

Friends of Roseburn Park Annual General Meeting 2021 Chair's Report

A few days ago, I read again the former Chair's report to the AGM last year. It talked about coronavirus casting a long shadow on our community. Sadly, that has continued in the intervening months.

However, unlike those dark days in 2020, there is light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccination roll-out is continuing and with it the return of what we used to call normal.

For us, that includes the return of organised sporting events including cricket, rugby and junior football. It has also been pleasing to see pupils and teachers from Roseburn Primary School taking to the park for class activities in addition to the various local community groups that have started using the park for keep fit classes, athlete bootcamps, dog training and a whole lot more.

Having now been in position for 12 months, I am disappointed that I have not chaired a meeting in person as they have all continued to be virtual. I hope soon they will start again so we can get together in person. This however has not inhibited significant progress being achieved in the past year. Thanks to the considerable efforts of our Trustees, hardworking volunteers and key stakeholders, I am pleased to report on the following successes:

Café Conversion

In July 2021 we received confirmation that City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) had agreed to part fund the refurbishment of the toilet block with a grant of £66,000. This added to the £13,365 we raised from public donations means we now have a total of £79,365 to finance all necessary works.

The Council award arrives thanks to our local Councillor, Frank Ross, who made sure that our scheme was included in CEC's "Placed Based Investment Programme".

There is much work for the Friends of Roseburn Park Management Committee now to do. We need to get our planning permission renewed and we need to get a building warrant. We need to get the lease finalised and an Operator Agreement put in place. As such, we have appointed a Principal Designer and Project Manager who will be responsible for finalising the design and drawings, making application to statutory bodies and producing a schedule of works for tendering purposes.

It is anticipated that completed tenders will be reviewed late October and contracts awarded in November for work commencing as soon as possible thereafter.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this important initiative. Without your generous donations we would not be able to look forward to having tea in the park next summer.

Ground Improvements to the western playing fields

March 16th 2021, saw the commencement of major works to the playing fields on the west side of Roseburn Park. This was a substantial investment in the general amenity of the park and designed to improve the rugby & cricket pitch surfaces and drainage.

Murrayfield Wanderers commissioned the £176,000 project to give more people access to sport and recreation at Roseburn Park. As well as upgraded surfaces, the new drainage system will tackle the flooding that has plagued the pitches in the west side of the park, leading to cancelled matches.

The new drainage system and quality natural grass surface mean the pitches will be open more days of the year, dramatically increasing playing capacity. Roseburn sits on the Water of Leith flood plain and heavy rainfall stops even casual use. Scottish Rugby provided £50,000 through its Club Sustainability Fund in a funding package agreed as part of the planning agreement struck with Edinburgh Council for the Edinburgh Rugby mini stadium on the back pitches at Murrayfield.

ForP anticipate the end result will be an enhanced asset for the whole community to enjoy – from the rugby and cricket clubs to dog walkers, joggers and other recreational users.

All works were successfully completed at the end of August and the new pitches formally ‘opened’ by The Lord Provost on Saturday 4th September. Murrayfield Wanderers celebrated the grand opening by hosting a weekend of rugby related activity which brought in over 300 visitors to the park. A marquee was erected to provide hospitality to visitors. Feedback from public was overwhelmingly positive, with social media responses saying how such events add to the sense of community.

Cherry Trees

Due to their age, 2 Cherry trees were taken down and replacements planted on the north side of the east playing fields. A further 2 Cherry trees were provided by a donation from Murrayfield Dafs Cricket Club and planted on the south side of the east playing fields as a memorial to Ian Shiels, who helped set up FoRP in the first place.

Sakura Project

As part of a UK – Japan Friendship Pact, FoRP applied for, and were granted, 30 Cherry trees donated by the Japanese Government. It is anticipated that these trees will be planted in the forthcoming tree planting season. They will mostly be planted alongside the main east-west pathway adjacent to the west playing fields. The trees will complement the existing cherry trees that are alongside the east playing fields.

Trees in general

A further 10 (or more) trees are to be planted within the Park over the next 2-3 years. These will fill in gaps left by Cherry trees that have died or are diseased. Or they will fill gaps where other trees have died or are diseased due to ash dieback or similar.

New Benches and BBQ slabs

We have 3 new benches and 6 new picnic slabs, thanks to a grant from the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership at the City of Edinburgh Council. It was terrific to observe them being very well used during the summer months.

In addition, we successfully applied to CEC for a new replacement bench near the park entrance at the doctor’s surgery which had been removed as part of the flood prevention works. This has now been installed and includes a plaque encouraging members of the public to join FoRP if they wanted to help with more park improvements.

Roseburn Park Walking Guide

Visitors to the park can now enjoy an amazing, illustrated and self-guided walking tour which is packed with history and points of general interest.

Researched and written by local resident Rosie Bell, beginning at the west entrance to the park at Roseburn Place, the guide features the stadium, the Armoury, the murals, the Murrayfield DAFs and Wanderers, the ice rink, curling and flood defences. The guide, which can be downloaded from the Friends' website, links to associated documents on the park's history as irrigated meadows, supporting the Dalry/Murrayfield mills and the Roseburn floods of April 2000.

Charles H Mackie – Commemorative Plaque

Murrayfield Community Council has provided and installed a plaque to commemorate local artist, Charles Hodge Mackie RSA RSW (1862-1920).

Charles H Mackie worked in an impressive range of media and became the first Chairman of the Society of Scottish Artists. His Coltbridge studio was in the Old Schoolhouse that stood on the opposite bank of the river from the east park on the site that is now Murrayburgh House.

ForP now has 271 members. A huge thank you to all those who have volunteered (members, supporters and organisations) over the past year. Not least to our park maintenance taskforce, ably led by Barbara Knowles, who ensures that our trees are kept watered during dry spells, that our bulbs are planted in time for a spring bloom and that the dozens of ongoing maintenance tasks are completed without fuss.

We have achieved a considerable amount of work. That is not to say that there is still not lots to do in the future.

The next 12 months will see us focus on:

- Managing the build of the new Café and having it in use by summer 2022.
- Taking delivery and planting of 30 new cherry trees.
- Progressing plans to refurbish the drinking fountain.
- Progressing our application to the War Memorials Trust for the Armoury to be given War Memorial status.
- Investigating the possibility of installing a path around the periphery of the east playing fields.
- Investigating the possibility of installing a petanque court in the east park.
- Investigating options for replacement of the old play park.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees and my fellow Management Committee Members for their support, contribution and commitment as without it none of the above would be possible.

Jim McDonough
Chair, ForP

FRIENDS OF ROSEBURN PARK (SCIO)
 Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC044659
 c/o John Yellowlees, 7 Roseburn Cliff, Edinburgh, EH12 6AL

Receipts and Payments Year to 30 June 2021

	Notes	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2019/20
Receipts					
Unrestricted donations	1	505.00	-	505.00	10.00
Donations (restricted)	2	-	1600.00	1,600.00	8,864.77
Fundraising		-	-	-	346.59
Grants	3	-	4,092.00	4,092.00	7,900.00
Trading Receipts		-	-	-	-
Payments					
Fundraising expenses		(285.37)	-	(285.37)	(131.09)
Charitable Purpose Payments	4,5,6	-	(6,806.98)	(6,806.98)	(3,638.09)
Annual Public Liability Insurance Cover		(99.31)	-	(99.31)	(99.31)
Bank Charges		-	-	-	-
Other Expenses		-	-	-	(159.00)
Cash surplus/(deficit) to End of Year		<u>120.32</u>	<u>(1,114.98)</u>	<u>(994.66)</u>	<u>13,093.88</u>

Statement of Balances at 30 June 2021

	Notes	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2019/20
Cash Balance					
Cash and Bank Balances at Start of Year		1,524.16	14,864.77	16,388.93	3,295.05
Surplus/(Deficit) Shown by Receipts and Payments		120.32	(1,114.98)	(994.66)	13,093.88
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
		<u>1,644.48</u>	<u>13,749.79</u>	<u>15,394.27</u>	<u>16,388.93</u>
Other Assets		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Working Balance		<u>1,644.48</u>	<u>13,749.79</u>	<u>15,394.27</u>	<u>16,388.93</u>

Notes – see over

Signed:



John Yellowlees (Treasurer)



Ann-Marie Jamieson (Independent Examiner)

9 August 2021

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Notes to Receipts and Payments and Statement of Balances for financial year ending 30 June 2021:

1. Evelyn Drysdale Foundation donation of £500 for revenue plus £5 from Amazon
2. Evelyn Drysdale Foundation donation of £1,500 for drinking fountain plus £100 from Murrayfield-DAFs cricket club for trees.
3. Edinburgh City Council grant award for benches and BBQ slabs
4. Payment to Irons Foulner and Craig Proudfoot for fountain design and Edinburgh Council for water test, leaving a balance of £937.10 for the fountain.
5. Payment to Edinburgh Council for water test, leaving a balance of £12,812.69 for the cafe.
6. Payment to TD Land Services for trees and to P1 solutions for benches and BBQ slabs

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any of the Charity Trustees during the period.

Signed:



John Yellowlees (Treasurer)



Ann-Marie Jamieson (Independent Examiner)

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