

Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh 26 June 2015

Present:-

Representing the National Trust for Scotland – Kingsley Bruce.

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

In Attendance:- Margery Naylor (Cramond Association), Peter Scott (Cramond and Barnton Community Council), Nick Bengé (Friends of Cammo), Alan McGregor (Regional Park Manager) and David Kyles (Natural Heritage Officer), (Services from Communities) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Christopher Cassells and Lesley Price.

1. Chair

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Work was appointed to the chair.

2. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of 25 March 2015 was approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The Future of the Cammo Estate

Decision

To continue the discussion on the future of the Cammo Estate to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

3.2 Sale of Property

The Cramond and Barnton Community Council indicated that in respect of the sale of the property, the Council should consider the possible restoration of the building and not be constrained by the highest tender bid, provided there were no significant adverse financial effects.

Decision

To note the view of the Cramond and Barnton Community Council.

4. Cammo Home Farm

The Advisory Committee had previously noted its approval of the action of Estates to prepare an application for the de-listing of the Home Farm.

The Regional Park Manager gave an update on the proposed sale. He indicated that there had been developments regarding the purchase of the property, the Council had submitted an application to Historic Scotland to request that Listed Building status be removed and the property would be marketed once the response had been received from Historic Scotland.

Discussion took place about the length of time for the de-listing process, the process for de-listing and the possible re-marketing of the property.

Decision

To note the latest update.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 25 March 2015 (item 3).

5. Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Natural Heritage Officer gave a verbal update on the following aspects of the Cammo Estate Officers report:-

5.1 Site Management:

- Weekly patrols were being carried out onsite (including a farmhouse check, car park checks, litter pick up and site health and safety).
- Regarding the large Sycamore failure at the top end of the South West Meadow. The Council Forestry offices undertook clearance work with minimal chipping.
- Liaison with the adjoining land owner had taken place regarding drainage problems at the car park. There had been replacement of 8 m pipe with servicing access created. There had also been agreement that future maintenance remained with the adjoining landowner.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) installation was underway on Cammo Road (around no.34). The CEC West Neighbourhood Roads Team was overseeing works.
- The issue of horse riding in the estate was raised again. Local horse riders were using the estate in a responsible manner. They had as much right to use the park as any other user group as long as it was carried out responsibly.
- The car park height restriction barrier had been damaged. Workshops had been contacted to make repairs.

- Regarding the path edge maintenance, one cut had been undertaken. There would be a further cut at the end of July.
- The mature beech tree towards the north corner of the Walled Garden had been felled due to *Meripilus Giganteous* (giant polypore).
- The South Drive had been improved through the removal of overhanging/encroaching vegetation and condensing fallen tree debris into habitat piles. No chipping had been arranged. A Tree Preservation Order exemption had been sought and approved.
- The hard standing main entrance had been treated with herbicide (as in previous years).
- The perspex panel on the display case at the car park had been damaged and new perspex had been ordered for replacement.
- Temporary posters had been appended along the southern site boundary, highlighting the issue of dog fouling in the crop fields.

5.2 Nature Conservation:

- Himalayan Balsam removal from the top of North Field would be undertaken.
- Badger setts were regularly checked in terms of disturbance/activity.
- Butterfly transects were undertaken on Thursday of each week when weather allowed.

5.3 Projects:

- The Workplan had been circulated with some costings – some scheduled items were to be dropped. There would be further information under forthcoming activities.
- The implementation of CONFIRM was continuing – this was new asset management software. Officers were continuing to update site asset information.

5.4 Forthcoming activities:

- The mature beech tree near the GC boundary wall was to be reduced/made safer due to ganaderma.
- Local Nature Reserve designation – there was now a commitment from CEC Parks and Greenspace to attain Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status for Cammo Estate. This would be carried out by the Natural Heritage Service with support from the Natural Environment Team within Planning. All other regular site maintenance, corporate and community volunteering activities would continue, projects such as producing a plan for the walled garden, Pinetum and canal management were scheduled for this period would receive less officer time.

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- There would be a consultation process for LNR and the Natural Heritage Service would be involved in this.

- There would be a meeting with the Natural Environment Team within Planning and Natural Heritage Officers to prepare for LNR.
- There were issues regarding LNR status and the proposed housing development, but Cammo had a historical design status and it was necessary to achieve a correct balance.
- Country Park Status (CPR) might be more beneficial and there might be more funding for the estate.
- LNR status might constrain the future use/development of the estate and it might be necessary to re-think the role of the Cammo Estate.
- To acquire Heritage Lottery Funding, there had to be major public involvement.
- There had been pressure for LNR status for some time, this provided more protection against development and it changed the way the park could be managed.
- Other parks in Edinburgh had achieved LNR status and this often allowed a turnaround in the estate.
- It should be determined if LPR status was appropriate for the estate.
- There was a difference between LPR and LNR status, which was explained.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Natural Heritage Officer.
- 2) The Natural Heritage Officer to ensure that the contractor carried out path edge maintenance at end of July.
- 3) The Regional Park Manager to report to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee to outline the differences between Local Nature Reserve and Country Park Status and the possible advantages of both of these.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Officer’s Report).

6. Interpretation of the Estate

At the previous meeting, it had been agreed that the Parks Development Manager would report to the Advisory Committee on the future of Cammo.

The Natural Heritage Officer indicated that there was a need for interpretation to form part of the vision for Cammo, however, it had not been possible to produce anything at this stage.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To continue consideration of the future direction of Cammo to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 25 March 2015 (item 6)).

7. Work of Friends of Cammo

The Friends of Cammo reported that this was usually a quiet period, however, certain activities had taken place. This included a walk round the estate with the Woodlands Officer, where concern had been expressed about trees near paths. There was also the expected arrival of bees on the estate. Concern was expressed about the increasing number of deer on the estate, the damage that they caused to trees and a report of dogs chasing deer on the estate.

It was confirmed that there would be a barbeque on 23 August 2015.

Decision

To note the ongoing work of the Friends of Cammo and to thank them for the work they carried out on the estate.

8. Nature Conservation

The Natural Heritage Officer reported on nature conservation. This included the proposed removal of Himalayan Balsam from the North Field, the checking of badger setts, and the treatment of few flowered leek with herbicide next season.

Decision

To note the ongoing work on nature conservation.

9. Walls Condition Survey

It was reported that the Building Surveyor from Services for Communities had surveyed the walls on the estate and confirmed that some work needed to be undertaken, which included work on the Walled Garden. It was indicated that any such work required an archaeological survey and listed building consent.

Decision

To note the update.

10. Any Other Business

The issue of the role of the National Trust in the Cammo Advisory Committee was raised.

Decision

Committee Services to check out the terms of the agreement.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23 September 2015 at 1.30 pm in the Cammo Lodge.