

Committee Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh, 29 August 2012

Present:-

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

Representing the City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Karen Keil and Norman Work.

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

Apologies:- Robin Stimpson.

1 Welcome

The Convener welcomed Councillor Karen Keil to the Advisory Committee.

2 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of 28 May 2012 was approved as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Ranger Service

Decision

That the Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager forward a copy of the new staffing structure of the Ranger Service, to Committee Services, to be circulated to the members of the Advisory Committee.

4 Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Countryside Ranger gave a verbal update on the following areas:

4.1 Maintenance

- The remainder of trees, which had been blown down in recent gales, had been cleared from the Pinetum area.
- Broken limbs had been cleared from most trees, but a few trees still required attention in the South Field.
- Some sections of poorly conditioned wire fencing had been removed from the boundary with the East Avenue and South Field.
- The edges of all major paths had been strimmed either by in-house staff or by an external contractor.
- Proposals for re-grading and drainage improvements to certain sections of the path between the Visitor Centre and the car park were underway.
- There had been ongoing discussions with the Turnhouse Golf Course regarding flooding on the Golf Course.

4.2 Site Management

- Initial discussions had taken place with the Friends of Cammo regarding extending the wildflower planting project.
- Ivy management had taken place on all mature ivy-clad broadleaved trees adjacent to footpaths, private dwellings and buildings and carriageways. This work had been mainly undertaken by the Friends of Cammo.
- Ragwort had been removed from the North, South and Home Fields.
- The grass on the North, South and Home Fields had been cut and lifted.

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4.3 Farmhouse

- Some minor breaches had been temporarily patched and reported to the Council's Property Care Services for permanent repair.

4.4 Groups Visiting the Estate

- Several local walking groups.
- Several nursery/holiday club groups.
- Stevenson College who had helped with pulling ragwort.
- The Green Team who had helped with path scraping and fence removal.
- Love Parks Week who had carried out a guided walk encompassing Cammo and the River Almond Walkway.
- South Queensferry Strollers who had delivered a guided walk.

4.5 Wildlife

- A recent survey had shown the bird of prey population to be thriving.
- Bumblebee and butterfly surveys had been carried out.

4.6 Landslip

- Due to a landslip in early July, with possible catastrophic effects on the Water of Leith Walkway, the Visitor Centre at Cammo was not opened on Tuesday afternoons while checks were made to the barriers and diversionary signage. This restriction would continue for the immediate future.

Following the update from the Countryside Ranger, the Advisory Committee discussed flooding on the estate, grass-cutting, the replacement of damaged trees and traffic management of the car park. The Advisory Committee also discussed the outcome of the Green Flag Award for which the Cammo Estate had applied.

Decision

- 1) That discussions take place between the Ranger Service and the Council's Road Services about traffic management on the Cammo Estate and parking on the corner of Cammo Road.
- 2) To note that the Cammo Estate had been unsuccessful in their bid for a Green Flag Award and to ask the Senior Natural Heritage Officer to seek feedback on the bid, with a view to attaining the award in 2013.

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5 Interpretation of the Estate

New interpretation panels had been installed by the Friends of Cammo and positive feedback had been received from members of the public.

Decision

To note the position.

6 Cammo Home Farm

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

The Estate Manager indicated that CALA Homes had applied for planning permission to demolish the Home Farm and build two residential houses, with ancillary buildings.

Discussion took place on the views of Historic Scotland on the proposed demolition, the planning process and possible ways in which the planning application might progress.

Decision

- 1) To note the Friends of Cammo intended to write to Historic Scotland, to express their support for the bid from CALA Homes because of the proposed benefits to Cammo Country Park from the capital receipt.
- 2) That Committee Services forward the electronic link to the Council's Planning and Building Standards Online Services to members of the Advisory Committee.
- 3) That the Estate Manager establish if the Advisory Committee could support the bid from CALA Homes.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 28 May 2012 (item 4)).

7 Wild Flower Planting Project

The Friends of Cammo reported on the Wild Flower Planting Project on the Home Field. The project had been mostly funded by the Friends of Cammo and the work had been carried out by volunteers. Not only were the flowers visually impressive, but they attracted different species of wildlife. It was intended that the planting process would be repeated in 2013.

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The project had received favourable feedback from members of the public and should be permanently sustainable.

Decision

To express thanks to the Friends of Cammo for their considerable input into the Wild Flower Planting Project and to congratulate them for their work.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5 December 2012 at 10.30 am in the Cammo Lodge.

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