

Friends of Rocheid Path, (FORP)

Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of The Friends of Rocheid Path, held Monday 11th June at Stockbridge Library

Present: Pam Barnes(PB); Josie Inwood(JI); (CT); Ian Cunningham(IC); (RP); Joan Beattie(JB); Ian Hooper(IH); Gus Schwarz(GS); Pat Bryden(PBR); Liz Law(LL)

1. Apologies: Anna Guest, Kath Davies, Rose Pipes, Caro Tulloch, Cathy Bell,

2. Minutes of last meeting approved.

3. Matters arising

No further progress on the removal of the 2 trees at the West Gate, or the further clearance of ivy from the trees between the path and the river. Both jobs are in the queue.

No response from RBGE about choice of fruit trees.

The final draft of the plan, drawn up by IH has been circulated to councillors and various individuals within the CEC. There has been a positive response from Ritchie Fraser (RF) and Stephen Cuthill(SC), both of whom have met PB on site and walked the path to discuss the long term plan. The 4 councillors representing the Inverleith ward are willing to meet with FRP on site, PB to liaise with Lesley Hinds(LH) to arrange this.

The proposal to build a storage building behind the lodge at the Falshawe Bridge is to be revisited following our objections and LH will support us in our suggestion that the demountable flood defence barriers should be stored at the depot site in Inverleith Park.

IC said that the colonies residents had been informed that the new bridge would be lifted into place tomorrow, Tuesday. At the time of writing I am happy to report that this indeed has happened, and very nice it is too. (well I think so anyway)

Action PB

4. The Triangle

There was a long discussion about the triangle area, with a big plan of the area on the table in front of us. IH made the point that the proposals we put to the CEC will be examined, and accepted or rejected by CEC. We need to get our proposals to them and they will decide if they are feasible. There is no point in us fretting over H & S issues; we are not in a position to decide, only to propose. Eventually, we all decided that a site meeting was required to help us visualise our ideas. In particular, it would be useful to walk the riverbank where we are proposing the continuation of the path from the West Gate to the Falshawe Bridge(FB). This meeting took place Tuesday 12/6 at 2pm, attended by PB, JI, IC, PBR, JB and GS. JI agreed to make a detailed drawing, based on the river plan, showing our idea of a path connecting the West Gate to the area in front of Reid Terrace, thereby making the path continuous as far as FB. The plan should also show that a gate at the side of the FB would allow walkers to cross the road and take up the Water of Leith Walkway again, with minimum contact with the road.

The site meeting made it all a bit clearer. There is one bit of the proposed extension where the path may stray too close to the river to keep H&S happy but that could be addressed by a short stretch of railings. In order to include the triangle area in this, we looked at how existing railings could be moved, or in some cases removed. JI will incorporate all this in her plan. **Action JI**

5. Notice boards

The first notice board has been installed at the West Gate and JI placed the first notice on it this afternoon, a simple request for anyone who wanted to become a Friend of the Rocheid Path to email us.

JI will contact Helen Brown at Water of Leith Walkway Trust to suggest a brown sign at the end of Inverleith Terrace Lane, indicating that Rocheid Path can be accessed from there. **Action JI**

6.Long Term Plan

We discussed which part of the plan we should address next, now that progress on the triangle is being made. IC suggested the holly trees at the West Gate. When the Rocheid Path was laid out in 1890, these 12 trees, known as the 12 disciples, were part of that original plan. In the old days they were kept well trimmed but in recent years have become overgrown, misshapen and have lost their looks. If they were pollarded, and brought back under control it would greatly improve the appearance of the path on entering. It would create the impression of a well cared for park and would not be very difficult or costly to achieve. With the trees reduced in size there would be room to place a few benches for people to sit in what is a sunny spot.

IH was keen that the laurels at the East end of the path get some attention but agreed that it was natural that everyone would have different priorities.

7 .Date of next meeting Monday 23rd July, 18:30 at Stockbridge Library.