

Friends of Rocheid Path, (FRP)

Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of The Friends of Rocheid Path, held on Tuesday 25th October 2011 at Edinburgh Academy.

Present: Pam Barnes(PB); Andrew Hajducki(AH); Rose Pipes(RP); Helen Strachan(HS); Kath Davies(KD); Anna Guest(AG); Guy Cartwright(GC); Jennifer Johnstone(JJ); lesley Hatherday; Julie Eagle; Christine McLaren; Jean Butterworth; Ian Hooper; Joan Beattie; Stuart McKay; Gus Schwarz; Morag Lyell; Anne Hopper; Christine McNaughton; Tony Cook.

Apologies: Josie Inwood, Alan Small, Ian Cunningham, Catriona Macdermot, Caro Tulloch, Nick Bates, Olivia Bell, Pat Bryden, Roman Bojczuk.

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Stuart Mackay gave an update to the meeting. The foundations for the new Bell's Bridge should be in place in the next few weeks. Obviously Lagan were very dependent on the weather and at this stage it is difficult to give a date for when the reinstatement works will commence. He did indicate however that the council will put together a draft proposal in Feb/ March 2012 on which FORP would be given a chance to consult.

1. Adoption of Constitution

The constitution was adopted by a show of hands.

2. Appointment of Committee

Pam Barnes was elected as chair and Josie Inwood as secretary and Andrew Hajducki, Ian Cunningham, Anna Guest, Rose Pipes, Pat Bryden, Kath Davies, Helen Strachan and Ian Hooper were elected as committee members.

3. Topics of Concern

PB reported the items which had been identified by the committee members at previous meetings as being matters for concern with the main task being the reinstatement of the path after completion of the flood prevention works. A plan will be put forward by the Local Authority landscaping department but PB was anxious that FORP be given some input at this at an early stage. PB reported that she had walked the path with the Water of Leith Trust manager who had concurred with AG and Jonathan Hall as to the extent of work required. It was noted that some trees were dangerous and that urgent work was required. PB agreed to contact Paul Vine and Stephen Webley of the Local Authority to look into this. The Water of Leith Trust manager may be able to come and give a talk to the committee at some stage.

Action PB

Jennifer Johnston, the Park Ranger for North Edinburgh, reported that she had taken delivery of 10,000 snowdrop and bluebell bulbs that day and a date would need to be organised for their planting. She was meeting the Edinburgh Academy junior school the next day and would discuss this with them. GC undertook to arrange something with senior school pupils also. Jennifer reported that she would be able to get a task force to dig the holes so that the children would only need to plant the bulbs. A date for the planting would be organised by email.

It was agreed that IC should approach Stockbridge primary to see if they wished to become involved.

Action J, GC, IC

4. Going forward

PB stressed that the issues discussed were simply matters already thought of and if anyone wished to add to the list or raise any queries they should email her or come to the meetings which would be open to anyone.

Three further issues were added to the list of concerns.

1. The siting of the old pillars and gates of Bell's Bridge which have been retained and stored by Lagan.

2. Cathy also reported concerns that at a recent meeting she had attended it had been reported that the local fishermen were trying to sort out the managing of the river. PB arranged to contact either the Council or someone at the CraftyEye at Goldenacre to find out more information and see if this impacted on FORP.

3. AH reported that he was having difficulty in finding photographs of the path from around the 1950's and asked if anyone had snapshots at home. HS undertook to ask Andrew Fraser if he had any. Cathy suggested a letter be written to the Scotsman/Evening News asking for photos. AH.

Action HS/AH

5.Date of next meeting

TBA