Friends Group Meeting Weds 7th December
Waitrose Community Room 3-5 pm

Present: Gillean, Jonathan, Linda, Ellie, Kirsty, Liz, Mariana and Dave L
Apologies: Russell, Graeme, Isla, John G & Ally B

Correspondence – Mushroom Trust Letter of pending grant award towards walled garden access for community use and interpretive signage of Granton Castle site.

- Outcome, an agreement between EDI and the Friends Group is necessary for this funding award to be used to help make the garden accessible and install any signage.
- Action – KS to contact project assessor and discuss, add to EDI meeting agenda.

Previous Minutes and Updates - Minute approved.

19th Nov Archaeology conference at QMU - very useful in helping raise awareness of the Walled Garden story amongst enthusiasts and experts in local history. New members attracted and good contacts made including the archaeology firm AOC which carried out recent site explorations on land adjacent to the walled garden, (plot N).
22nd Nov Economy Committee – papers submitted and motion passed available online; webcast excerpt of unanimous support verdict in our November wordpress post.
https://grantoncastlewalledgarden.wordpress.com/2016/11/24/grantons-lost-castle-garden-safe-and-set-to-reopen/
24th Nov Workstream meeting with John G – apologies for this meeting, John is working on some information for the group. Linda and Mariana have begun a section under the heading History and Archaeology, Kirsty under 'Horticuture – best of old and new'.
29th Nov Historic Environment Scotland field archaeology training day. 'Finding Granton's lost Castle' – well attended day and good feedback from new members - City archaeologist and HES team confirmed the finds on the day: of note a surviving window edge from the castle outbuilding complex, and Thomas Hope's front garden gateway position.

North corner of the medieval castle courtyard

Social Bite Meeting Update - 2nd Dec, meeting attended by Linda, Graeme, Ellie and Kirsty.

Ellie prepared a synopsis of the points of agreement between the Friends Group and Social Bite following our meeting with Josh Littlejohn.
Outcome – Those who attended felt it was a good introductory meeting with many shared aims and outlooks on the future of the walled garden. Discussion of the health and wellbeing benefits it could bring to local people and groups visiting and working in the garden, like Social Bite's planned

residential village next door.
Action – keep communications open with Josh, updating of any progress or ideas which may be of shared interest, and add contact to the Friends Group mailing list.

Access Progress – Some questions answered since the 24th Nov.

Apologies from Graeme. Ellie updated on plans, design drawings and other tasks identified with John G on the 24th November as necessary for the planning application.
Outcome – everyone realised the application process (8-12 weeks) needed would mean the likely door in place by the end of March at the soonest. (delays for horticultural work likely..)
Action Ellie drew up a detailed list of things needing done to create a new access through the steel shuttering for discussion at upcoming meeting with EDI. Kirsty added a few indicative plan images of the walled garden and planned access position in relation to the former castle site.

Upcoming EDI Meeting 13th December, 2pm at Madelvic House

Correspondence from Denise was circulated along with the attachment sent outlining the phases of our community proposal to EDI, judgement criteria they use, and a rough timetable of events for next year including a business plan drafted by mid-summer.
Outcome – The 'access' workgroup will proceed with this meeting along with our advisor solicitor John Glover to discuss agreement type.
Action – Kirsty to forward relevant paperwork to Denise as requested on Monday. Graeme, Ellie, Kirsty & John G to attend.

AOMA

Linda and Mariana reported back on attending 'Side by Side' event at which our achievements as Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden were displayed on the Wall of Success. A thankyou to Gillean for putting this together and Linda and Mariana for their time.

Latest research history find – charter from Malcolm IV dated before 1165 granting lands of Grendun aka Granton to the Melville family. A juicy tale of land, rank and influence in medieval Scotland to unravel!

Not recorded at the meeting as we ran out of time
Visit to the RBGE Scottish furnituremakers exhibition. Very inspiring and beautiful pieces made from timber salvaged after the storm, from fallen trees in the botanics. Hope to use this sustainable craft model to make something useful from any trees we fell inside or just beside the walled garden. Some very good advice on when to fell, milling, seasoning and storing timber for furniture making given.

The 'unstable' stool

Met the Bread Matters team doing a delicious and aromatic demonstration using their heritage wheat flour. Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden welcome to join in with Scotland the Bread scheme in 2017. Fundraising needed to undertake baking classes at Macbiehill farm.

Next meeting yet tba. Likely at the start of January when folk are rested and ready for the new year.