

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

MEDIA INFORMATION

For immediate release

Save our Meadows!

Southside, Tollcross, Merchiston and Marchmont-Sciennes Community Councils are all backing the efforts of the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links to persuade the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership to look after this great treasure of South Central Edinburgh for all Edinburgh citizens and our many visitors.

We are asking the City of Edinburgh Council not to license any large events on the Meadows this summer, and also not to go ahead with any plans to replace grass with an artificial events surface.

1. **Our Events Strategy** is based on a desire to maintain the Park in good condition in the long term, and to encourage its good and healthy use at all times.
2. Events that meet this aim are to be encouraged and would have our support, **but not those that cause damage and loss of amenity.**
3. Events therefore should only be allowed which reflect this aim, and in particular there should be **no use of heavy vehicles, or equipment and structures requiring mechanical erection.**
4. Events that involve fenced-off areas and loss of public access **should not last more than five days, including set-up and take-down times, and should only be held at least one month apart, and certainly not back to back, nor between October and April.**
5. **Our greatest concern relates to the over-use of the area east of Middle Meadow Walk, particularly but not exclusively during the Festival.**
6. At times there has been a considerable residential presence on the Meadows. We consider that there should be **no over-night occupation.**
7. In order to obtain these benefits, there should always be present **a clear system of supervision and responsibility.**

We call on members of the public to support our campaign to keep the Meadows in good condition and preserve this wonderful amenity for future generations in a responsible manner. The over-use of the site for commercial benefit does not sit comfortably with the aim of preserving the Meadows as a recreational ground for the citizens of Edinburgh, as well as for our visitors. We have a responsibility to conserve our heritage of beautiful open spaces, created by the foresight of previous generations.

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The photograph below by Hilary McDowell shows the East Meadows after the Urban Circus in 2008.



NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links were set up by the local Community Councils in 2001. They hold at least three public meetings a year, and publish a newsletter that appears before each meeting.

A few committee members serve on the Meadows Short-Life Working Group convened by the City of Edinburgh Council.

A twelfth-century charter provides for use of land for the ‘common good account’. Under the Edinburgh Improvement Act of 1827, certain lands are protected for common use. In 1878 the Borough Loch was finally drained, to provide the Meadows, which became ‘common good land’.

For further information please contact:

Chris Wigglesworth, Acting Convener, Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, Tel. 0131 228 6335. Email wiggles.t21@btinternet.com

Hamish McKenzie, Secretary & Acting Treasurer, Tel. 0131 229 6055.

Email Hamish@bruntsfield7.freeserve.co.uk Website: www.fombl.org.uk