visited the comparable Redhall Walled Garden to gain an understanding of how a restored historic garden used for community health and wellbeing, could add to the 'sense of place' within a new residential development on Granton's Waterfront.

10 Future Meeting Dates and AOMA

Petition - Gillean and Jonathan keen to get out at the waterfront with our picnic table stand to promote the petition before the closing date of the 25th August.

332 signatures at present.

Action – weekends in August at the waterfront cycletrack opposite the walled garden, all welcome!

Thursday 4th August 6pm - Committee Meeting with MSP Andy Wightman.

Venue tba and visit to see garden access issues if weather permits.

Action - venue to be confirmed and ideas survey circulated.

Thursday 18th August 7pm - Prentice Centre starting point, health walk at the Waterfront entitled 'North Edinburgh's Lost Medieval Garden'

Organised by Pilton Community Health Project.

Next Friends Group meeting date & venue tba for the end of August. Survey report for a public meeting recommended. (powerpoint? Printed?)