

An item in the Spring 2010 Outlook proposed "that BBQs could be an 'improvement' to Bruntsfield Links" I would like to provide evidence that such provision, whether on the grass or slab areas, would be detrimental to the Meadows and Bruntsfield Golf Links and cause distress to local residents.



On summer weekends and evenings the smoke from countless BBQs wafts across the grass and over Melville Drive. In one evening 54 separate BBQ burn clusters were counted.



Each group of BBQers spreads across the grassed area jostling for space with those playing golf, cricket, tennis, and football or just enjoying the sun (through a smoked haze) with a picnic or in the play parks, all more traditional uses for what is primarily a recreational area.



How are a few slabs going to cope with the current level of demand, when BBQs burn from brunch/lunch/dinner into darkness. One golf green has a burn cluster, so what will prevent overspill in to areas set aside for less polluting, damaging and anti social activities? Consideration must be given to the residents whose homes surround the areas. Have they to put up with smoke all summer long wafting through their windows or are they expected to keep them shut? And what of traffic having to drive through this hazard. These scenes on sunny days are repeated multiple times across the grass and represents a blight in this historic area. Providing a few BBQ slabs will not address the issues of damage, destruction and pollution as documented here.



Three of these abandoned trays were still very hot and the bricks did not stop burn marks. Surely a Health and Safety Issue here.



At least this hot BBQ tray is now in the bin which luckily did not catch fire. Damage like this is there for all to see.

Concrete slabs—Edinburgh Council's present action to the BBQ problem. Are BBQers, fifty-four counted in one evening, expected to queue to use the six slabs provided on the Meadows and what happens to the used hot foil trays if they can be picked up, to allow others can use this facility.....placed on the grass to cool..... or use that plastic litter bin? Plus a smoke screen across Melville Drive could be sent from here. Three hundred burn clusters were counted in June 2010

Management Rules No 3/11 for Public Parks states fires and BBQs are prohibited. Instead of encouraging BBQ use by introducing slabs, a concentrated effort by Council Environmental and Health & Safety Teams, Police and Fire Service personnel should engage with the BBQers to enforce this bye-law using a fire extinguisher or fire blanket and then new signs put up saying 'BBQs will be extinguished' which local residents could refer to — the message will soon get through when they are asked to remove their food and the BBQ is immediately extinguished that.... "yes people do have the right of access and to roam the park, but they do NOT have the right to damage, destroy and pollute".

Audrey J Simon, August 2010