

Friends of Roseburn Park Newsletter

10 December 2016

Wandering about the future of the Park?

Murrayfield Wanderers' plans for relocating to the park have raised two more general issues that Friends of Roseburn Park are working to ensure are publicly discussed.

The first is: what amount of **park time/space** should be given over to organised sporting activity? We understand that pitch bookings in the future will continue to be managed by the quasi-public body, Edinburgh Leisure. We intend to engage with Edinburgh Leisure to discuss how overall pitch numbers and pitch use are publicly discussed, determined and monitored. As the park is increasingly hemmed-in by flood works (and possibly by development on the ice rink site) its importance as an open, green, public space will grow, as will discussions about its many uses.

The second is: how to improve **facilities** for organised sporting groups in the park? These are in a dire state and sensitive investment would be welcome. Unlike the question of pitches and bookings, there are public processes for such development, including planning. The cricket club once drew up plans for refurbishing the armoury, we have our own plans for the old toilet block, and we understand that Murrayfield Wanderers are still considering options for the location of a clubhouse. Our broad position on any such plans would be that the existing building heights are not exceeded in the centre of the park. More generally we anticipate these matters coming down to issues of location, scale, use and possibly ownership.

We have therefore worked to ensure that these matters are publicly aired, that the public nature of the park and land is understood, and that therefore public authorities take up their role as decision-makers, not bystanders. Friends of Roseburn Park would like to hear from all park stakeholders so we can ensure public discussion of these issues, whether the stakeholder is a group, campaign or individual.

Several people have written or discussed these matters in various forums. We are always delighted to receive copies of these discussions.

Rinkety Finc Link

The floodworks are not the only possible dramatic change to the park. Rick Finc Associates have put in a planning application notice for the development of the entire ice-rink, curling rink, and car park area. This is for 'residential and mixed use' development.

www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/ice-rink-development/

CycleWalk Plans

FoRP discussed plans to improve the separation of cyclists and walkers in the park with the City Council cycling team prior to their recently completed consultation on the issue. We proposed a trial separation close to the central junction in the park. And we publicised the official consultation. We await the results, but the ideas put forward by the team included improved lighting, a new planter to help avoid a blind-spot at the corner of the armoury, and lanes and other road-markings in that central area. More details on the website (18 October).



Funding FoRP

Hundreds of people brought and ate cake and participated in games this year. You can see all the people we needed to thank on the website (5 September). In addition to having fun we raised money for our ongoing costs (about £400 from the cakes and raffle and a £200 donation from Tesco from the mini-olympics). The summer disco broke even in spite of being held when most had just left on their holidays.

We usually ask in Autumn so a last reminder that you can donate securely online. See the 'Donate Online' on the website.



Park Vision and Consultation update

Our consultation on a new vision for the park received 141 individual responses and 189 children at Roseburn Primary School participated in class-based consultation. We also spoke to residents in local sheltered housing and at the Community Council, parent's groups at the school, and the police. Most popular ideas were a café, shelter with seating and new play park. You can see the full reports here:

[Links to website pages for vision and reports]

The children's consultation made some suggestions and the Council will seek to include a tunnel and a net roundabout as a result. The new play park is on the West Neighbourhood's Project List, which means that it will be considered for funding in due course .

The West Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Scheme will fund the costs of making a planning application for the refurbishment of the old toilet block, for which we have submitted a business plan to the City Council. And we are due to meet Council Officers about where other items might be located so we can seek funding for these.

The plan has been amended to take account of a range of feedback. We are no longer suggesting a BMX track round the perimeter of the park. Instead, we propose a white windust path for walkers around the west side's southern perimeter. Also unpopular were BBQ slabs and humps to slow down cyclists. Residents didn't want these because they said would represent a trip and wheelchair hazard. We are still exploring what to do with the current, to-be-vacated, playpark area. Suggestions so far include a sandy play area, a petanque piste, basketball hoops, and a shady garden.

There were some queries over the new playpark location at the AGM but we have met with school reps and parents since, who confirm that the west side is the best one. Fundraising is necessary, so grant applications are on the go. It will take a year to raise money, we expect, for the priority items (excluding the playpark): the café, trim trail items, shelters, tree seats and some alternative tree stock.

Keeping us Right

We currently have 275 members, about 10% of whom came to the AGM. The Board of Trustees is now John Yellowlees, Hamish Ross (Treasurer), Barbara Knowles (Secretary), Pete Gregson (Chairperson), Neil Gardiner and Valerie Forbes. All our governance detail is on the website (under 'Management Info').

And you can join for free, comment and stay in touch:

www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/

www.facebook.com/roseburnpark



Other updates

FoRP helped facilitate negotiations and thanks to the good offices of Cllr Ross the City Council agreed to clean up the **asbestos in the armoury** and this has now been done.

Thanks to a local resident's inspired campaign, some **trees** scheduled for destruction in the floodworks have been saved. FoRP are arguing for a better mix of replacement trees.

Jane Stevenson & Alette Willis retired as Trustees after contributing greatly to FoRP. **Thanks**, Alette and Jane!