

## BACKGROUND TO TOILET BOCK BID

FoRP had been established by local volunteers in 2009 with one of its key aims being to either refurbish the toilet block or seek its demolition (even demolition would have cost £12,000). In 2012 FoRP began fundraising for a feasibility study for the renovation of the toilet block and the first study was published in 2013.

Originally, FoRP thought it would make a good community hub (ie meeting place), but as Murrayfield Parish Church developed improved facilities for community action groups, FoRP decided to seek local views on best use of the derelict building.

In April 2016, with the impending Council flood prevention scheme looming on the horizon FoRP held a local consultation with members, park users and the nearby Roseburn Primary School into what people wanted out of the park. The 141 people who responded in [their community survey of 2016](#) showed 89% supported the idea. comprised the following demographic: Pedestrian 72%, Cyclist 29%, Playground User 23%, Dog Walker 19%, Jogger 13%, Play team sport 6%, Home overlooks park 21%, Other 14%.

The suggestion to refurbish the toilet block into a café with an accessible public toilet drew the greatest response. 89% voted in favour of this, with 7% against (they wanted it demolished) and 4% neutral.

Comments such as:

“A cafe would bring the place to life and change the ambience for the better. Really want it to be a lovely green space in an urban environment.”

“Great to have the cafe in the park, ideally with some outside space to sit with a coffee in the sunshine.”

. - encouraged FoRP to decide to prioritise work on fundraising to create a cafe.

A revised design by architect in late 2016 by Craig Proudfoot got the ball rolling and in January 2017 Edinburgh Council gave planning permission for the development (since revised three times!). The feasibility study formed the basis for the café business plan, published for the first time in 2017.

Mike Williamson architectural draughtsman was commissioned in late 2017 to provide input when Craig was unavailable. Funding for the development work came through occasional grants from the Community Grants Fund at the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership- who also stepped in with a £700 grant to help make the building wind and watertight when it was clearly suffering.

The most recent Café Business Plan was updated in 2020 [and is available here](#).

## BACKGROUND TO THE FRIENDS OF ROSEBURN PARK

### HISTORY

At a meeting at the Murrayfield Hotel on 3 December 2009 a group of likeminded “friends” came together to formally constitute a Friends of Roseburn Park Group.

A joint project in Summer 2011 between CEC, FoRP saw a wonderful mural painted by local children and juniors from Murrayfield DAFS cricket club on the Roseburn Park armoury building. The workshop was facilitated by Kieron from Zap Grafitti Ltd .

FoRP became a registered charity in July 2012, as an SCIO, charity number SC044659, registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator OSCR [www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk) as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its current constitution can be downloaded at [www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/files/2019/10/FORP-constitution\\_REVISED\\_11Sept2019.pdf](http://www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/files/2019/10/FORP-constitution_REVISED_11Sept2019.pdf)

#### FORP OBJECTIVES

The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the public and users of the green space known as Roseburn Park in the City of Edinburgh.

#### FORP ACTIVITIES

FoRP work with the Council to instigate improvements to the park. This involves fundraising and project managing environmental improvement works such as:

- Mural on Armoury North Wall (2011): “Friends of Roseburn Park”
- Mural on Armoury West Wall (2019): “The Message Must Get Through”
- Carved ash log bench
- Flowerbeds and general monthly maintenance by FoRP taskforce team
- Planting several thousand daffodils and other bulbs (annually)
- Removing graffiti
- Refurbished the central planter and half-barrels
- Tree-planting
- All-weather ping-pong table and chess table
- Public clock on changing pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Painting railings
- Assisted with developing the new playpark
- Commissioned feasibility study into refurbishment of park drinking fountain
- Published occasional newsletters when significant change or consultation was required
- Run numerous surveys into what park users want
- Assisted local historian Rosie Bell to promote her [walking guide to the park](#)
- Organising fun days, carol singing, cake baking competitions, treasure hunts, outdoor film screening and a fundraising disco.

#### FORP BOARD

FoRP's current Board members are:

- Jim McDonough, Chair [chair@friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk)
- Barbara Knowles, Secretary [secretary@friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk)
- John Yellowlees, Treasurer
- Pete Gregson
- Frank Ross
- Iain Martin (Murrayfield DAFs Cricket Club)

Its most recent Annual Report is at [www.bcgwebdesign.co.uk/forp/files/2021/10/FoRP-Annual\\_ReportAccounts-2021.pdf](http://www.bcgwebdesign.co.uk/forp/files/2021/10/FoRP-Annual_ReportAccounts-2021.pdf)

#### OTHER FORP INFO

Website: [www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/roseburnpark](http://www.facebook.com/roseburnpark)

Registered address: c/o Pete Gregson, 27 Riversdale Grove, Edinburgh EH12 5QS

Membership is free: FoRP presently has 280 members and holds its AGM every September.

FoRP traditionally held its 6-weekly Board meetings and AGM at Murrayfield Parish Church, but since the start of the pandemic all meetings have been held on Zoom.