

Firrhill Community Council
Flood Prevention Landscaping Design
Monday 13-07-09, 7p.m-9p.m

Present- Heather Levy (Chair), Stuart MacKay (Carillion), Pauline. I. Podd, Johanna Carrie, Louise Maguire.
Apologises- Mary MacMillan, Craig Dunlop

The purpose of the meeting was to pull together a small focus group who had previously consulted with various community members and groups on how best the landscaping design was fit for purpose and ensure it complemented other works/plans that are in progress or about to commence.

It was agreed that as 50% of the construction work was taken place within Reach 1-5, Colinton/Redford through to Braid Burn Valley, that it would be best to split it up into manageable sections.

The Designs that were tabled and discussed were for Reach 3 (Firrhill Crescent to Firrhill Drive). This design had been submitted and approved by Planning Dept although changes could be made as long as it was proved to be beneficial.

The Embankments are a Flood defence so careful consideration was needed re any planting although it was acknowledge that shallow roots system like grass and bulbs would help prevent the loss/slippage of top soil. It was agreed that the Wild Grass seed mix on most of the Embankments would be good with some additions (see appendix 1) but clarity was needed from the Parks dept re maintenance. There had already been discussions re a bulb plant with Craig Dunlop and it is hoped that the schools and community groups would get involved with this.

It was agreed that the planting of native shrub patches should not only sustain existing wild life (see appendix 2) but encourage more.

St Marks School will be the lead on the flood embankment surrounding the bottom of their playing field but Firrhill Community Council will be kept informed if not included with discussions.

There was some discussion around creating an Orchard this could be done at the start of Firrhill Drive/Crescent. The 'Firrhill Community Orchard'. If Apple and Pear trees are planted and the fruit is edible it is hoped that this will stop the fruit being used as missiles! There was some discussion about planting fruit shrubs but this would duplicate what has been agreed in Colinton Mains Park. The Orchard will be surrounded by houses, who could police the area. More information is needed about species of trees.

The existing trees of Firrhill drive were discussed and it was agreed that there needed to be included some Fir trees in the plant, Scots Pine for example (see appendix 1) again to enhance existing trees. Could one of these Firs become the community Christmas tree in ten years time!

It was agreed that all new trees must have a guard to protect them from wild life, dogs and vandalism to ensure they had a chance to establish.

Works and weather permitting it is hoped that the landscaping will commence in October 2009 and when the bridge is completed that a grand launch should take place inviting all local Councillors, MSP'S Community groups and staffs and Press.

Cost implications- Stuart will check if there are any. If there is an issue with costs it was agreed that the group could source small pockets of funds to help with this.

The aspiration is that the Landscaping design not only enhances our own local area but links into the wider community e.g Pentland walk way, the Firrhill Community Garden, The Lochan and Braid Burn Valley.




Once Carillion have agreed this design it would go to Firrhill community council then Planning dept for approval.

Appendix 1

1. The preferred Elder is *Sambucus nigra* variety Black Lace with pink flowers and dark red leaves. It is a cultivated form of a native species, but may be more pricey.



2. Fir trees include:

		
Common fir <i>Abies alba</i> Tall, not best shape	Norway spruce <i>Picea abies</i> Tall but elegant	Sitka spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i> Tall, elegant

Also possible Korean pine which stays smaller and is 'Christmas tree' shape
Only Scots Pine is native to UK.



Pinus koraiensis










- 3 'Conker tree' is Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*

4 Black currant is *Ribes nigrum*.

5 Wild flowers to add to the 'meadow grass mix A' could include:

Small daffodils at front March/ April

Bluebells behind daffodils or mixed with them April/May

		
Red and white campion <i>Silene dioica</i> and <i>Silene alba</i> June – July	Cowslip <i>Primula veris</i> April-May	Oxeye daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> May - Sept
 Wild Perennial Lupin	  The Field or Corn poppy Papaver rhoeas .	 A view of the blossom.
Wild Lupin <i>Lipinus nootkatiensis</i> / <i>perennis</i> ? May - July	Common poppy <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> June - Oct	Haresfoot clover <i>Trifolium arvense</i> June

Many more could be added to this list.

Appendix 2

List of known Wild Life

Trout

Flat Headed fish?

Hérons

Ducks

Frogs

Water Voles

Otters

Sparrow Hawks