



**BURDIEHOUSE BURN VALLEY PARK STEERING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2008
IN THE OFFICES OF THE SOUTH EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP
13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Stuart Gash	Friends of Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
	Emma Aitken	Friends of Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
	Margaret McIver	Friends of Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
	Gilbert Clark	Friends of Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
	Ian Henderson	Friends of Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park
	Charlie Cumming	Edinburgh & Lothian Greenbelt Trust
	Jessica Morgado	CEC – Countryside Ranger
	Mike Shields	CEC – Services for Communities
	David Doig	CEC – Services for Communities
	Chris Hampton	SEP – Community Director (Gracemount)
	Stewart Laird	South Edinburgh Partnership
	Scott Donkin	South Edinburgh Partnership
	Margaret Campbell	South Edinburgh Partnership

<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Jacqui Bain	SE Volunteer Project
	Bruce Bennett	Community Resident (Since moved)

Before commencing it was reported that Bruce Bennett had announced his intention to step down from the group for two reasons. Firstly, work commitments and secondly, as he no longer resides in the area he felt it was not appropriate for him to remain on the Steering Group.

Scott Donkin chaired the meeting for the first half of the proceedings – please see agenda item 4.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8th July 2008 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Para 3.1 Litter Bins – Burdiehouse Community Centre:** David Doig reported no movement on this subject. Due to funding constraints there is no money available with which to purchase new bins at this time. Therefore “redundant” bins have to be identified which could be moved. However David indicated that some slippage may become available at the end of the financial year which could, perhaps, be used to purchase litter bins, although he was at pains to be point out there was no guarantees of funding. In response to a question from Chris Hampton regarding the cost of litter bins it was noted that the bins cost c.£580 each. However, the reasons as to why they were so expensive could not be answered and it was recommended that if Chris required further explanation as to the costs he would need to take it up with the manufacturer.
- 3.2 **Para 3.2 – Disabled Access Ellens Glen/Hyvots Loan:** David Doig reported he had met on-site with Dunedin Canmore. Whilst this was a productive meeting no action had as yet been taken. David has emailed Dunedin Canmore asking for urgent action within the within the next two weeks. The group were assured that as this was an equality issue, the law is clear. The access is currently illegal and it is incumbent upon Dunedin Canmore to rectify the position and create wheel-chair access as soon as possible. In respect of other entrances reference was made to the ??? fund. It was explained that this was a different pot of money. This is a grant of £100,000 which has been awarded to the Neighbourhood Partnerships for three years primarily for roads improvements. The funding panel had ranked its applications in order of priority and the application referred to had finished 9th out of nine. However, it will be reconsidered next year and if sufficient support is forthcoming may be awarded a higher priority.
- 3.3 **Para 3.3 – Raw Sewage:** David Doig reported that this issue had been resolved by Scottish Water.
- 3.4 **Para 3.5 – Flood Prevention Work:** Jessica Morgado reported that mesh had been fixed onto a barrier but she was not convinced the design was good enough to prevent anyone, particularly a child, falling down the 6^{ft} drop. Jessica will continue to investigate this matter.
- 3.5 **Para 5.4.2 – Playground Maintenance Plan:** David Doig reported that the wrong information had been forthcoming and that he had asked this be rectified. The information required refers to the frequency of site visits and what maintenance has been undertaken. David hopes to be in a position to provide the group with the correct information when it next meets.
- Action: David Doig**
- 3.6 **Para 5.11 – Maps:** Charlie Cumming reported that the necessary alterations had been made to maps in order they comply with the Green Flag requirements.

4. **CHAIR-SHIP (Report Circulated)**

- 4.1 Scott Donkin reported that Alan Bell had previously Chaired the Steering Group meetings. Since Alan's departure in April, Stewart Gash had acted as Interim Chair until such time as the 10 year plan was completed. This having now been done it was an appropriate time for the group to consider a permanent chair and the duration of the service.
- 4.2 It was agreed that the Chair would hold office for a period of one year.
- 4.3 Jessica Morgado, seconded by David Doig, nominated Stuart Gash as Chair. There being no further nominations Stuart accepted the Chair for a period of one year. Thereafter Stuart chaired the meeting.

5. **FRIENDS GROUP – ROLE AND REPRESENTATION**

- 5.1 Stuart Gash reported that the Friends Group had now been established with him acting as the Chair and Emma Aitken as Secretary. He hoped that at the AGM in 2009 a new Chair would be appointed.
- 5.2 The group currently has some 28 members, 18 of which were recruited at the "Do in the Burn" event on 14th September. They have asked that each current member attempt to recruit two more and so on until they reach a critical mass.
- 5.3 The constitution has been adopted and the group are currently seeking charitable status. A bank account is in the process of being opened.
- 5.4 The group now needs to establish its position, ensuring that there are clear lines of communication between the Friends Group, the Steering Group and the Management Group in order to make certain they are all working to the same ends, complementing each other and not conflicting.
- 5.5 The Steering Group agreed that the Friends Group had a significant presence on the Steering Group and therefore no further representation was required at this time.
- 5.6 Chris Hampton, as a member of the Friends of St Kathrine's Park Group asked if the Friends Group might consider joining forces, particularly in terms of obtaining joint funding.
- 5.7 Charlie Cumming reported that similar situations exist elsewhere in the city all of which had decided to remain independent but to work together where appropriate. Whilst it would be up to the Friends Group to decide it was recommended that there was no physical linkage between the two groups and therefore a "merger" was not fitting. However, this would not prevent the two groups working together as and when appropriate. Mike Shields suggested a more appropriate link for St Kathrines would be the Liberton Park Friends group which is currently being established.

- 5.8 It was recommended the Friends Group make contact with other similar organisations. A Friends Network exists on the Council's website. They meet annually to share experiences. It was suggested that as there are a number of Friends Groups in the South of the city a South Group meeting could be arranged say, once per year. David Doig indicated that he would be happy to accommodate this initiative if so requested. He also recommended they seek advice from the Braidburn Valley Park Friends Group which has been established for some 5/6 years and has 200-300 members.
- 5.9 The Steering Group congratulated the Friends on their progress in such a short period of time. 28 members is a very good number considering the fact that the group is still in its infancy.
- 5.10 Emma and Stuart were of the view that the Friends Group would concentrate their efforts on practical events eg clean-up's, planting etc. They had met with Ian Brooke to discuss funding sources but he had advised the group to come up with their ideas first. It would then be easier to look for appropriate funders. The group were reminded of the Liberton/Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership's Community Grants fund. They award grants of up to £5,000 and meet quarterly. The British Climate Change Fund was also suggested. Stuart intimated that the Friends Group were open to suggestions from the Steering Group. Scott agreed to ask Alan Bell to provide him with a list of appropriate Council funding sources which he would forward to Emma Aitken.

Action: Scott Donkin

- 5.11 Emma suggested that the Friends Group might consider their first clean up event to coincide with Guy Fawkes. There is a problem regarding Public Liability Insurance for such events and at the moment the group has no funding to cover the costs. Therefore at the moment such events would require to be "hosted" by the Council or other organisation with the wherewithal to cover the costs. Jessica, Emma and Stuart would discuss this possibility outwith the meeting.

6. 10 YEAR PLAN & FUTURE FUNDING (Report Circulated)

- 6.1 It was confirmed that the 10 year plan had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund ("HLF") and had been formally adopted by the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 6.2 Scott reported he had met with Charlie Cumming regarding a further application to HLF in respect of a variety of initiatives. However, on advice from HLF the application will not be submitted until the beginning of 2009; the reason being this round was so heavily oversubscribed any application from South Edinburgh was likely to fail. Charlie confirmed that the Greenspace Trust were willing to act as fund holders and work to the revised timetable.
- 6.3 The group then discussed the Bothy. Scott was of the opinion that capital funding was relatively easy to obtain but in order not to be left with a white elephant the revenue funding stream would need to be in place before any application was submitted. The group felt that whilst the Council, as owners of the property, would likely to be willing to offer the Bothy on a long lease at a peppercorn rent; finding a Council Department to take on the revenue charge may not be so easy albeit the cost of running the building should be minimal.

- 6.4 Jessica reported that the shop owners adjacent to the site have already raised concerns that to open the bothy may result in anti social behaviour and/or vandalism problems for them.
- 6.5 Stuart Gash was concerned that having adopted the 10 year plan the Council appears now to be back-tracking. Scott explained that the plan contains a number of desired projects none of which were confirmed and funding would require to be sourced for all of them.
- 6.6 It conclusion it was agreed that this subject should be discussed at length by the Management Group with all the salient information to hand. Thereafter they can make recommendations to the Steering Group.
- 6.7 Scott recommended that the Friends Group reflect on the paper circulated and consider how they might contribute.

7. **AOCB**

7.1 **Damaged Container – The Dip:** David Doig reported he had been in touch with the Football Club who did intend to remove the damaged container. However, he agreed that to do so at the moment with wet ground would seriously damage the grass etc. He felt it would be better to wait until the ground is frosted at which time the football club will arrange to remove the container, at their own cost.

7.2 **Bonfire Season:**

7.2.1 Jessica Morgado reported that the Neighbourhood Partnership had produced leaflets instructing residents on what action they should take if they notice a bonfire being built in an inappropriate location. They should report the location of the bonfire to the Community Wardens. The Community Safety Unit are attempting to map the popular locations for bonfires and take action where necessary.

7.2.2 The Council does not permit bonfires on any of their land. Nevertheless in the knowledge that it is virtually impossible to stop them they do overlook them if they are sited appropriately. The Council will however dismantle bonfires that are being built close to buildings etc and will also remove dangerous items eg gas canisters, tyres etc from all bonfires. The Council has an agreement from the Police to support them when dismantling bonfires as in the past they have suffered from stone throwing and the like.

7.2.3 In response to a question from Gilbert Clark regarding education, it was reported that over the next few weeks the Police and Fire Prevention Officers will be giving talks to school children, explaining why some bonfires have to be dismantled, what should and should not be burnt etc.

7.2.4 Jessica Morgado offered to put up posters describing the do's and don'ts of bonfire building but warned the group that they would probably be torn down very quickly.

7.2.5 Emma Aitken thought an organised bonfire may be something for the Friends group to consider in future but it was felt that the public liability insurance would likely be prohibitive.

7.3 **Fencing:** Jessica reported that the fencing is being systematically removed from the wildflower meadow at Burdiehouse. She and her colleagues are certain that this is organised crime rather than wanton vandalism as the fence posts and netting are being removed from the site. The trees in that area are still saplings and she is concerned they may be damaged. There is a CCTV camera in Burdiehouse Drive which could be turned to that area. It was suggested Jessica contact Greig Henderson who could refer her to the appropriate person in the Neighbourhood Action Unit to get the camera turned.

7.4 **Teenage Play Area:** Scott Donkin reported that the teenage play area had come in under budget. WREN had previously informed the South Edinburgh Partnership that any cost savings would result in a reduction of their contribution. Complying with this ruling the final claim was submitted at a reduced level. WREN has since informed Scott that they are willing to contribute the full amount. It was agreed that the balance of funding c.£7,000 be used to fence off the area. The estimate for fencing is £10,300. Scott Donkin has asked the Council for a contribution of £3,300 but he is not hopeful. It was suggested that the Friends Group might wish to apply to the Community Grants scheme for the balance. Emma and Stuart agreed to raise this with the Friends Group at their next meeting.

7.5 **Skatepark:** Margaret McIver reported that the problem of glass on the skate park was ongoing. David Doig reported that he had commissioned additional equipment ie "A Green Machine" to try and keep on top of the problem but he was unsure for how much longer he could commit to this on a financial level. He agreed to report the matter to the Neighbourhood Action Unit as the amount of broken alcohol bottles clearly shows an increase of drinking at the skatepark.

8. **DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Management Group **Thursday, 30th October @ 9.00 am** (13 Newtoft Street)

Steering Group **Tuesday, 9th December @ 2.00 pm** (13 Newtoft Street)