

Committee Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 28 May 2012

Present:-

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

Representing the City of Edinburgh Council –

In Attendance:- Harry Taylor (Friends of Cammo), Dr David Osler (Cramond and Barnton Community Council), Carol Smith, 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:- Councillors Karen Keil and Norman Work, and Robin Stimpson.

1 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of 16 January 2012 was approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of line 1 of paragraph 3.1 to read “The Forestry Service had been on site to deal with Dutch Elm Disease to trees”.

2 Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Countryside Ranger gave an update on the following areas:

2.1 Maintenance of the Lodge

- Windows were painted.
- The front door was painted.
- Gutters were cleared and painted and drains painted.
- The main gates were painted.
- Wooden railings were painted.

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2.2 Car Park

- The tarmac drainage area was re-surfaced.
- The fence was “re-tensioned” and extra posts were installed.
- Metal railing, the gate and posts were painted.
- The black bin was painted.
- Graffiti was removed from the height restriction barrier.
- The redundant pedestrian gate was removed.

2.3 North gate

- The metal gates were painted and a new padlock installed.

2.4 Paths

- Strimming was carried out.
- Wood chips were added to the Pinetum Path.

2.5 Other areas

- There would be a meeting with the Friends of Cammo regarding hedges.
- The canal outlet had been blocked and cleared.
- The post and wire debris had been removed from the Home Field.

2.6 Farmhouse

- There had been some breaches at the Cow Shed which had been re-secured.
- The dumped sofa and “air con units” had been removed by the taskforce.

2.7 Signage

- The new sign from Her Majesty’s Prison at Saughton had been installed.
- A new visitor centre sign (A-frame) had been ordered.

2.8 Forestry Work

- A limb from a tree had been removed near the Walled Garden.
- A dangerous limb outside the Lodge had been removed.
- Trees in the Pinetum had been cut and chipped.

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2.9 Groups visiting the estate

- A local walking group.
- St Georges School.
- Various nursery groups.
- Stevenson College had carried out the following:
 - seven plus two lectures.
 - cleared drains at the Lodge and cleared the pipes with plumbers' rods.
 - cleared entrance cobbles of vegetation.

2.10 Wildlife

- There had been a report of a dead fox.
- Two Chiffchaff birds (leaf warblers) had been calling.
- On 20 March, frog spawn had been sighted in the canal.
- There had been a meeting regarding the proposed cutting of fields on 3 April.
- Butterfly surveys had been carried out.
- There had been a bumble bee workshop.

Discussion took place regarding the judging of the estate for a Green Flag Award, the criteria which would be applied and the benefits which might accrue from the attainment of the award.

There was further discussion regarding the need for additional car parking, the possible extension of the car park and the possible lining of the car park.

Decision

The Countryside Ranger to liaise with the Council Roads Team about the future traffic management of the car park at the Cammo Estate.

3 Interpretation of the Estate

The Friends of Cammo reported that funding would soon be in place from the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership for work on the Pinetum, near the canal.

The Convener congratulated the Friends of Cammo on the draft design for the signpost for the Pinetum.

Discussion took place on the planting of Deciduous Trees. It was also reported that guided walks had to be cancelled because of high winds.

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Decision

To note the position.

4 Cammo Home Farm

The Advisory Committee had previously discussed the proposed sale of Cammo Home Farm to CALA Homes East.

The Estate Manager indicated that CALA Homes had applied for planning permission and as part of the planning process, there would be consultation with the local community.

Decision

To note the position.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 16 January 2012 (item 5).

5 Next Ten Year Plan and Work Plan

The Convener indicated that in the agenda for the next meeting of the Advisory Committee, the Next Ten Year Plan should be changed to the Current Ten Year Plan. It was then concluded that the Next Ten Year Plan should be incorporated into the Work Plan. It was also thought that the Ten Year Plan would be reviewed every five years.

Decision

That Committee Services amend the agenda for the next meeting of the Advisory Committee to incorporate the Next Ten Year Plan and Work Plan into the Cammo Estate Management Plan.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Ranger Service

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager reported that from April 2012 the Ranger Service had merged with Pentland Regional Park to form the Natural Heritage Service. The new service had three tasks, which were:

- To manage twelve sites across the City.
- To provide services for Pentland Regional Park in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and West Lothian Council.

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- To provide outdoor access, taking into account legislation, access rights and rights of way.

The new service, based at Hermitage of Braid, would be re-structured and would have a bigger pool of staff. Additionally, the service would have operational advantages, have more flexibility, efficiency and sustainability. The operation of Cammo Estate would not be affected by the changes to the service.

Decision

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager to send a copy of the new staffing structure of the Natural Heritage Service to Committee Services.

6.2 Re-Planting of Trees

Concern was expressed that there was no programme for re-planting of trees. It was explained that planting had taken place over an eight year period and for the next Ten Year Plan it was intended to re-plant mature trees.

Discussion took place regarding work on parkland trees, maintenance of the existing woodland and the creation of space for re-planting.

Decision

To note the position.

6.3 Grazing Project

It was explained that the grazing project had been delayed due to staff shortages, however, it was hoped that there would be progress in the near future.

Decision

To note the position.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 29 August 2012 at 10.30 am in the Cammo Lodge.