

Committee Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 5 September 2011

Present:-

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

Representing the City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Kate MacKenzie.

In Attendance:- Carol Smith (Cramond Association), Harry Taylor (Friends of Cammo), Alan McGregor (Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager), Jenny Hargreaves (Countryside Ranger Service Manager), David Kyles (Countryside Ranger) (all from Services for Communities), Lesley Price (Estate Manager), Alastair McArthur (Estate Consultant) (both from City Development) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Councillor Norman Work and Keith Logie.

1 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of 20 June 2011 was approved as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising from the Minute

2.1 Rosebery Estate

Details were given of the repairs which had been carried out on the Old Grotto Bridge on the Rosebery Estate.

Decision

To note the position.

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3 Cammo Home Farm

The Advisory Committee had previously noted the discussions of the members in respect of the Home Farm.

A presentation was given by representatives of CALA Homes on a proposed residential development at Cammo Road.

It was noted that CALA Homes was the preferred bidder for the site at Cammo Road and proposed to build two detached houses on the site. The representatives of CALA Homes confirmed that they would consult with the local community as the planning application progressed.

Decision

- 1) To thank the representatives from CALA Homes for their presentation.
- 2) To welcome, in principle, the proposal by CALA Homes to build two detached houses on the site at Cammo Road, subject to further details being provided on the design of the houses and landscaping.

4 Request to be Represented on the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee had previously agreed to continue a request from the Cramond and Barnton Community Council to be represented on the Advisory Committee to the next meeting.

Details were presented of the request by Cramond and Barnton Community Council.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the Cramond and Barnton Community Council be represented on the Advisory Committee, not as a member, but as a representative of local interest.
- 2) That Committee Services write to the Cramond and Barnton Community Council to inform them of the decision of the Advisory Committee.

(References – minute of the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee of 20 June 2011 (item 4); letter dated 5 June 2011 from the Cramond and Barnton Community Council, submitted.)

5 Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Countryside Ranger gave an update on the following areas:

5.1 Management of the Estate

- Regular strimming had been carried out on path edges and the Pinetum, along with weeding of the new conifer enclosures.
- Patrols of the estate were carried out on a regular basis.
- The vegetation growing through the formal path surface near the visitor centre had been treated with an herbicide.
- The company Watergems had undertaken checks on the water flow in the canal.
- The birch by the north entrance had been rendered safe after the top had snapped in the recent gales.
- Himalayan balsam plants growing along the north boundary had been removed.
- Ragwort had been removed from the North, South and Home fields.
- The last pieces of destruction caused by the high winds in May had been cleared from the path between the walled garden and the larch tree meadow.
- The sycamore tree by the Visitor Centre had been felled.

5.2 Flooding on Cammo Walk

- After discussion with the Council's Roads Team and the adjacent landowner, a lease agreement had been drawn up allowing the adjacent landowner access to Cammo Estate, to undertake exploratory work to locate and clear choked drainage.

5.3 Buildings

- The Farmhouse had been checked on a regular basis with any breaches being reported to the appropriate Council Department.
- The electrician had successfully tested the fuse boxes in Visitor Centre.

5.4 Groups that had visited the Estate

- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)
- Stevenson College Groups.

5.5 Biodiversity Surveys

- A Butterfly Monitoring Survey was carried out on a weekly basis and a Bumblebee Survey on a monthly basis.

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5.6 Projects

- A further herbicide treatment had been carried out in the area of the Wildflower Meadow to destroy the last of the unwanted growth. Seeding had also taken place in certain areas.
- There had been regular liaison with Goatfoot, the Hay/Silage and bailing contractor, with a view to cutting and bailing the North, South and Home Fields towards the end of September.
- Access from the Estate to the River Almond Walkway on Cammo Road had been greatly improved by the refurbishment of the steps and paths and the repair of the small wooden bridge over the Bughtlin Burn.

Decision

- 1) To note the various updates given
- 2) That the Countryside Ranger send the list of new trees in the Pinetum to members. These trees were the Serbian Spruce, the Swamp Cypress, the Spanish Fir, the Chilean Plum Yew and the Oriental Spruce.
- 3) That the Countryside Ranger liaise with the Council's Roads Team regarding drainage at Cammo Road.

6 Interpretation of the Estate

It was reported that a Butterfly Survey Training Course had been delivered to 13 participants on 27 July 2011. This consisted of an indoor presentation and ID session followed by an outdoor practice survey.

A guided walk had taken place on 4 September 2011, "The Wonders of Cammo" which explored the history and current management of the site.

Decision

To note the update given.

7 The Next Ten Year Plan and Work Plan

An update was given on the following:-

7.1 The Next Ten Year Plan

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager reported on the Ten Year Plan and referred to responses from members of the public to the consultation

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document on the Draft Management Plan, which had been published on the Council's website.

During discussion on the issue the following points were made:-

- There should be discussions with the City Archaeologist regarding the vision of the plan in respect of the need to retain the core of the estate, in view of possible building development.
- The conservation of the estate should be unimpaired by any proposal.
- The integrity of the estate should maintained.

Decision

- 1) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager circulate some vision proposals to the members to insure the integrity of the estate during the implementation of the Ten Year Plan, for comment.
- 2) That the Countryside Ranger Service Manager liaise with the City Archaeologist regarding the vision of the Ten year plan in respect of the need to retain the core of the estate, in view of possible building development and provide an update at the next meeting.

7.2 Cammo Work Plan

The Countryside Ranger Service Manager gave an update on the indicative costs attached to the actions for the Work Plan.

Decision

To note the update and to thank the Countryside Ranger Service Manager for the update.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 16 January 2012 at 10.30 am.