

Committee Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 16 January 2012

Present:-

Representing the National Trust for Scotland – George Holmes (Convener) and Christopher Cassels.

Representing the City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Norman Work and Kate MacKenzie.

In Attendance:- Harry Taylor (Friends of Cammo), Dr David Osler (Cramond and Barnton Community Council), Alan McGregor (Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager), Jenny Hargreaves (Countryside Ranger Service Manager) and David Kyles (Countryside Ranger) (all from Services for Communities), Lesley Price (Estate Manager, City Development) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Carol Smith and Robin Stimpson.

1 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of 5 September 2011 was approved as a correct record.

2 Welcome

George Holmes welcomed Dr David Osler from the Cramond and Barnton Community Council, to his first meeting of the Advisory Committee.

3 Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Countryside Ranger gave an update on the following areas:

3.1 Management of the Estate

- The Forestry Commission had been on site to deal with Dutch Elm trees.
- Strimming had been carried out by the Pinetum and Visitor Centre.
- Repairs had been carried out to the wooden orienteering post.
- Path scraping had taken place across the estate.
- Display cases were refreshed and kept up to date.
- Patrols and litter picking were carried out on a regular basis.
- The Farmhouse had been checked twice per week for security/integrity.

3.2 Flooding on Cammo Walk

- Glenndinning Ground Works, had been on site in October to check and clear the drains, however tarmac repairs were still required.

3.3 Buildings

- Repairs were required to be made to the heating system and the ladies toilet.

3.4 Groups

- Price Waterhouse Cooper, had carried out voluntary work on the Pinetum woodchip path, slabs at the Lodge and cutting vegetation.
- Cargilfield Primary School had undertaken woodland and habitat studies
- Various nursery groups had carried out work on the estate.
- Stevenson College had carried out work on the Pinetum woodchip path and ragwort pulling in the North, South and Home Fields.
- The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) had cleared vegetation from the piggery and office block and cut back vegetation from the South Avenue.
- The British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and RBS Corporate group had plugged wildflower, removed redundant fencing and cleared vegetation from the South Avenue.
- Stevenson College had carried out a hedge extension in the South West Meadow and carried out access restriction under the Big Sycamore Tree.
- Volunteers in conjunction with the Ranger Service had undertaken vegetation clearance on South Vista Avenue.

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3.5 Nature Conservation

- Two Butterfly Surveys, a Bee Survey and a Fungi Survey had carried out.

3.6 Events

- The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) had a “Big Weekend”, with 150 attendees.
- A “Wild in the Woods” event had also taken place.

3.7 Incidents

- An unknown individual had been seen chain- sawing and removing logs, which had been reported to the Police.
- The threshold sign at the site entrance had been damaged and would be replaced.
- Graffiti from the car park had been removed.
- High winds had caused a number of trees and branches to fall and this would be dealt with in due course.

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager indicated there was a national policy to promote outdoor learning and the Ranger Service would provide a key role in this. There would be a move away from “ranger led” activities to “ranger facilitated” activities.

Discussion took place in respect of storm damage, flooding, cattle grazing and grass cutting.

Decision

- 1) To thank the Countryside Ranger for the report.
- 2) To note that the Ranger Service had still to find a contractor to ensure that grass cutting on the estate took place.

4 Interpretation of the Estate

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager reported that the Friends of Cammo had been successful in securing funding from the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership for work on the Pinetum near the canal.

It was reported that there would be funding for two signposts for the pinetum and the walled flowered meadows. However, the Ranger Service was still waiting for the draft design of the signs from the designer.

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Decision

To note the position.

5 Cammo Home Farm

The Advisory Committee had previously welcomed, in principle, the proposals by CALA Homes to build two detached houses on the site at Cammo Road.

The Estate Manager indicated that there would be a report submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee on 17 January 2012 seeking approval for the disposal of the property at Cammo Home Farm to CALA Homes East, subject to terms and conditions.

Decision

- 1) That the link to the Finance and Resources Committee report be e-mailed to all members of the Advisory Committee.
- 2) To note that the Advisory Committee hoped that the progress would be made on the sale of Cammo Home Farm to CALA Homes East in 2012.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 5 September 2011 (item 3).

6 Next Ten Year Plan and Work Plan

An update was given on the following:-

6.1 The Next Ten Year Plan

The Convener indicated that he was impressed with the format of the Next Ten Year Plan and congratulated all those involved.

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager reported on the Next Ten Year Plan. She indicated that she had copies of responses from members of the public, on the consultation document on the Draft Plan. There had been discussions with the Parks and Greenspace Manager and the Plan was now accepted as a formal Council document. A review of the Plan would take place in five years time.

Discussions had taken place with the City Archaeologist in respect of the need to retain the core of the estate and feedback from the City Archaeologist had been incorporated into the Plan.

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Decision

- 1) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager circulate a copy of the Next Ten Year Plan to all members of the Advisory Committee.
- 2) That the Next Ten Year Plan be put on the Council's website by the Countryside Ranger Service Manager.

6.2 Cammo Work Plan

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager gave an update on the Cammo Work Plan, referring to the historical objectives in the Work Plan and to indicative costs attached to the actions of the Work Plan.

Discussion took place in respect of the format of the Work Plan and how it was now incorporated into the Ten Year Plan.

Decision

To note the update.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 Green Flag Award

It was proposed to nominate the Cammo Estate for a Green Flag Award, which was a quality standard for parks and green spaces. This was a UK wide scheme that was being extended to Scotland. The advantages of the award were that it raised the profile of the site and a key aspect of the green flag standard was that sites had to be actively managed.

Decision

To note the proposal.

8 Retiral

Councillor Kate MacKenzie indicated that she was standing down from the Council in May 2012.

George Holmes warmly thanked Councillor MacKenzie for her considerable contribution to the Advisory Committee over the years.

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9 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 28 May 2012 at 10.30 am.

G: Corp/CMT_SRV/Common/Cammo Estate Advisory Committee/Minutes 2012/Cammo Minute 160112