

**Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden meeting  
28th April 2016  
Royston Wardieburn Community Centre. 6-8pm**

Present Kirsty S, Isla, Linda, Graeme, Gillean & Jonathan.

Apologies Ellie C, Mariana, Liz.

Resignation from committee Debs, Margaret, Neiria and Leigh (Leigh still happy to help edit grant funding applications but not enough time to participate in committee, Debs time limitations)

Updates from April meetings and awareness raising.

Correspondence from Historic Environment Scotland clarifying their position on any new planning applications to build in the walled garden, and support for the listed garden's continued use for horticulture!

- **15th April - Forth Neighbourhood Partnership** community planning partnership/waterfront regeneration meeting - Five Friends Group members attended, along with Granton Improvement Society and representatives of Waterfront Edinburgh limited. (notes from meeting discussed and attached)

**Outcome** A thankyou was sent to Cammy Day and Michelle Fraser for facilitating the meeting, with suggestions for the future & enabling Local Development Plans and relevant planning policies to be discussed in an informed fashion. Minutes to follow from Michelle.

**Action GP** to follow up with letter drafted for the new chair of EDI/WEL, Gavin Barrie: meeting request with Friends Group to discuss future of the walled garden.

- **19th April - Development Trusts Association Scotland** membership application.

An informal meeting at Pilton Community Health Project with assessor asking a few questions and providing information on DTAS's services and advice which can be given.

**Outcome** - good feedback from Sandra with a report due in two weeks with recommendations for our Friends Group.

**Action** In response to points about wider local engagement Gillean and Jonathan keen to create a mobile information and campaign stall for the area, once we have information materials printed? Various venues suggested. Outside walled garden, Morrisons, Scottish Gas, Telford College Campus.

Kirsty keen to develop the existing network of local community gardening groups, third sector organisations with practical demonstration gardens to promote the Friends Group ideas.

Show the need for quality greenspaces in this area, and their benefits. NEArts plot and Pilton Community Garden suggested as sites which have been developed by volunteers keen to be involved with the walled garden too.

**Planning sub-group actions**

**Community Empowerment Act consultation** open until mid June. The links to appropriate government documents from John G have been circulated around committee.

It was felt the Friends Group should make a response in relation to Participation Requests, Asset Transfers & Right to Buy Neglected or Abandoned Land.

**Action KS to forward rough notes to GP who shall also draft something.**

### **Awareness Raising and Promotion actions**

- **Graeme's article** in Edinburgh Life 'Granton's Lost Castle' to be published in May!
- **Gillean's article** published in June!
- **Flyers & Banner** - Ellie C has created designs and cost of ~£17 for 1000 agreed by committee. Perhaps details on the back too? Mariana to print banner at cost of ~£45 agreed by e-mail consensus previously.
- **Late Antique's and Medieval Postgraduate Society Conference 6th May** - seven of our group attending. Presentation and Q&A short session with small stand with Friends Group information. Scotland's Urban Past have provided copyright licence for four images in Canmore Collection at a cost of £72. (KS reimbursed for outlay) Gillean has permission from National Archives of Scotland for use of the ancient monument files.

### **Funding Actions**

#### **Seed Funding Grant Award - £5,000**

Group were happy with documentation circulated to committee: agreed initial sessional work to be undertaken would be to complete the Planning Application for a new access to the Walled Garden. Brief discussion followed on what would be paid work and what was voluntary. Further discussion needed, idea of herbal workshop, food events in May and June?

KS felt it was an appropriate time to stand down as Chair of the group rather than be faced with a conflict of interest. (to stay on as interim chair for the moment and take no part in decisions made by the Friends Group on sessional work allocated)

Many funds are available to safeguard and restore the walled garden but most require the permission of WEL/EDI to undertake work in the garden so are inapplicable at present eg CSGN.

Mushroom Trust and Heritage Lottery Funding may be a possibility for activities outside of the walled garden, including the exhibition and materials needed for steps and path

**May deadline for Mushroom Trust Application so Funding group need to meet soon.**

**Previous minutes approved** with a couple of points discussed. (circulate with additions for final approval before posting online)

#### **Dates of note coming up.**

**Sunday 1st May** - Penicuik 'Lost' garden visit

**Friday 6th May** - LAMP's Conference on medieval gardens and enclosures.

**Tuesday 10th May** - RBGE's biodiversity officer Leonie is leading a survey of invertebrates living on the Granton waterfront with Buglife. Meeting place - Morrison's cafe 10am. All welcome!

**Sat May 28th & June 18th** - NEArts food related events. (yet to be discussed or details organised, but we have £100 of funding allocated to a community food event in seed-funding award. Grassroots Remedies?, herbal/healthy food/medieval focus to event?)

#### **Possible dates and venues for next Friends Group evening meeting? Which suit you?**

Tuesday 17th May, Pilton Community Health Project if available.

Weds 18th May, Pilton Community Health Project

Thursday 19th May, Royston Wardieburn Community Centre