

Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme – Phase 2

Stakeholder Engagement Group

13th May 2014

Actions Arising

Attendees

Councillor Lesley Hinds	CEC
Councillor Paul Edie	CEC
Councillor Frank Ross	CEC
Rob Leech	CEC
John Nielson	CEC
John Wharrie	CEC
Willie Kerr	Murrayfield Ice Rink
Richard Stirling	Murrayfield Ice Rink
Paul Stevenson	Murrayfield Curling
Valerie Forbes	Friends of Roseburn Park
Douglas Cruickshank	CEC Community Parks
John Yellowlees	Murrayfield Community Council
Don Wilkie	Murrayfield – DAFS Cricket Club
Ian Sheils	Murrayfield – DAFS Cricket Club
Elizabeth Neil	Murrayfield Ice Rink

Apologies

Councillor Jeremy Balfour	CEC
Garry Blackadder	SRU
Mark Laidlaw	SRU
James Ogilvie	Saughtonhall Community Association
Cliff Hutt	CEC
Dylan Huws	Roseburn School Parent Partnership
Paul Stevenson	Murrayfield Curling
Darren Wraight	CEC West Neighbourhood
Dave Sinclair	CEC West Neighbourhood
Kristi Crawford	Roseburn School Parent Partnership
Dave Perry	Dean Village Residents Association
David Whitelaw	Saughtonhall Community Association

1. Introductions

Councillor Hinds opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The previous meeting note was agreed as a true record of the meeting.

The actions from the previous meeting were then discussed.

Actions 1 & 2 – Playground relocation and finalisation of wall location

Douglas Cruickshank (DC) confirmed that the likely cost for relocating the playground would be in the region of £70k but that the source of funding has not yet been established, he also stated this was based on buying new park equipment. This is now being investigated further and will be reported at the next meeting. Don Wilkie (DW) raised concerns that the £70k may not be sufficient funding for the new playground and access path.

A discussion then took place regarding the area being vacated by the playground and it was agreed that this needs further consultation with the local community. Possibilities include a play area for older children, an outdoor gym or a garden. Community Parks agreed to investigate this further.

Rob Leech (RL) noted that a decision has now been taken to construct the flood wall between the existing wall and the new bund given commitment to the relocate the playground. DW raised concerns about this as mature trees will be lost as a consequence. RL pointed out that the proposal is in accordance with the current planning permission and that this had been discussed and agreed in principle at the last meeting, he also reminded the group of the cost and programme consequences of pursuing a revised design through this area.

Cllr Hinds reminded the group that there is still a funding gap for the project and the project faces a challenge in securing the required funding to top up the £19.916million already committed. It is intended to discuss the matter with MSPs and also explore funding from within CEC. John Yellowlees made reference to a letter from Sarah Boyack – MSP wherein value engineering had been discussed.

Acton 3 – Safe Routes through Roseburn Park

RL stated that developing safe routes is an ongoing process that will be done in consultation with key stakeholders. This will be developed in parallel with the contract documentation over the coming months.

Action 4 – Stakeholder Constraints

RL introduced John Neilson who has recently joined the project and will be the project manager on site responsible for day to day activity. John is currently making plans to meet stakeholders directly affected by the works in the coming weeks with the aim of including stakeholder requirements in the contract documentation.

2. Presentation

RL gave a presentation on progress since the last meeting and copies of the presentation are included herein at Appendix 1. Key points included:

- The temporary floodgate at Pansy Walk is due to be installed in the coming weeks which will provide some temporary protection to properties in Baird Grove and Riversdale Road in the event of a flood. RL stressed this is only a temporary measure while the scheme is being developed.
- Phase 2 still has budgetary constraints as outlined by Cllr Hinds and the application to the Scottish Government to fund the shortfall for the reconfigured scheme has been rejected. Funding sources are currently being explored with a likely gap of between £5.5 and £6million for the reconfigured scheme.
- Time has been spent over the last few weeks meeting residents directly affected by the works and this will continue through the summer. Meetings have also been held with the SRU and engagement to date has been very productive.
- The reconfigured scheme still envisages doing minimal work at Damside, Belford Bridge, Edinburgh Sports Club and Coltbridge and deferring work to the next phase.
- At Murrayfield and Roseburn Park the following emerging draft scheme was noted.
 - Stank Burn pumping station will be omitted from the scheme;
 - The omission of the sheet piled walls in front of Ice Rink and between Saughtonhall Bridge and Riversdale Crescent is still being evaluated with a number of options under consideration. There are however some potentially significant issues with installing temporary defences and funding permitting the preferred option is to install permanent walls. The cost difference between temporary and permanent is approximately £1 to £1.5 million;
 - It is proposed to retain the existing Roseburn Park wall and increase the height at the north east corner, a new wall will be constructed between the existing Roseburn Park wall and the new bund as described above;
 - The omission of sheet piles from earth embankments on the SRU boundary and within Roseburn Park has been evaluated and the SRU has been informed that the preferred solution is to omit the piles. The SRU has asked for additional seepage analysis to be carried out and a meeting will be arranged in the next week with the SRU or so to discuss the proposal further; and
 - The walls at the back of Baird Grove and adjacent to Baird Drive are likely to be reconfigured and relocated to reduce construction impacts and to facilitate a simpler method of construction. This is made possible by the diversion of the gas main.
- RL made it clear that the emerging scheme has not yet been ratified and remains “draft”.
- The current programme, which may be subject to change depending on a range of factors, is to commence works in mid 2015. The key dates for 2014 were given in the presentation.

3. Other Matters

DW raised concerns about future drainage of Roseburn Park as a consequence of heavy plant tracking over the area. RL agreed to investigate further. The use of Roseburn Park for construction compounds and access was also discussed and RL confirmed that while there will be a requirement to take localised areas of the park it is not intended to close the park during construction and provision will be made as far as is practicable to accommodate park users.

The next public exhibition was discussed and it was agreed that this will take place in July once proposals are finalised. Valerie Forbes suggested casting the net wider using other forms of communication for the next meeting. RL agreed to consider leafleting and better local advertising.

DW raised concerns that the finish on the new Roseburn Park flood wall would be plain concrete. It was noted that this had been discussed at the last meeting and the finish is in fact ribbed.

Cllr Ross enquired as to how discussions are going with SGN regarding the cost of the diversion. RL confirmed that costs are likely to reduce but this will be through negotiation.

4. Key Actions Arising

The following table sets out the actions arising from the meeting:

Item	Description	Action
1	Develop plans for relocation of playground and changed use of area vacated.	DC
2	Safe routes through the park - continue to liaise both through the engagement group and directly to develop proposals that meet the needs of those using the park while respecting the needs of the contractor in constructing the works.	RL
3	Stakeholder constraints – JN to engage with all affected parties and RL to provide the engagement group with a presentation on the contract as it relates to constraints at the appropriate time.	JN/RL
4	DW raised concerns about future drainage of Roseburn Park as a consequence of heavy plant tracking over the area. RL agreed to investigate further.	RL
5	The next public exhibition was discussed and it was agreed that this will take place in July once proposals are finalised. Valerie Forbes suggested casting the net wider using other forms of communication for the next meeting. RL agreed to consider leafleting and better local advertising.	RL

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 1 July 2014

Time: 6.00pm

Location: Murrayfield Ice Rink