

Friends of Rocheid Path, (FORP)

Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of The Friends of Rocheid Path, held Monday 30th April at Stockbridge Library.

Present: Pam Barnes(PB); Josie Inwood(JI); Caro Tulloch(CT); Ian Cunningham(IC); Rose Pipes(RP); Joan Beattie(JB); Ian Hooper(IH)

1. Apologies: Anna Guest, Kath Davies, Nick Bates, Cathy Bell, Gus Schwarz

2. Minutes of last meeting approved.

3. Matters arising

Further to removal of ivy on the north side of the path, Jennifer Johnston (JJ) will arrange for a further attack to remove the ivy from the trees between the path and the river. The first lot has died back nicely. The trees to be taken down are "in the queue".

Brian Bainbridge(BB) of ARUP has said that the landscapers SMEEDON will coming to visit the site "soon" and he will arrange for us to meet them. **Action PB**

4. The Triangle

There was a long discussion about the triangle area, and we all agreed that it was time to get our proposals down on paper. PB has produced a detailed plan of the area, with the existing trees marked on. We need to get down on paper our proposals for planting fruit trees, requirement for railings, where they should and should not be, benches, litter bins etc and get this proposal in front of the council. We agreed that RBGE should be consulted about the varieties of fruit trees that would be best for this area. RP will write to her contact, Education Officer Martyn Dickson, and report back. IC reminded us that Cathy Bell was a guide at the Botanic and may have useful contacts. **Action RP**

The plan to build a shed along the boundary fence beside the lodge at Falshawe Bridge was discussed. Should the water levels rise above the level of the bridge, which has happened in the past, a system of demountable defences will be used to prevent the water flowing sideways off the bridge and into Bridge Place. When these are not in use they need to be stored somewhere close by and the proposal is to build some sort of shed. We want to know why they can't be stored at the depot in Inverleith Park. The reason given was that the depot was going to be sold. Now that this is not going to happen, perhaps the decision on where to put these demountable defences can be revisited? Is the depot too far away? The current proposals don't seem to take account of the fact that this is green space, would they need or get planning permission? We need greater clarity. IH pointed out that if there was going to be access from this grassy area to the road at Falshawe Bridge, this would be an ideal opportunity to create access from here to the walkway on the other side of the bridge, thereby removing the need for walkers to leave the river at this point. PB said that Ritchie Fraser was arranging a meeting to discuss the plans.

5. Notice boards

We agreed that the first notice board should be fixed at the West gate but there are concerns about underground cabling from the electricity substation. When the new bridge is opened and the Tanfield Bridge reopened, we could get a 2nd and possibly a third to be sited at each bridge. We also agreed that there should be a sign indicating the presence of the path at the Inverleith Row end of Inverleith Terrace Lane. This could be a Water of Leith walkway brown sign, and would be helpful to people looking to join the path at Canonmills There is already a sign at the Tanfield Link steps.

6. Long Term Plan

The consultation document, incorporating the feedback we have received, should be printed off and sent to David Jameson, Stephen Cuthill, the Inverleith Partnership. We need to put them on the spot; find out if there is anything in our proposals that is unfeasible. We don't want to be wasting our time discussing plans that are never going to happen. For instance, RF thinks that the ramshackle railings beside the river can be removed but is there any money for this? IH will draft a letter to accompany the document. PB will get us onto the circulation list for the Inverleith Partnership. They have funds, maybe we could get money from them. **Action PB/IH**

IC is keen to move on to another section of the path, now that decisions have been made about the triangle. We will decide which bit to tackle next at the next meeting

7. Date of next meeting Monday 11th June, 18:30 at Stockbridge Library.