

Friends Group General Meeting 26th January Royston Wardie Community Centre, 6-8pm

Present Liz, Gillean, Jonathan, Gillean, Russell, Aden (1st meeting new member), Linda, Mariana, Kirsty, Tahl K, Katherine, Lucille, Yasir, Sarah, Jason

Apologies, Sue, Graeme, Ellie, Isla and Ally B.

Introductions around the room for new members and visitors, tea and cake. A welcome was extended to the students alongside Tahl Kaminer, senior lecturer in Architectural Design and Theory from Edinburgh University. They were happy to sit through the meeting and ask questions at the end. Ellie's large scale plan and other leaflets were on display.

1 Previous minutes edited via e-mail by those present, circulated for discussion along with agenda for meeting.

Approved and subject of group members visit to the walled garden of interest to all there.

Action - ongoing meetings and negotiations with developers EDI around temporary access, community use of the garden, health and safety issues. (9th February next meeting, Russell expressed an interest in attending future meetings even if just to listen).

2 Slideshow of photos showing the walled gardens current condition raised a number of interesting questions.

What areas of the garden could we get access to first with the Friends Group this spring?

Where would the new doorway be going in?

What could people do in the garden when they visit?



Granton Castle Walled Garden from above

The image on the left is an overhead autumnal view of the oldest area of Granton's wonky Walled Garden. Some areas of interest noted where work could start.

Scrubby vegetation has invaded much of the garden but the developers are kindly clearing some areas of birch saplings on our behalf, before the bird nesting season begins. 1 & 3 in green.

Update – following the Madelvic House meeting on the 9th Feb with developers there has been a slight change to their plans: a new access point proposed through the old steel shuttering rather than re-opening the original doorway in the listed stone wall. Faster?

Action – Denise to forward their plans to our Access team (Graeme and Ellie C) for their input.

3 EDI meeting report - 17th January

Outcome – Linda, Jonathan, Gillean, Graeme, Mariana, Ellie and Kirsty attended. Points were raised about the need for more group members to be able to access the walled garden for the first time to enable participation in decisions and plan making.

- A request was made for an extension in the time for a business plan to be produced – end of October.
- Mushroom Trust Grant suggested uses to be interpretive signage near the doocot : to help

identify the existing walled garden and former Granton Castle site to passers by using the cycletrack and footpath to the beach. Remainder of fund it was suggested could be put towards creating the new access door for community use.

Decision by group members that everyone agreed in principle with this idea, with a request for input on EDI's plans being drawn up for the access and costs involved.

Possible digital info-point: being researched by Historic Environment Scotland on our behalf through their contacts at Napier University. Cost as yet unknown.

Action – further meeting arranged for 9th February. - see update above under point 2.

4 Horticultural Planning & events for the walled garden in 2017?

So far Kirsty, Ellie C, Isla, Ally B and Jonathan involved in this group. Mariana and Tom interested if they have time, particularly heritage, legume and unusual crops. More people welcome to join in.

- Diagrammatic representation of headings so far circulated. Feedback from Denise good and some progress on the tasks 'services', 'outbuildings' and 'site prep'.
- Suggestions of drought resistant crops and perhaps [Hugel Beds](#) using some of the felled birch and cleared scrub. (no water supply currently in the garden)

Feedback from the Botanic Garden nursery visit very positive. A large group attended the visit hosted by expert market gardener Ben, receiving good advice and information on possible annual crops for the walled garden.

Action – await more detailed schedule of works from EDI, dates and phased access details for the walled garden ~end of April.

Alasdair to let us know when EDI's maintenance team has completed requested birch clearance. Ongoing discussion of what we could do once inside the garden!

5 Business Plan and other Workstream headings

Business Plan – consideration of professional help as time constraints for individuals in the group.

Governance – training day on the 4th March – interested Kirsty, Linda, Gillean, and Russell.

History and Archaeology – currently Mariana, Linda, Jonathan and Gillean – meeting on 7th Feb

Funding – Greenspace Scotland thematic crowdfunding, help offered by MyPark Scotland with launch on Feb 14th of the community growing section - Linda and Kirsty to attend meeting with advisor, Gillean to help with editing of proposal and Ellie to create flier.

- Decision by group to try crowdfund for initial needs and facilities to allow early involvement of local people and visitors inside the walled garden, possibly some early growing. Marquee for gatherings and activities, polytunnel and a water supply into the garden to start with to allow some growing together.

6 AGM planning – 2 to 3 hours needed?

Discussion of possible venues and costs.

Decision to go with free venue if possible, and use funds to provide food and refreshments for attendees. Make a fuss over all the recent changes and imminent re-opening of the walled garden to visitors after ten years.

Date: Saturday 11th March (updated date from original discussed, 25th Feb, due venue difficulties)

Venue: North Edinburgh Arts – Studio 1

Time: 10.30-11.30 Formal bit which is optional for members. Chair and treasurers reports, plans

and updates. Nomination and acceptance of committee and office bearers for 2017.

11.30-12.30ish Public gathering: light refreshments and snacks(cold), local apple juice taster, teas and coffees. Informal chat, exhibition of community plans so far for the walled garden, ways to join in, question and answer session, free membership!

Action – Linda to prepare cold snacks, Kirsty to tweak old flier. Another FG meeting needed before to discuss format of the meeting, others helping on the day, what to display.

AOB January/February dates

Tuesday 31st Jan 2-3 pruning and hardwood cuttings at North Edinburgh Arts

Weds 1st Febst Mypark crowdfunding discussion with Ea.

Friday 3rd 2.30-4 Wassail at North Edinburgh Arts

Tuesday 7th History branch meet – tasks in the workstream

Thursday 9th EDI meeting

Saturday 11th Butterfly Conservation training day

20th -24th Openspace and other Green ideas: exhibition and discussion around ideas for the new North West locality community plans.

Saturday 4th March – Governance training day – four group members so far

Next meeting date tba