

## Friends of Davidson's Mains Park (FDMP) Meeting & Annual General Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011

Royal High School, Davidson's Mains

Participants	Apologies
Tina Woolnough (Chair)	Dan Smith (Committee member)
Eunice Smith (Treasurer)	Edinburgh and Lothians Police
Jo Butt (Committee member)	Roy Dodds (Secretary)
Jill Smith	Edinburgh and Lothians Police
Denis Smith	Councillor Norman Work
Bob Frost (Committee member)	Mike McNiven
Patricia McCulloch	
Douglas Cruickshank (Community Parks Officer, CEC)	
Brian Shiels (Parks Ranger, CEC)	

### Meeting note:

#### Minutes of previous meeting

1. The Minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 were approved.

#### Matters arising

2. These included:
  - i. Consultation responses still need to be reviewed and a plan for further consultation drafted (**Action: Bob Frost**). Need to try and engage full range of interest groups e.g. football club, dog walkers etc. Football Club representative (Keith Summers) will be invited to the next meeting (**Action: Tina Woolnough**).
  - ii. Royal High School's anti-litter drive is planned shortly. Margaret Laing, CEC, is still to contact TW to discuss the plans in detail (**Action: Tina Woolnough**).
  - iii. A number of other issues were discussed and it was decided that the following should be added to the agenda for the next meeting:
    - Anti-social behaviour
    - Woodland Management Plan
  - iv. A discussion was held on the recent instances relating to anti-social behaviour in the park and the issue regarding the location of park benches and the fact they are a focus for anti-social behaviour. CEC offered to review the bench location to see if a solution could be found (**Action: Douglas Cruickshank**). The FDMP had plans to develop a programme of positive activities for young people in the park over the School Holidays (**Action: Tina Woolnough**).
  - v. The condition of the path between the West end of the Park and the back gate of the RHS was mentioned. Damage has been caused by the recent tree work. CEC would check what plans the forestry section had to reinstate the path following the work (**Action: Douglas Cruickshank**).

### **Woodland Management Plan**

3. The Woodland Management Plan has been finished and an application has been made to the Forestry Commission Scotland's Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) Challenge Fund the funding is to help with the implementation of the management plan. If successful (decision expected in December) then ELGT will be invited to the next meeting to present the plans and discuss the next steps **(Action: Eunice Smith)**.

### **Park Action Plan**

4. The Park Action Plan has been revised following comments from previous meeting. Plan will be updated and circulated following each meeting **(Action: Bob Frost)**.

### **General park issues**

5. It was agreed that as 2012 was the park's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary the FDMP should develop a suitable programme of events and promotional material e.g. history leaflet etc. A letter from the Chair to the Head of Parks (David Jamieson) would be important to solicit council support **(Action: Eunice, Denis Smith and Tina Woolnough )**.
6. A brief update was provided on the recent Friends of Parks meeting at the City Chambers. A number of issues were then discussed including the potential for DMPark to be included in an Urban Pollinator Project, and the draft of a new set of CEC park rules which FDMP should comment on. This will be followed-up **(Action: Eunice Smith)**.
7. It has been noticed that the park name is miss-spelt on signs. FDMP will write to CEC to request they are corrected **(Action: Eunice Smith)**.
8. The damaged play equipment had been replaced and the new equipment is providing more interest for primary aged children. The draft CEC Play Area Action Plan has been published. The plan ranks DMP as 'good' and that the council will maintain this status over the next 5 years.

### **Car parking**

9. Car parking along East Barnton Avenue (safety issue at corner) and at the main entrance to the park during football training and games was discussed. A number of meetings have been held with CEC Environment Manager, but no progress had been made. FDMP Chair to write to local Councillor's setting out the issues and requesting the relevant CEC officers are asked to look into solutions **(Action: Tina Woolnough)**.

### **Litter**

10. It was requested that the litter barrier at RHS be extended **(Action: Douglas Cruickshank)**.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be in March 2012. Dates will be circulated **(Action: Tina Woolnough)**.

### **AOB**

11. Bob Frost will circulate further information on the Forestry Commission Scotland's Community Seedcorn Fund 2012/13 – funding available to support local community involvement in woodlands.

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Participants:**

Eunice Smith

Tina Woolnough

Denis Smith

Jill Smith

Patricia McCulloch

Bob Frost

### **Summary**

- a. 2011 has been another successful year with key outputs including the education programme with Davidson's Main Primary School, improvements to the bins and benches within the park and progress with the RHS and the litter strategy. A major achievement has been the production of a Woodland Management Plan and that funding for its implementation has been applied for by Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust.
- b. The FDMP want to formally record their gratitude to Douglas Cruickshank, CEC, for his continuing support and responsive attitude to the issues raised by the group and users of the park.

### **AGM business**

#### **Annual reports**

The following reports were tabled (these are appended):

- Chair's report
- Treasurer's report

#### **Changes to constitution**

The following amendments were agreed:

- Date of Annual General Meeting will now be within 9 months of the end of the financial year.
- Only require an Independent Examiner

#### **Election of Officer Bearers**

The following were appointed:

- Chair: Tina Woolnough (final year) (nominated by Eunice Smith and Seconded by Bob Frost)
- Treasurer: Eunice Smith (nominated by Bob Frost and Seconded by Tina Woolnough)
- Minute Secretary – no candidates (Bob Frost will take notes of meetings he attends)
- Committee members will be:
  - Dan Smith
  - Laura Weston

- Bob Frost
  - Roy Dodds
  - Denis Smith
- Independent Examiner: David Adamson appointed.

### **FDMP focus for 2012**

The following key actions were identified for 2012:

- a. Promote and communicate the Woodland Management Plan – platform to engage wider users in the work of the FDMP – work with ELGT to develop an engagement programme
- b. Develop a programme for the Park's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- c. Review the future of the group beyond 2012 – seek other volunteers to join the committee and take up office bearer positions.