



THE FEDERATION OF  
EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT  
ALLOTMENTS AND  
GARDENS ASSOCIATIONS

### ***Management Committee Meeting***

***7.15pm on 2nd September 2014 at Inverleith Allotments***

**Present:** Stuart MacKenzie - Inverleith (**SMcK**) (Acting Chair) : Ernie Watt - Cambridge Avenue (**EW**) (Secretary) : John McKinlay - Craigentenny (**JMcK**) : Gilbert Clark - Midmar (**GC**) : Maureen Edwards - Lady Road (**ME**) : Rik Hart - Warriston (**RH**) : Paul Kerr - Redhall (**PK**) : Patrick Gibb - Dumbryden (**PG**) : Dave Roberts - Restalrig (**DR**) : Liz Grace - Midmar (**LG**) (observer) : Neiria McClure - Claremont Park (**NMcC**) (observer) : Willie Aitken - Carrick Knowe (**WA**) (observer) : Jake Booth - Carrick Knowe (**JB**) (observer) : Ian Woolard - City of Edinburgh Council Allotments Officer (**IW**).

**1. Apologies:** Brian Bleakley - Midmar (**BB**) : Peter Wright - Lady Road (**PW**) : Barbara Seel - Leith Links (**BS**) : John Gray - Warriston (**JG**). In **PW**'s absence, it was **AGREED** that **SMcK** take the Chair

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**3. Allotment Officer's Report:** **IW** addressed the Report he had circulated. Two new sites have been opened: 16 plots of around 100 square metres each at Northfield Drive and phase 2 of the Drumbrae site. There is as yet no water supply at Northfield but this will be addressed in due course. The water supply to Drumbrae will be connected in October. The water supply to Baronscourt is now operational.

The Council's Asbestos Officer has issued guidance for allotment holders on what to do if they encounter asbestos on their plot. This has been posted on the website and will be noted in the Newsletter. **DR** asked what members on independently run sites should do. He was told they should contact the Asbestos Officer directly.

The officer who was to compile the Wall Survey is now unavailable due to reorganisation. When asked if any work had been done on this issue, **IW** replied that an visual inspection was made. He will progress the issue and report back to next month's meeting. **ACTION - IW**.

**IW** said that some fencing orders had been issued, the greatest being at Warriston. The next largest order was to resurface the potholed areas on the access path at Lady Road. He said that around £10K is left of the budget and expenditure is on track. **DR** queried expenditure for strimming at Baronscourt. **IW** said this is a one-off item.

**IW** said the greatest number of complaints was with regard to trees overhanging or shading plots. He is making steady progress with this, but not as quickly as anticipated due to staff redeployment outwith his control. Work will commence this week at Inverleith, followed by Redhall and Midmar. Due to delays he is prepared to get a quote from a private contractor. **JMcK** said that Edinburgh Leisure, who operate the golf course next to Craigentenny, have refused to cut the trees overhanging and shading the allotment. **IW**

proposed that he arrange to deal with this. He also said he had identified trees requiring pruning on land outwith the allotments at Bridgend, on the south side, and Warriston, by the Water of Leith, the north side and the main path. **ACTION - IW.**

**IW** said the Pest Control Officer is available again but he had not yet received a report on progress. However, he believed that Inverleith, Redhall and Midmar are priority sites and that the rabbit problems at Stenhouse, Saughton Mains, Carrick Knowe and Bridgend have been dealt with. The gates at Inverleith will be rabbit-proofed this week. **IW** reported vandalism to fences at Bridgend and Craigentiny, which is being repaired.

**DR** said he intends to meet with **IW** at the end of the month to review progress with the Spending Priorities at the half year stage. He acknowledged that good work had been achieved, but was concerned that the tree work would eat up the remaining budget before agreed items had been dealt with. **ACTION - DR and IW.**

Despite concern that the composting toilet proposed for Dumbryden may not be maintained adequately it was **AGREED** that the hut be provided and arrangements be made to transport and install the toilet from Inverleith. **JMcK** expressed concern that the Council felt it acceptable to set up no-hut sites without toilet provision. **IW** said that the recycled conveyor belt on the paths at Findlay Avenue had been removed and a large load of woodchip has been provided to form an alternative surface. Requests for woodchip deliveries to Midmar, Warriston and Cambridge Avenue were made. Finally, **IW** said he intended to lag water pipes at Stenhouse, Redhall and Pilrig Park. **ACTION - IW.**

**4. Matters Arising: Apple Press:** It was **AGREED** that the Apple Press be made available at Midmar on the 1st and 2nd November, Claremont Park on the 8th and Inverleith on the 9th. **DR** will check that the equipment is available for the later dates. **EW** will contact Site Reps once arrangements are finalised and publicise the events. **DR** will produce a poster. **ACTION - DR and EW.**

**Bare Root Fruit Trees:** The offer has been reported in the Newsletter and will be further publicised through the Seed Potato/Onion Set trading scheme. **EW** will liaise with **BB.** **ACTION - EW.**

**Allotment Benches:** **PW** has agreed to progress this. **ACTION - PW.**

**AGM:** **EW** has distributed the papers to sites with known representation. Arrangements were made to cover the few remaining sites. **PG** reported that **PW** is understood to be making arrangements with a representative from SASA to give a presentation.

**Dumbryden:** **PG** said that a member intends to try to form a site committee. A room at Wester Hailes Library will be booked in October, date to be finalised. **RH** **AGREED** to attend to tell of how a committee has helped improve things for Warriston ploholders, work commitments permitting. **ACTION - PG and RH.**

**Edinburgh in Bloom:** It was **AGREED** to use the set of keys held by Edinburgh in Bloom judges to provide replacement keys in the absence of the Allotment Officer. Arrangements for the BBQ for entrants and Management Committee members were finalised. **ACTION - RH.** It was suggested that a page on the website could be created detailing past winners with photographs where possible. Also, there was a suggestion that the Allotment Officer could judge the most improved plot within the first year. This could be a new category.

**4. Consideration of Reports: Secretary's Report:** A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Website and Newsletter:** Advice on asbestos on allotments has been posted on the website. The Newsletter contained a significant item by **RH** on the Edinburgh in Bloom competition, which seems to have been well received. There has been further correspondence on the Brown Bin proposal. This has stirred the most interest recently.

**Treasurer's Report: BB** has supplied a report covering July and August:

Balance on 1st July: £7358.49. Expenditure - Fees and commissions £2772.92, SAGS membership £75, Expenses £22.94. Income - Interest £20.55, Shop £306.80, Kings Seeds commission £328.76. Balance on 1st September: £5143.74.

**Trading Report: BB** intends to send out the Seed Potato/Onion Set details with the next fortnight. **ACTION - BB.**

**Site Reports: LG** asked if gardening courses could be provided during the working week. **SMcK** agreed that this would be a good idea and should be looked into further. **LG** reported that the Midmar Open Day had been a great success, the weather drying off nicely after a downpour just as the gates opened.

**RH** reported that lighting had been provided by the site committee for the cottage at Warriston. **WA** said the flooding problem has persisted at Carrick Knowe. He was in contact with a local Councillor in an attempt to resolve the matter. The conflict was entrenched as the tram company denied responsibility although their works had clearly blocked the field drains. Practical solutions such as raised beds were explored. **GC** said the Council had accepted a defective specification before the work started and were unwilling to remedy the situation. He compared their dereliction of duty at Carrick Knowe to their plans for expanding the allotment estate elsewhere.

**Strategy Report:** Progress on site regulations is still halted while the CERB legislation grinds through the committee stage of the Scottish Parliament. This is unlikely to be enacted before summer 2015 whereupon the Council intends to bring forward new proposals.

The biodiversity plan is the last remaining item to be addressed in the current Strategy plan. It is proposed that FEDAGA part-fund the production of this, but it is to be hoped that in so doing realistic advice regarding the control of pests will be made. Our next objective is to press for a clear statement on responsibility for paths and roads on sites.

**6. Any Other Business: GC** said he is in correspondence with a Councillor regarding the inclusion of land identified for future allotment use forming part of the house building programme.

It was noted that the Allotment Officer had not issued a list of Site Inspection dates this year. **ACTION - EW** to contact him about this.

**7. Date of Next Meeting:** 7th October at Southside Community Centre.