

## **Fisherrow Waterfront Group**

### **Notes from meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Members Present - Aileen Grant, Fiona McNeilly, Dennis Walton, Clive Andrew, John Williamson, David Purdie, Liz Johnston

In attendance - Kaela Scott, Fraser McAllister, John Banks, Gordon Brown

Apologies - Laura Young, Gaynor Allen, Shirley Banks, Helen Bruce, Jan Wallace, Betty Ramsden,

#### **1) Minutes from the previous meeting**

Approved as accurate – moved Aileen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fiona

#### **2) Matters Arising**

The Fisherrow Beach Bathing application was submitted on 1 September. Receipt has been acknowledged. We expect a SEPA panel to consider the document in October. If approved a proposal will be put to the Minister in November, with an outcome expected early 2013.

The Community Centre Open Day went ahead on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Kaela and Laura attended. Information was distributed from stand. A display was made of the beach bathing application. There was significant local interest.

#### **Tennis Club**

John Banks & Gordon Brown were welcomed to the meeting. They are local residents who are opposed to a proposal to develop tennis courts on the Links.

The Musselburgh Tennis Club's proposal and feasibility study was circulated prior to the meeting. It should be stressed that at this point, the document is nothing more than a proposal, but the proposal does state that Fisherrow links is preferred site for the new tennis courts. It came as a surprise to a number of members of the group that Musselburgh currently has tennis courts (in Lewisvale Park). In general, it was noted that these are, neither well signposted nor well publicised. In any event, they need to be replaced. The existing site is still a possible venue, although not the preferred venue

John and Gordon introduced their opposition to the proposal stating that the Links is Common land, which locals in their group would like to see remain as a links. The proposal for 4 courts is already a concern for them, the prospect of further expansion is of even greater concern.

The proposal also contains plans for floodlights, although there is assurance that these will create no leakage. If this is the case, then this should not create a problem for the housing around Lewisvale, where is still space for 4 courts are Lewisvale.

Areas of open space are already at half the ELC recommended levels (if Levenhall Links is excluded from the Musselburgh Cluster. Levels of open space are already significantly lower than in other EL towns.

David stated that he believed that the Links should remain the Links. Lewisvale park is neglected and would benefit from the investment. Additionally, it is close to an enormous target market in the pupils of Musselburgh Grammar School.

The Links pitch and put course will be compromised by the current proposals. John and Gordon are opposed to the building of structures (courts, fencing, etc) on the Links. Proposal to use Bowling Green clubhouse have been shelved. Bowling green is municipal building and ELC may still be deliberating on access rights.

Aileen Grant raised possible issues for the local ecology. The grassy area immediately by the sea creates a unique environment for this stretch of coastline and attracts a very specific group of birds. It is potentially an important area from an ornithological perspective – this should at least be checked out.

The question of the high winds across the Links was raised and where the needs of the sports specific needs fit into the feasibility study, beyond the physical space access needs. Tenniscotland strategy will certainly look to grow grassroots membership and develop the base of their performance pyramid, not least off the back of recent successes for Andy Murray.

The general mood of a depleted group, was that there was concern about negative impact on the Links. Some who had sent their apologies had also expressed similar sentiments prior to the meeting.

### **3) Approval of New Members**

3 new applications for membership have been received. These were accepted.

### **4) Future Plans – next steps**

Now that the constitutional issues have been dealt with it is time to return our focus to project work and establish the key areas of work that FWG wish to progress over the coming months.

There was a brief reminder of progress so far:-

Now almost a year since the dogwatch event, were reminded to continue to report offender to wardens. Perhaps a leaflet could be drawn up with which to approach offenders to highlight the issues and potential consequences.

Now that the beach bathing application is in there is little more to be done on this until an outcome is received from SEPA, not expected until the New Year.

Potential funding options were highlighted to enable the groups to consider the options, against achievable income streams. Three projects are outlined against funding streams below:-

- Project to replace wooden seating in harbour area
- Community activity with a local historical relevance
- Progressing use of the drawings done of the area immediately in front of the harbor to start a conversation in the community and get a sense of community support or concern regarding the idea

In addition to these three projects, road safety on the promenade was highlighted as a fourth work strand. This requires engagement from the ELC transport department.

Finally, coastal erosion issues were also raised. These may not all be issues that this group can tackle, but we are in a position to lobby and ask questions as individuals and perhaps lend our group support to others, better placed to pursue these bigger issues.

**Action:** ALL – please consider all of these project areas and decide which subgroup you would most like to contribute to.

Next meeting – big visions, what we want to do and who we might support.

## **5) Funding Possibilities**

### a) ELC Civic Pride

We are encouraged to apply for this grant from the council, as a group who have not benefited previously. Funding in the region of £10k might be achievable. This money is for local capital projects. As an example, the railings at Shorthope Street, where the swans congregate, were funded by a Civic Pride award. This fund invited applications twice each year.

During the recent walk to inspect the harbour area a number of issues had been highlighted. Some of these – weed and sand removal – are ELC issues. These should be followed up. However, items such as the seating may be removed by the council, but might not immediately be replaced.

Other potential capital items are a community notice board and showers. The boardwalk idea was revisited, but considered too big, and potentially controversial, a job to be considered in this immediate funding round.

After some discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the renewal of the wooden seating and possibly a notice board, not least to ensure that the work of the group in renewing the seating is publicised. There may be scope for selling memorial plaques on the new seating as a means of generating more capital for the project.

**Action:** Kaela to follow up on application details and submission deadline. Also to raise queries with respect to the tender process if the work is awarded. Finally, to ask Helen Bruce to communicate plans to the Harbour user group.

It would be desirable if local firms were able to be competitive in the tender process. It may also be the case that that ELC staff might carry out the work. Some pointing work will also be required before board can be properly replaced.

**Action:** Dennis to scope the job

#### b) Big Lottery - 2014 Communities

This fund is for projects designed to get people active. It targets a healthy lifestyle rather than more formal sports activity. Grants are in the region of £500 - £2k. Ideally the event/activity should target any of the following – under 5s, women, disabled, 50+.

The suggestion is to hold an event in May 2013 in the waterfront area. We would like to target younger children (pre-school/primary) and their parents. The event should involve a fun activity and have links back to the community and the waterfront area.

Initial thoughts are around an obstacle course based around a fishing theme – under cargo net, carrying basket, etc. We should utilise the knowledge in the group of what working life in the fishing industry was like – a more active lifestyle than today. Could extend to a wider beach event, potentially with water-based activity also.

**Action:** Subgroup to be formed to develop ideas and funding application – volunteers please.

#### c) Community Engagement Small Grants Scheme

Grants of up to £500. Applications to be in by 1<sup>st</sup> November.

This would be ideal to begin a proper consultation on the drawings we already have. Discussions centered around an “open day” event – perhaps more than one day – in the waterfront area to test the proposals. This needs to be well manned to maintain information flow and reassure all that these are only proposals at this stage. Looking for potential (free) venues: Fisherrow Yacht Club? The Quay? The next stage might involve the Brunton Hall, but this would also need to be staffed at all times.

Costs to leaflet drop the area are around £200 – Kaela to confirm

**Action:** Kaela to write up proposal and get documentation printed (she will be in Australia all of November). Target February for launch month. Draft application to be presented at the next meeting.

**Action:** Grant application by 1<sup>st</sup> November. Open weekend with drawings and group personnel. The concourse of Brunton hall might be an option. Quayside is neutral.

**Action:** Aileen to make gentle enquiries at The Quay about the possible use of a room there.

## **6. AOCB**

Volunteering workforce wish to do another beach clean on – 3rd October. Group happy to see that happen. Will enquire is FYC can be used as base again.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 7.30