

# FOMBL PROJECT UPDATE 26th September 2024

## **1. HISTORY/INFORMATION PANELS FOR MEADOWS AND BRUNTSFIELD LINKS PROJECT**

The project is now on track to be completed, hopefully in the Spring next year, after a thorough review of all 8 panels at a meeting on 25th September with Neil Roger, Graeme Cruickshank, Silke Schneider and Fiona Rankin at Edinburgh World Heritage.

## **2. PLAYGROUNDS**

The new log house continues to be a big success with plenty of local appreciation and use. The required signage still to be finalised and fixed to railings.

The archimedes screw water feature is still to be installed at the East Meadows playground after breaking down over 8 years ago. The lack of action is partly due to limited staff availability.

New equipment at the sand area is being installed to replace unsafe units.

Alan Grevers (CEC playgrounds) has asked us to come up with ideas for a replacement for the slide at Links playground, which was removed in the spring. NR has proposed several options after public consultation. Further details can be provided by NR. Local councillors have agreed to meet to discuss proposals.

## **3 TREE GROUP**

The Tree Group, which has been formed into a FoMBL sub-committee, has met every Friday throughout the year.

Work has included watering, clearing growth from under young trees and mulching.

The new hedgerow planting at the Links and North Meadow Walk, completed at the beginning of the year, requires about 400 trees/bushes to replace dead ones. Trees have been ordered from the Woodland Trust and planting will occur in November with the help of local school children. Further similar hedgerow planting has been put on hold whilst the new Meadows and Bruntsfield Links management plan is being updated.

**Watering has been a long term problem due to a lack of integrated maintenance after planting new trees. Recently Parks staff have managed to water some young trees using funding approved after requested by councillor Ben Parker. FoMBL tree group watered new trees during critical periods with the use of bowsers and hoses.**

## **4 WILDFLOWER MEADOWS**

### **South Links (Muriel Spark Walk meadow)**

We have been very pleased with the excellent spread of wildflowers and grasses growing at the South Links Wildflower Meadow (Muriel Spark Walk), due partly to abundant rain in May which is usually a very dry month. Regular volunteers including Alastair Philp, Neil Roger, Martin Howarth, Anke Bremer, Alistair Cant, Clive Kempe, Amanda and family have been active carrying out removal of invasive plants such as nettles, docks and rosebay willow herb. The ongoing work will include watering and removal of invasive plants as well as planting additional wildflowers and herbs.

Recently large areas of nettle and creeping thistle roots have been dug out from the side of the path railing. This will enable us to plant wildflowers as well as flowering bushes to increase the diversity of pollinating plants for insects and birds.

## **5 MOWING**

There has been an abundance of wildflowers growing where mowers would normally have cut in the summer. We hope that in future mowing will be more limited to central areas although grass still should be cut at the correct time. So far we have not been able to agree a detailed mowing plan, despite a big effort by David Kyles to persuade mowers to plan for future cuts. It is hoped further discussions can be held with mowing managers and park staff.

## **6 VOLUNTEERS**

### **Saturday volunteers**

Alison Carr has run the volunteer group every month and they have cleared huge amounts of litter, leaves and 'weeds' as well as removed graffiti and other worthwhile tasks. A new sign to invite more volunteers will be placed at the Cricket Pavilion.

### **Tree Group volunteers**

The tree group have worked every Friday from 1.30 pm, as well as on other days, when available.

## **7. TABLE TENNIS TABLE at Eric Liddell Way**

**A CEC community grant has been applied for to install a new table tennis table near to existing exercise units adjacent to Eric Liddell Way. This proposal has been welcomed by the community, especially after the huge success of the table installed near the East Meadows playground. Donations have been given by the Black Ivy Hotel and JR Group.**

## **8. NEW TOILETS AT THE MEADOWS**

Proposed new toilets are clearly welcomed. FoMBL has taken part in over 6 meetings throughout the year with the Thriving Green Spaces team who have now chosen a location at the south end of Middle Meadow Walk. The toilet building will contain a small store for FoMBL equipment and an outside tap to help with tree watering. Unfortunately the original installation date of June 2024 has now been put forward to spring/summer next year. This was partly due to the restrictions of the Confirmation Act which prohibits all new building on the Meadows, except toilets and bandstands.

A refreshment kiosk had been included in the design, so this has now been omitted.

Further chance to comment on the design can be made prior to the planning submission.

## **9. JAWBONES**

Recently a specialist bone conservator was commissioned to examine the possibility of erecting the bones which had been preserved last year but found to be structurally unstable.

If this attempt fails then it is hoped that a replica could be erected after feasibility studies have been made. Whatever the outcome an information panel will commemorate the history of this historic and much loved feature which stood for 135 years at the entrance to Jawbone Walk.

## **10 BARCLAY TERRACE/ GLENGYLE TERR.**

Heather Goodare (FoMBL past convenor) has donated £1000 towards improving the worn corner at Glengyle Terrace. At a meeting with Heather, NR and David Kyles it was agreed to fill the muddy hollows with fine whin dust which makes a smooth compact surface and should improve the condition of this long worn corner considerably. All are keen to complete this project which started in 2012.

## **PLANNED AND PROPOSED FUTURE PROJECTS**

- 1. Prepare a long term plan to show areas of hedgerow/copse planting throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.**
- 2. Prepare a plan to show areas of reduced mowing and agree with David Kyles**
- 3. Assist in practical work at Cricket Pavilion**
- 4. Continue to maintain and plant new trees including watering**
- 5. Design and install a new sign at the Links play area to acknowledge FoMBL and Forbes nursery.**
- 6. Organise and prepare for autumn planting with assistance from David Kyles and Callum Maclellan**
- 7. Propose new play equipment.**
- 8 Add more exercise equipment to augment existing**
- 9. Augment and increase the areas of wildflower areas depending on volunteer resources and overall approved management plan.**

Neil Roger. 1st October 2004

